



2018 Candidate Questionnaire - House

Candidate Name: Sam Jammal

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E-mail Address: Sam@sam4congress.com

Office for which you are running: House of Representatives, CA39

Date of Election: June 5th, 2018

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Progressive Democrats of America (PDA) was founded in 2004 to transform the Democratic Party and our country. We seek to build a party and government controlled by citizens, not corporate elites - with policies that serve the broad public interest, not just private interests. As a grassroots PAC, PDA operates inside the Democratic Party, and outside in movements for peace and justice.

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The Congressional Progressive Caucus

Do you pledge, if elected to this office, to immediately join the Congressional Progressive Caucus?

Yes

No

If not, why not?

Lobbyist

Do you pledge, if elected to this office, to NOT become a paid lobbyist for at least 5 years after you leave Congress?

Yes

No

If not, why not?

PDA Issues

PDA focuses on fundamental issues of concern to voters. The questions are grouped, but all issues are equally important. Your answers to the questions below will be used to help determine whether to endorse you in the race for this office.

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Notice to Candidate:

The questions below refer to legislation introduced by bill number in the 115th Congress. By checking YES as your answer, you pledge that, if elected, you will immediately co-sponsor the reintroduced version of these bills in the 116th Congress.

Presidential Fitness

H.R. 1987 To establish the Oversight Commission on Presidential Capacity, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Jamie Raskin

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

I would support this bill. Our current situation of an unprepared, uneducated President aside, this would be another check on the executive branch in the case of an extreme situation.

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Healthcare:

Millions of Americans have no reliable access to health care and millions more have inadequate or overly expensive coverage. Despite spending twice as much as other developed nations on health care, our system performs poorly. Private U.S. insurance gatekeepers soak up one-third of expenditures. Pharmaceutical interests overcharge Americans by avoiding price competition.

H.R. 676 Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act
Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

The Affordable Care Act made great strides for health care in this country, but there is more that can be done. I believe expanding Medicare to cover everyone would be another step of progress for this country. Medicare works. We, as Democrats, need to continue to push this country forward.

H.R. 771 Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance
Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

This is an important bill in making sure that abortion coverage is readily available to any woman. Current coverage restrictions have a disproportionate effect on the women with low incomes.

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H.R. 242 Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Peter Welch

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Currently, the GOP legislation is ignoring the people, and has passed a rule that does not allow the government to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices. We need this Act so the government can at least attempt to negotiate in the people's favor.

H.R. 1776 Improving Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs
Sponsor: Rep. Jan Schakowsky

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

This Act has improvements on transparency for drug manufacturers, as well as closing the Medicare coverage gap and negotiating fairer prices. It also provides for funding of new innovations in drug treatment. There is no question we should work to pass this legislation.

H.R. 947 Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act (The Family Act) of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

We have seen how, over the years, that our Social Security program has provided security and comfort for people in their retirement years. Similarly, this Act could give comfort for those who have sudden medical emergencies, childbirth, or caretaking.

H.R. 934 Personal Drug Importation Fairness Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Keith Ellison

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

All of these acts you have asked about are generally focused on establishing cheaper, fairer health insurance. Americans are struggling every day with the costs of healthcare, or with fear that if something will happen to them, they will not be able to afford the necessary remedies.

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War and Peace

Terrorism should be treated as a crime, not as a pretext for war and global military expansion. Nuclear weapons are too dangerous to serve the strategic interests of any country and must be abolished. Initiatives to promote peace, disarmament, and the rule of international law will allow the US military budget to return to the 1998 peacetime level. We must bring our troops home to their families and redirect wasteful military spending to reinvest in America.

H.R. 1111 Department of Peacebuilding Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

I support many of the goals of the proposed Dept. of Peacebuilding, which extends beyond to combatting child abuse, domestic violence, and the like through education and international collaboration.

H.R. 1229 Repeal of the Authorization for Use of Military Force
Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

This bill repealed the AUMF that had been established in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks in 2001. I support this repeal, to make any request for use of military force to be more specific and have more limited time limits.

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H.R. 608 Stop Arming Terrorists Act
Sponsor: Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

We should not be arming foreign troops unless it's in our national security interests. It is important we pay extra care where our defense money is being spent overseas.

H.R. 4867 No Unconstitutional Strike against North Korea Act
Sponsor: Rep. Ro Khanna

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

In the face of the President's bluster and consistent comments about striking North Korea, this is important piece of legislation. We must first and foremost priorities a diplomatic solution that brings together the international community..

