



2018 Candidate Questionnaire - House

Candidate Name: Peter Jacob
Campaign Address: P.O. Box 98 Pluckemin, NJ 07978
E-mail Address: peter@jacob2018.com
Office for which you are running: U.S. House - NJ CD-7
Date of Election: June 5th (Primary) November 6, 2018 (General)
Campaign Manager: Barry Brendel
Phone: (908) 591-4887 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?

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)

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)

Medicare For All is the only solution to our healthcare crisis. It is essential to fulfilling the promise of freedom and opportunity to all Americans. Not only is adequate healthcare itself a prerequisite for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, but stemming the tide of healthcare bankruptcy is a must for the health of our economy.

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 should be non-negotiable in our Medicare For All Act.

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

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

The United States spends the most out of any industrialized nation, and more than many developing nations, for prescription drugs, while the American pharmaceutical market churns out record profits. The monopolistic pharmaceutical industry has armies of lobbyists to negotiate their interests. American consumers deserve equal bargaining power to negotiate fairer drug prices.

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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)

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)

Guaranteed paid family and medical leave will go far in lifting and keeping struggling families out of poverty while giving children and parents the time they need to establish a strong family bond.

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

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

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

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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)

The United States has an unprecedented and unmatched apparatus for making war. Establishing a cabinet level position dedicated towards making peace must be just as, if not more important.

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)

No president should ever have unilateral ability to wage war. The AUMF was a mistake when it was signed, and it must be repealed at once.

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

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

We should not be providing assistance to terrorist groups and hold governments accountable for such activities.

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)

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

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

Our planet is in crisis and the only solution is bold action. We must get off fossil fuels and switch to 100% renewable energy no later than 2035.

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

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

While I do not agree in the reduction of the corporate income tax rate, a tax on carbon pollution would incentivize the use of cleaner technologies and practices, and provide a source of income to be used towards combating climate change and further pollution.

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

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

The goals of a just transition for fossil fuel workers, ending investment in dirty fossil fuels, greening the grid, and auctioning climate bonds are necessary. **But we cannot wait until 2050, we must set the same goal date as the OFF Act, 2035.**

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

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

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)

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

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

An affirmed right to vote is fundamental towards the re-establishment and preservation of American democracy, and the right of self-determination through representative governance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The ability to vote should be made as easily accessibly as possible. We should have online voter registration, same-day registration, and automated registration. We also need to ensure accountability through verification mechanisms and audits of election results.

H.R. 787 Streamlined and Improved Methods at Polling Locations and Early (SIMPLE) Voting Act of 2017

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Sponsor: Rep. Steve Cohen

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

There is absolutely no reason why it should take anyone hours out of their day to cast a ballot. Additionally, we must ensure election integrity in our system.

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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This is essentially a nominal Wall Street sales tax that will help curb casino-style high frequency trading. It will also help our families and communities through creating financial security and investments in infrastructure.

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

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

Tipped workers deserve living wages and assist employers to do so.

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

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

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

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

Social security benefits must be expanded, not cut. COLA computation should include the use of CPI for the elderly.

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)

Acknowledging and studying the horrors of the institution of slavery and its ongoing impacts today are at the core of moving forward as a unified, egalitarian society.

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

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

We must have accountability in our Congress as we have policies and procedures regarding social assault/harassment/misconduct in other public and private sector work places.

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

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

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)

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)

-Call for more robust review of disaster planning by all cities and states to reflect new realities of climate change.

-Call for such plans to be more publicly accessible have more public input.

- Call for reforms that would empower FEMA and other relevant agencies to act with greater autonomy.

- We can no longer plan for the average cost, and continue to throw money at catastrophes after they occur. We must modernize how we calculate budgets to reflect the new realities.

- Progressive Americans must continue to wage the cultural and political battle against racism/ethnocentrism (and all other forms of bias) and climate change deniers so there is equitable relief regardless of where disasters impact our nation.

