



2018 Candidate Questionnaire - House

Candidate Name: Tahirah Amatul-Wadud

Campaign Address: 10 Center Street #208A, Chicopee, MA 01013

E-mail Address: Tahirah@TahirahForCongress.com

Office for which you are running: U.S. House - 1st Congressional District of MA

Date of Election: Primary: September 4th 2018 General: November 6th 2018

Campaign Manager: Yasmin Abdulatheem

Phone: 413-351-7874 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

## 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?

Yes

---

---

## 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?

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 this office.

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

## 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)

Yes, I am in support of Section 4 of the 25th Amendment which empowers Congress to establish a permanent "body" that can declare that the President is "unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office." I support establishing that independent nonpartisan commission.

## 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)

Yes as the parent of a 6 year old daughter who received life saving heart surgery as a newborn I deeply understand the need to prioritize healthcare for every person and am thus an avid supporter of single payer health care platform.

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

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

Yes ensuring equal access to reproductive health services is essential. During my time as Commissioner on the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women I regularly advocated before state legislature to enact laws similar to this one that were vitally important and responsive to the needs of women and girls.

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

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

Yes I support reducing prescription drug costs so that patients and families do not have to suffer the burden of wondering whether they will be able to afford vital medicines for themselves, their families and their children.

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

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

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

Yes, as mentioned above, I support enacting legislation that both reduces prescription drug prices and ensures vital access to affordable prescription drugs for patients and their families.

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)

Yes, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics found in 2017 that just 15 percent of the workforce has paid family leave through their employers. I support this national family and medical leave program that addresses this paid leave crisis and benefits working people, their families, businesses and our nation's economy.

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

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

I don't have a position on this piece of legislation at this time

---

## 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)

Yes I support creating a Department of Peacebuilding in the executive branch dedicated to peacebuilding, peacemaking, and the study and promotion of conditions conducive to both domestic and international peace and fostering a culture of peace.

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)

Yes I agree that the A.U.M.F. has been used to justify open-ended authorization for use of military force and that such interpretation is inconsistent with the authority of Congress to declare war. I support repealing the Authorization for Use of Military Force

H.R. 608 Stop Arming Terrorists Act

Sponsor: Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

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

Yes I am in support of this measure.

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

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

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

Yes I support prohibiting the introduction of the Armed Forces into hostilities in North Korea without a declaration of war or explicit statutory authorization.

---

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)

Yes I support prohibiting the President from using the Armed Forces to conduct a first-use nuclear strike unless such strike is conducted pursuant to a congressional declaration of war expressly authorizing such a strike.

---

## 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)

Yes, I support enacting strong measures to protect our clean air and clean water, and transitioning away from fossil fuel energy to cleaner healthier energy sources (e.g., energy efficiency, energy conservation, and renewable energy).

---

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

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

Yes I support taxing certain greenhouse gas emissions and establishing a low-income energy cost mitigation program to ensure such changes do not negatively impact low-income households.

---

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

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

Yes I support aggressively reducing carbon pollution as rapidly as possible and seeking to achieve 100% clean and renewable energy by 2050.

---

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

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

I support environmental and climate justice and support strong measures to protect our clean air and clean water, rural communities, public lands, waters, and natural resources.

---

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL



## 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)

Yes I support instituting automatic voter registration to ensure that obstacles to voting are removed.

---

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

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

Yes I am in support of this.

---

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

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

Yes I support same day registration as a means of removing barriers to voting.

---

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

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

Yes I support legislation that prohibits state or local election officials from requiring individuals to present photo identification as a prerequisite to voting. I recognize that such requirements increase barriers to democratic participation.

---

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

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

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

Yes I support protecting and expanding access to democratic voting registration processes.

---

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 I support legislation that helps reduce unreasonable waiting times in federal elections.

---

## 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)

Yes I support legislation that helps raise billions of dollars for investment in our economy by taxing Wall Street financial transactions.

---

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

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

Yes I support legislation that phases out the outdated and unfair subminimum tipped wage system. I realize that increasing federal minimum wage to \$15 by 2024 would raise wages for the parents of 19 million children, nearly one-quarter of all children across the United States. I support this.

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

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

Yes I support this comprehensive federal job creation and training bill and its goal of creating a national public service jobs program. I believe in creating feasible economic opportunities, especially for our young people, through proper training and education.

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

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

Yes I support enacting measures to protect, expand, and strengthen Social Security benefits, and utilizing payroll taxation on annual incomes over \$400,000 to help implement these measures.

---

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

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

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

Yes I support this legislation and its extension of the solvency of both the Old-Age & Survivors and the Disability Insurance Social Security trust funds through 2078.

---

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)

I don't have a position on this piece of legislation at this time but am open to and interested in gathering more information about it.

---

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

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

Yes I support amending the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform provisions for investigating allegations that legislative offices violated rights and protections provided to their employees, including protections against harassment.

---

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

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

Yes I am in support of the employer liability standards laid out in this bill.