H.R. 669 Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Ted Lieu

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Again recognizing the Commander-In-Chief has a lot of power in how the military runs, preventing him from initiating a nuclear strike without authorization is a necessary and essential check. Considering the power and devastation in nuclear weapons, one man should not make such a decision.

Global Warming/The Environment

Environmental degradation and global warming threaten human civilization. Science conclusively demonstrates that global warming results from human activity. Greed and corporate power dominate US policy imposing a nearsighted focus on short term profits instead of serving the welfare of future generations of Americans

H.R. 3671 Off Fossil Fuels for a Better Future Act (OFF Act)
Sponsor: Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

The OFF Act is one of the most progressive energy and environmental acts, proposing stopping all new fossil fuel projects and transitioning to 100% renewable energy in our transportation systems by 2035. It also provides for transitioning the industries. As a former clean energy executive, I would support this bill and have pledged to support 100% clean energy on the campaign trail.

H.R. 3314 100 by '50 Act
Sponsor: Rep. Jared Polis

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

While I believe we have the technology to make this transition sooner, especially on the local level, I believe it is important to set federal goals to shape behavior. This will give confidence for those making the transition sooner.

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H.R. 2242 Keep it in the Ground Act
Sponsor: Rep. Jared Huffman

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

I would support this bill, which stops all new leases to extract fossil fuels. Until we have 100% reliance on clean energy, stopping fossil fuel extraction may be difficult, which is why we need to educate people on the technology. New leases can and should be stopped which will hasten the transition to new cleaner energy.

Election Integrity:

Big-money domination threatens our election system. Incumbents are unfairly insulated by district gerrymandering. Voters face political and racial obstacles to voting and getting their votes counted. Digital voting systems and internet voting are vulnerable to error and manipulation and defy verification. Only an auditable paper ballot can protect our right to vote.

HR 2840 Automatic Voter Registration Act
Sponsor: Rep. David Cicilline

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Nothing is more basic to being an American citizen than the right to vote, to have a voice, to protest, and to participate. Here, in California, we just automatically registered voters at the age of 18. This will be a huge benefit to our state.

HJ Res. 74 Constitutional Right to Vote
Sponsor: Rep. Mark Pocan

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Voting is absolutely essential in what it means to be an American, that everyone can have a say in their government. There is currently no express right to vote in the Constitution, though arguably it is inherent throughout it, this would be an important statement to make.

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HR 1044 Same Day Registration Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Keith Ellison

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Anything we can do to encourage more participation is essential. States with same day registration have seen an increase in participation, which is critical for our democracy.

HR 607 The Voter Access Protection Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Keith Ellison

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Voter ID laws are discriminatory and intended to suppress the vote. We must stop this practice and amend federal law to provide clarity to our courts.

H.R. 12 Voter Empowerment Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. John Lewis

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

We must ensure that every American has a fair and equal opportunity to vote. Voting is a fundamental right and these steps to modernize our election system and improve access are critical.

H.R. 787 Streamlined and Improved Methods at Polling Locations and Early (SIMPLE) Voting Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Steve Cohen

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Yes, as referenced earlier, I will do all I can to make voting as easy and convenient as possible in order to ensure equal access.

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Economic and Social Justice:

The enormous wealth disparity between the top 1% and the rest of America is an unsustainable economic and social injustice. Will you work for an economic recovery that employs all those willing and able, that houses all those needing shelter, and that imposes the cost based on the ability to pay.

H.R. 1144 Inclusive Prosperity Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Keith Ellison

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

The reality is that we are in a severe budget deficit and will need to find ways to fund basic services. This transaction tax provides revenue while discouraging speculation on Wall Street.

H.R. 15 Raise The Wage Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

I believe we must pay workers a prevailing wage. No worker should have a job yet still live in poverty. We must do better while also making sure we support our small businesses so they can succeed.

H.R. 1000 Jobs For All Act
Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

The Jobs For All Act would be a really important piece of legislation as our economy and job market changes over the coming decades. People will need ways to keep up with the changes, and laws like Job For All will be a big help.

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H.R. 1902 Social Security Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. John Larson

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

There is some worry that the current Social Security could run out of funds soon, and without some adjustments and modernization, a lot of people could be losing their security. We absolutely should pass this bill with no delay. It's essential for providing security to our seniors.

H.R. 1114 Social Security Expansion Act
Sponsor: **Rep. Peter DeFazio**

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

We must make sure our seniors can have a safe and secure retirement. This is essential especially as the cost of living has increased so much. Too many seniors are near poverty especially as so many lost their 401ks and pensions in the recession.