- Invest in infrastructure and provide financial incentives to states to do more in terms of preparing for future disasters. (i.e. Make sure that buildings and roadways are prepared to survive catastrophic events and that adequate evacuations procedures are in place).

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

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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)

Commercial and investment banks must be kept separate from one another.

HJ Res 88 Constitutional Amendment to regulate corporations

Sponsor: Rep. Jim McGovern

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

Corporations are not natural persons and do not deserve the same rights as people as guaranteed under the United States Constitution. We must also go a step further and define the act of spending money, especially in political campaigns or lobbying, as a right protected under the First Amendment.

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)

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.

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

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

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 a disgustingly discriminatory practice that is used to target, intimidate, and oppress racial minorities across the country. It is un-American, plain and simple.

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)

Youth crime is largely a product of inadequate opportunities and role models. We must work to ensure that all young Americans have access and opportunities for personal advancement.

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

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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)

There should not be an expiration on providing equal rights.

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

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

Equal pay for equal work is an essential step forward in lifting thousands of women and families out of poverty, and providing a real shot at the American Dream to millions of Americans.

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

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

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.

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

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

We need a pathway to citizenship for our DACA and DAPA recipients that does not include funding for a “wall” of any type.

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

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

Immigrants are people, plain and simple. It is beneath our values and beliefs to tear apart families, especially those who are doing nothing more than trying to provide better lives for themselves and their children.

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)

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.

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

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

We must fully fund our public institutions of higher education so they are tuition and debt free: colleges, universities, and tech schools.

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)

Bettering oneself and earning an education should not be a debt sentence. Along with cost cutting and revamping of how we finance higher education to begin with, students should be able to discharge their debts through bankruptcy and start fresh.

General

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

- Your campaign plan with some *detail*

In 2016, I was the Democratic Party nominee achieving 43.1% of the vote, strongest campaign to date against incumbent Republican, Rep. Leonard Lance. We amassed over 1500 volunteers across 14 states.

For 2018, we are in a contested primary with initially 9 candidates, now down to 3 (including myself). The Democratic Party establishment in the District has selected a former undersecretary for the Dept. of State with no ties to our District as the frontrunner.

I believe we have the name recognition, base of supporters, and messaging needed to win and provide a sustainable path forward for the Democratic Party in years to come.

With a larger number of registered Democratic Party voters this year (roughly 149,000 Dems to 160,000 GOP) and renewed political activism/engagement through the creation of various indivisible/resistance groups, we have a larger number of people ready to get involved. I believe our campaign is the only one that can unite progressives and more centrist leaning Democrats in our District.

In the primary, as in the general, we will have very targeted canvassing and phone-banking efforts to get out the vote.

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

In 2016, our campaign raised \$320,000. Senator Bernie Sanders sent out 3 fundraising emails. For 2018, our campaign has raised over \$125,000 to date, primarily from small dollar donations. I believe after the primary, our numbers will pick up with local donations and from national endorsements.

We have organized fundraisers with past and new supporters at their homes. Continue call time. Meet and greet events.

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- grassroots support

We have been endorsed by local and national chapters of Our Revolution, Justice Democrats, and Brand New Congress. We have positive relationships with local PDA members, unions (AFL-CIO, AFSCME, UWUA, CWA who endorsed and supported us in 2016), and resistance groups.

- your campaign staff in place

Campaign Manager – Barry Brendel

Policy Director – Flavio Hickel Jr.

Political Director – Dan Ulloa

Volunteer Coordinator – Sebastian Machado and Bindiya Desai

Press and Public Relations – Aaron Hyndman

Digital and Data Director – Josh Jancourtz

Messaging Director – Cristopher Crapello

Social Media Director – Rishi Mehta

Morris County Representative – Leslie Brown and Robert Lynch

Hunterdon County Representative RFD – Nina White

Warren County Representative – Aaron Hyndman

Union County Representative – Patty and Sean Smith

Somerset County Representative – Paul Alirangues

Signature of Candidate

4/16/2018

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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