



2018 Candidate Questionnaire - Senate

Candidate Name: Alison Hartson

Campaign Address: 18030 Brookhurst St. #578, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

E-mail Address: alison@alisonhartson.com

Office for which you are running: U.S. Senate

Date of Election: Primary: June 5

Campaign Manager: Alison Hartson

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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.

The Congressional Progressive Caucus

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

YES

Lobbyist

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

YES

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 the nomination for this office.

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 co-sponsor the reintroduced version of these bills in the 116th Congress.

Presidential Fitness

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

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

Sponsor: Rep. Jamie Raskin

YES - Rep. Jamie Raskin was the first sponsor in Maryland of the Wolf-PAC resolution working towards getting an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to overturn Citizens United and related cases. I was a National Director of Wolf-PAC and look forward to continuing my work with him in D.C.

Healthcare:

60 million 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.

S. 1804 Medicare For All Act of 2017
Sponsor: Sen. Bernie Sanders

YES

S. 2011 Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2017
Sponsor: Sen. Bernie Sanders

YES

S. 41 Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2017
Sponsor: Sen. Amy Klobuchar

YES

S. 771 Improving Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs
Sponsor: Sen. Al Franken

YES

S. 337 Family Act
Sponsor: Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand

YES

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.

S. 532 Stop Arming Terrorists Act
Sponsor: Sen. Rand Paul

YES

S. 2016 To prevent an unconstitutional strike against North Korea
Sponsor: Sen. Ed Markey

YES

S. 200 To prohibit the conduct of a first-use nuclear strike
absent a declaration of war by Congress
Sponsor: Sen. Ed Markey

YES

S. 2047 Preventing Preemptive War in North Korea Act of 2017
Sponsor: Sen. Patrick Murphy

YES

S. 1723 Strengthening Veterans Health Care Act of 2017
Sponsor: Sen. Bernie Sanders

YES

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

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

YES

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

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

YES

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.

S. 987 100 By '50 Act
Sponsor: Sen. Jeff Merkley

YES

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

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

YES

H.R. 2014 Tax Pollution Not Profits Act
Sponsor: Rep. John Delaney

YES

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

YES

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

YES

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.

S. 1588 Democracy Restoration Act
Sponsor: Sen. Ben Cardin

YES

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

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

YES

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

YES

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

YES

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

YES

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

YES

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.

S. 805 Inclusive Prosperity Act of 2017
Sponsor: Sen. Bernie Sanders

YES

S. 427 Social Security Expansion Act
Sponsor: Sen. Bernie Sanders

YES

S. 2159 ME TOO Congress Act
Sponsor: Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand

YES

S. 2019 Fair Employment Protection Act of 2017
Sponsor: Sen. Tammy Baldwin

YES

S. 1076 Keep Our Pension Promises Act
Sponsor: Sen. Bernie Sanders

YES

S. 1590 Employ Young Americans Act
Sponsor: Sen. Bernie Sanders

YES

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

YES

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

YES

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).

We must address prevention. Humans are a definite contributor to climate change and the U.S. government must take the lead in preparing the world for a revolution in energy technologies and sustainable living practices that help reduce natural disasters. We do this by committing to 100% renewable energy by 2035 via the OFF Act.

Preparation includes better funding for FEMA. FEMA should be fully funded for disaster relief well in advance based on scientific expectations for upcoming natural disasters. This will require us to embrace, not censor, our scientific community and to accept our role in the changing climate of our planet.

This funding will allow us to better evaluate our protocols for relief response and ensure we get to affected citizens as soon as possible. We need to work with states and territories to help rebuild infrastructure systems with the newest technologies and most sustainable materials (both in terms of long-term sustainability and in terms of withstanding severe weather conditions).

I support Senator Bernie Sanders' Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands Equitable Rebuild Act of 2017 and legislation that gives U.S. Territories state status. This can go a long way towards addressing the systemic racism that accompanies occupying an area without taking full responsibility for supporting the people there.

In addition, I would work to ensure that private contracts awarded for disaster relief clean-up and rebuilding are free of conflicts of interest with our legislators. That's a systemic flaw that encroaches on all aspects of governance.

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.

S.J. Res 8 A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

Sponsor: Sen. Tom Udall

YES

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.

S. 411 End Racial and Religious Profiling Act of 2017
Sponsor: Sen. Ben Cardin

YES

S. 1127 Justice Safety Valve Act of 2017
Sponsor: Sen. Rand Paul

YES

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

H.R. 65 Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee

YES

Equality Issues

The belief in 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 seeking equal status.

S.J. Res 5 Removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment 2017
Sponsor: Sen. Ben Cardin

YES

S. 819 Paycheck Fairness Act of 2017
Sponsor: Sen. Patti Murray

YES

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.

If elected to this office, do you pledge to cosponsor the following legislation as an original cosponsor, or within 2 weeks of its introduction?

S. 806 College for All Act
Sponsor: Sen. Bernie Sanders

YES

Immigration

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.

S. 1615 DREAM Act of 2017
Sponsor: Sen. Lindsay Graham

YES

S. 349 A bill 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: **Sen. Kamala Harris**

YES

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

H.R. 1036 American Families United Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Beto O'Rourke

YES

General

Please provide us with information in the sections provided below, some information about your campaign: (Your campaign plan with some *detail*, Your capacity to raise the necessary capital to fund the campaign; grassroots support; your campaign staff in place):

Campaign Staff/Team – advisor, strategist, communications & field team

Volunteers - over 1,500 from every region of California

Fundraising - I have raised more money in small-dollar donations than any candidate, including incumbent Dianne Feinstein.

Grassroots Campaign - With my experience as national director of a grassroots political organization, I am able to utilize my skills to build my campaign -- including funds, staff, and volunteers -- in creative ways that make this campaign one not to be underestimated. We use primarily a combination of field, digital, and independent media to raise money and recruit volunteers. I am endorsed by Justice Democrats, Our Revolution groups, Demand Universal Healthcare, California For Bernie, and Progressives Unite.



Signature of Candidate

April 8, 2018

Date

Biography

Alison Hartson has spent her life in the service of others. For ten years she served as a public high school teacher in the working-class community of Garden Grove, California serving low-income families who are primarily 1st and 2nd generation students from Mexico. She taught English and designed and taught an intervention program for students at risk of not graduating high school.

Alison saw up close how the corrupting influence of money in politics has created two realities in this country: one for the rich, and one for everyone else. Seeing this inspired her to spend 2013-2017 with Wolf-PAC, an organization dedicated to ending political corruption via a U.S. Constitutional Amendment that will overturn Citizens United and related cases. As the California State Director, Alison successfully led the passage of the California measure through the state legislature by organizing thousands of volunteers throughout the state. She went on to be a National Director of Wolf-PAC, where she was responsible for the long term strategic and operational planning of staff, 30,000+ volunteers, legislation, programs, expansion, and execution of its mission where they have now passed the measure in five states and have volunteer teams in almost all 50 states.

Alison faces the issues that the people of California face every day. She has a proven track record of leadership and winning the causes she fights for, and you know she will fight for people, not corporations, because she has vowed not to take a dime of corporate or PAC money. At this difficult moment for our nation, she is stepping up to provide a courageous voice for the working people of California.