H.R. 40 Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act
Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

As Conyers said when he introduced this bill, we as a country need to address and confront our history of slavery. Establishing a commission to simply explore reparations for African Americans should not be a controversial move, and I would fully support it.

H.R. 4396 ME TOO Congress Act
Sponsor: Rep. Jackie Speier

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

The Congress should be held to the strictest standards of ethics. They should also be setting strong examples for how to treat women, and how women are viewed in society. We can be the change we want to see in the world.

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H.R. 4152 Fair Employment Protection Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Recently, we have seen some undercutting of protections against workplace harassment - via the Supreme Court (Vance v. Ball State University), foremost. This Act restores protection for employees.

As a civil rights lawyer, I believe it's essential we have tighter harassment laws.

Do you support, and would you pledge to author and introduce legislation in the House of Representatives identical to current Senate bill as shown below:

S.2165 The Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands Equitable Rebuild Act
Sponsor: Sen. Bernie Sanders

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Trump and the GOP have been derelict in even thinking about rebuilding Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands after the recent devastating hurricane. We in Congress need to lead in getting our American citizens and properties the help they need and require.

Do you support, and would you pledge to author and introduce legislation in the House of Representatives identical to current Senate bill as shown below:

S.2095 Assault Weapons Ban of 2017
Sponsor: Sen. Dianne Feinstein

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

There are many common sense gun control measures we should look to, and Feinstein's Assault Weapons Ban of 2017 is one of those. We cannot allow military weapons in the hands of regular citizens who are not trained and not engaged in military combat. The dangers are too high.

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EMERGENCY AID FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

The climate change-intensified natural disasters of 2017 have laid bare the federal government's current response as both politicized and racist. How would you identify and legislatively fix underlying structural flaws in federal disaster relief and preparedness funding to ensure more timely, equitable, a effective federal responses to future events? (No more than 250 words)

It is clear that federal disaster relief needs an overhaul, for many reasons. In its more successful times, FEMA was an independent entity, run by devoted professionals and not political appointees. I think the first step we should do is re-establish FEMA's independence. Also like most federal government agencies, we need to make sure that they are efficient and modern. For FEMA this is even more important, because it will allow more flexibility and sharper decision making. In these times of emergency, we do not need the situation to get bogged down by bureaucracy or politics. We need fast decisions, fair decisions, substantial decisions. Clear rules will ensure there isn't discrimination and FEMA should engage in outreach year round so the trust and relationships already exist.

Corporate Rule

Big corporations and banks dominant our political process, spending billions to lobby for programs against the public interest, and to privatize public services for profit. This erodes the middle class, destroys vital services, increases poverty, and undermines our nation. Congress must work to return our government to the people, improve services, stand up to corporate lobbyists, and stop the privatization of public services. We need a constitutional amendment to establish that corporations are not people and that money does not equal speech.

H.R. 2585 21st Century Glass-Steagall Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Michael Capuano

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Reinstating a more modern Glass-Steagall Act is necessary to protect our economy, and limit the damage that big banks can cause.

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HJ Res 88 Constitutional Amendment to regulate corporations
Sponsor: Rep. Jim McGovern

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Citizens United has had devastating consequences on our democracy. We must pass a constitutional amendment to limit corporate influence in our elections. In the interim, we must also pass laws to increase transparency in elections.

HJ Res 31 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections
Sponsor: Ted Deutch

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

As noted above, I believe it's essential to fix our campaign finance system by rejecting Citizens United and adding transparency. We also must establish a public financing system to get big money out of politics.

Mass Criminalization

The United States houses 25% of the world's inmates despite having only 5% of the world's population. The prison industrial complex has a vested interest in keeping people locked up. The growth of private, for-profit prisons has placed incarceration beyond public view. The administration of justice system is prejudiced against the poor and minorities.

H.R. 3227 Justice Is Not For Sale Act
Sponsor: Rep. Raul Grijalva

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Justice reform is a vital issue, and one we need to focus on, so that underserved communities can grow into the future. This Act has many reforms, from prohibiting privately-owned prisons, stopping corporations

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from overcharging prisoners, and limiting immigrant detentions.

H.R. 1498 End Racial Profiling Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Racial profiling is inherently problematic, and leads to invasions of privacy, improper stereotyping, and wastes everyone's time. Ending racial profiling on both the state and federal police level is something I would fight for and support if elected to Congress.

H.R. 65 Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education (RAISE Act)
Sponsor: Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

The Youth PROMISE Act here is an act that everyone should be behind. It establishes standards for the prevention of youth delinquency and crime, while also proposing data-based studies for the distribution of funds. I worked on this at MALDEF and would gladly cosponsor in Congress.

