



## **2018 Candidate Questionnaire - House**

Candidate Name: **Michael A. Hepburn**

Campaign Address: **PO BOX 420935, Miami, FL 33242**

E-mail Address: **michael@michaelhepburn.com**

Office for which you are running: **U.S. Congress Florida 27<sup>th</sup> District**

Date of Election: **Primary August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 & General November 6<sup>th</sup>**

Campaign Manager: **Michael Hepburn**

Phone: **786-390-2068** Fax: **N/A**

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?

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## 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?

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## 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 115<sup>th</sup> 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 116<sup>th</sup> 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)

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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)

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

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

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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)

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

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

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**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)

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

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

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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)

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**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)

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**H.R. 608** Stop Arming Terrorists Act

**Sponsor:** Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

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

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**H.R. 4140** No Unconstitutional Strike against North Korea Act  
**Sponsor:** Rep. John Conyers

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

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**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)

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## 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)

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

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

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

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

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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)

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**Election Integrity:  
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***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)

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

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

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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)

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

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

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**H.R. 12** Voter Empowerment Act of 2017

**Sponsor:** Rep. John Lewis

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

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**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)

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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)

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

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

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

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

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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)

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

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

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**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)

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

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

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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)

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**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)

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**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)

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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)

I'll use the Puerto Rico Disaster as an example... About 3.4 Million of our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico have experienced wide spread devastation because of the hurricane but to be honest – we have neglected Puerto Rico for years before this natural disaster occurred. My response would focus on advocating for a sustained commitment from our Federal Government to initiate allocation of funds and corresponding legislation to eliminate loopholes and consolidate efforts to push Puerto Rico forward. I'm a strong believer in Infrastructure development, so my frame work will also include pushing for major capital

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investment and increasing the capacity to execute our efforts through Community Development Block Grants, innovation around their telecommunication and energy grids and additional focus on assessing additional need related to disaster relief. Lastly, but perhaps most important – I would like to dive in and tackle the inequality which exist related to how we execute our Medicaid and Medicare programs in Puerto Rico and access to comprehensive Healthcare. If we strategically had a Congress which focused in on what I mentioned above – dealing with this disaster would be completely different.

## 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)

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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)

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**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)

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## **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)

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

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

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**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)

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## 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 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)

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

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

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

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

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## 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.***

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

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

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

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

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**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)

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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)

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**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)

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## General

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

- Your campaign plan with some *detail*

It's really simple – continue to Inspire, Empower, and Mobilize our voters here in the 27<sup>th</sup> to enact the change that we seek. We have reached out to almost 50,000 Voters so far for the primary and identified our WIN # and also captured enough pledges from voters to win this Primary election. I'm concentrating our efforts on three primary initiatives. I walk every block that I'm running to represent, we make phone calls to every voter that we have a number for and I'm executing a robust text messaging campaign.

Since I'm a Young Community Leader who actually serves in my communities, I truly do believe in executing an All-On-Deck Field Campaign, in order to make sure our voices are seated at the table of our government.

Once we win this Democratic Nomination – we will scale up and create the biggest coalition of organizations and community influencers that this district has ever seen – as we push forward to WIN this election in November.

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

We have garnered the support of almost 5,000 Contributions so far and will continue to refuse Corporate PAC, Lobbyist, and any other money which comes from people that are against our own interest.

With the backing of the Brand New Congress PAC, Justice Democrats PAC, BRAT-PAC, and others – we will continue to capture small dollar donations to fuel this historic campaign.

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- grassroots support

This campaign is entirely fueled by grassroots support from all of the Pastors in South Dade, to our 35 and Under H-Team, Community Activist, etc. This is a movement to create a Brand New Congress and I have 27 running mates from all across the US running with me to bring a new perspective to Congress.

- your campaign staff in place

Volunteer Led Campaign Staff – Were a Small but Mighty Team that’s changing the game of what’s deemed possible when it comes to executing a political campaign. Plus with our 12 Endorsements from Organizations and Community Leaders so far, we are pushing forward on all cylinders.

*Michael A. Hepburn*

**Signature of Candidate**

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**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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