Equality Issues

The belief in equality, including religious equality, is a part of the founding documents of our nation and an important part of our national identity. Equality still has not been achieved by most groups in this country. We hope and expect that our endorsed Candidates will sponsor, co-sponsor, and/or support legislation that furthers the reach of equality to any and all groups

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seeking equal status.

HJ Res 53 Removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment
Sponsor: Rep. Jackie Speier

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

The ERA has already been ratified by 35 states, but the deadline was not met by the other states. Striking the deadline means we would only need 3 of the non-ratifying states to join, and the time to do this is now. I believe we have a new political window thanks to all the youth activism and would lead in mobilizing this support.

H.R. 1869 Paycheck Fairness
Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

The idea of paycheck fairness should be already embedded in our society, but since it is not, we need this legislation to allow remedies. We must have equal pay for equal work and prevent discrimination.

H.R. 489 No Religious Registry Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Suzan DelBene

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

On the campaign trail, Donald Trump routinely propositioned the racist idea of forcing all Muslims to register into a database. He also attempted to sign an executive order barring Muslims from certain countries from entering the country. These religious tests are unconditional. This bill explicitly prohibits the formation of such a database so I fully support this bill.

Immigration

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We strongly support Comprehensive Immigration Reform that promotes fairness, equality, labor rights, family unification, integration, a program for legal residency and a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

H.R. 3440 Dream Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

As the son of immigrant parents from both South America and the Middle East, I am absolutely aware of and concerned with the immigrants' experience in America right now. DREAMers are exceptional youth, and we should open up pathways to citizenship for them, immediately.

H.R. 1036 American Families United Act
Sponsor: Rep. Beto O'Rourke

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Breaking up American families is not something the government should be doing. This Act compassionately and humanely prohibits the deportation of spouses, parents, or children of American citizens. We must keep families together improve our society and ensure children are not without parents.&

H.R. 1006 To clarify the rights of all persons who are held or detained at a port of entry or at any detention facility overseen by U.S. Customs and Border Protection or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
Sponsor: **Rep.** Pramila Jayapal

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

The situation at the border has been, quite frankly, unConstitutional for many years. Rights erode all in the name of safety. This bill takes a big step to remedying that in giving anyone held at a border the right to counsel, and makes sure their detentions are short and humane.

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Education

Education in the USA is unaffordable for the majority of Americans. The securitization of student debt has placed our students at the mercy of corporate predators. Minorities are denied equal access to education. We work to make our education system accessible and affordable to all.

H.R. 1880 College For All Act
Sponsor: Rep. Pramila Jayapal

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

This bill establishes a huge fund that will make public state universities tuition-free, fully paid for by a tax increase on the wealthy. This would almost certainly open up higher education for underserved communities, and would be a great boon to America's future.

H.R. 3630 Student Loan Borrowers' Bill of Rights Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Frederica Wilson

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

I would support the Student Loan Borrowers' Bill of Rights, which would establish loan forgiveness under certain conditions, easing the cost of higher education for many people. This makes higher education a path for social upward mobility as it should be; instead of the oftentimes suffocating financial burden it has become.

General

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Please provide us with information in the sections provided below, some information about your campaign:

- Your campaign plan with some *detail*

We are running a grassroots campaign and have been knocking on doors and calling voters since December. I have held over 50 meet and greets throughout the district. We will be starting our mail campaign later in the month which will be supplemented by targeted digital advertisements and a paid canvass.

- Your capacity to raise the necessary capital to fund the campaign,

I have raised \$450k to date and we are working to raise an additional \$75-100k to make sure we can get our message out competitively. To date, I have over 3,000 donors. I am the only Democrat in the 39th district to not be self funding and happen to be the only Democrat who lives in the district.

- grassroots support

I have over 200 volunteers across the district and have been winning every grassroots straw poll. 66% of the members of our local Indivisible ranked me their top choice. I won the Chino Valley Democrats straw poll with 60% and won a similar straw poll of the Tri Counties Democratic Club. It's thanks to grassroots support that I was endorsed by Democracy for America and Climate Hawks Vote.

- your campaign staff in place

We have a full team in place - manager (James Sonneman), finance director (Lucas Botello), political director (Megan Smith), field director (Kevin Fulton) and a paid canvass which will help us reach voters in the district.

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Signature of Candidate

Date

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.
We believe that an informed electorate is
the greatest assurance of a strong democracy.**

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