---

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

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)

Yes

---

---

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)

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)

A major reason for our complex and inefficient system is that funding for disaster response and recovery is "off-budget," meaning the funds are not counted against discretionary spending limits and therefore not required to be offset by spending reductions in other programs. Congress must reevaluate the Stafford Act, the 1988 law which guides federal emergency response. The statute, in many cases, imposes limitations on rebuilding infrastructure, often resulting in assets being rebuilt as they were before the disaster without factoring in threats such as those from climate change. In 2016, the Joint Committee on Taxation estimated that there is now \$2.6 trillion in "earnings of foreign subsidiaries of U.S. corporations held offshore," up from \$2.3 trillion in 2012. Closing tax loopholes and repatriating these funds from Bermuda, the Cayman Islands and other tax shelters would go a long way to addressing future disaster relief funding challenges.

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

## 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)

Yes I absolutely support strengthening and reinstating vital components of the Glass-Steagall Act.

---

HJ Res 88 Constitutional Amendment to regulate corporations

Sponsor: Rep. Jim McGovern

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

Yes, I support Congressman McGovern's effort to clarify the authority of Congress and the States to regulate corporations through this 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)

Yes, my campaign has actually committed not to take any contributions from corporate PACs and I am in complete support of comprehensive campaign finance reform measures such as this one.

---

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

## 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)

Yes I support legislation that helps us move away from the privatized prison industrial complex and helps us reduce the disproportionate unjust mass detention of immigrants in the United States.

---

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

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

Yes I support legislation that helps to end racial profiling practices and the ways these practices disproportionately impact vulnerable and marginalized communities.

---

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)

Yes I support legislation that will help us end the unjust and racially biased school to prison pipeline.

---

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

## 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)

Yes I support eliminating the time limit for ratification of the equal rights amendment proposed to the states in House Joint Resolution 208 of the 92nd Congress. I support making the amendment part of the Constitution whenever it is ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states.

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

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

Yes as a member of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women and Girls I have seen time and again the way pay inequity damages communities and families and I unequivocally support instituting a Paycheck Fairness Act.

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

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

Yes I support this act and agree that the creation of religious registries both fails to enhance our national security and goes against our American values.

---



# 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)

Yes I support comprehensive immigration legislation that advocates for Dreamers and protects "DACA" recipients.

---

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

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

Yes I support legislation that helps to keep dedicated hardworking families together and authorizes parents of U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents to apply for a waiver of inadmissibility for unlawful presence to ensure that families are not unjustly separated.

---

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)

Yes I support extending the right to be accompanied, represented, and advised by counsel or other qualified representative before a government agency to any person subject to a proceeding, examination, holding, or detention at the border by U.S Customs.

---

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

## 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)

Yes I support making public colleges tuition-free for most families in order to address some of the burdensome costs associated with higher education.

---

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)

Yes I support establishing and protecting student loan borrowers' right to basic consumer protections, reasonable and flexible repayment options, access to earned credentials, and effective loan cancellations in exchange for public service. Student loan debt should not be debilitating our student populations.

## General

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

- Your campaign plan with some detail

Our campaign is broken into four parts geared toward four time periods: the blind-outreach period when initial awareness about my candidacy is raised via regional media coverage; the identification period, where my team and I gather details about voter preferences and who is interested in our campaign; the targeted period, where outreach to committed supporters is conducted, and Get Out the Vote Period to remind committed and interested voters about the election.

Your capacity to raise the necessary capital to fund the campaign, As a first-time candidate I'm doing my best to execute a fundraising plan that includes candidate call time for high-donor solicitation, higher-dollar fundraising events and low-dollar house parties. I may not have my opponent's multi-million dollar campaign war chest that's been accumulated by voting for an agenda favored by corporate special interests, but I feel confident I will be able to raise enough to get my message out and take advantage of cost-effective paid media such as radio spots and newspaper ads.


- grassroots support I have already received the endorsement of Franklin County

Continuing the Political Revolution <http://fccpr.us/> and Rise Up Western Massachusetts Indivisible Chapter, and have been nominated for the national Indivisible endorsement (currently under consideration). I'm receiving help from a dedicated corps of volunteers from several Indivisible chapters in MA-1 and am seeing a groundswell of grassroots support because of my unapologetically progressive people centered campaign platform and status as one of the first (in your campaign staff in place) African American Muslim women to seek office in the U.S House of Representatives. There's an exciting amount of grassroots energy & support around my campaign.

### Campaign Staff:

<b>Alexander Dietrick</b>	<b>Technology/ Communications Director</b>
<b>Alexander Stewart</b>	<b>Mass College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) Field Director</b>
<b>Matt Barron</b>	<b>Policy/Research</b>
<b>Bonnie McCracken</b>	<b>Scheduler</b>
<b>Deanna Williams</b>	<b>Volunteer Organizer</b>
<b>Raheela Rahman</b>	<b>Writer</b>
<b>Tahirah Amatul-Wadud</b>	<b>Candidate</b>
<b>Tory Rosen</b>	<b>Media Consultant/Community Engagement &amp; PR</b>
<b>Yasmin Abdulatheem</b>	<b>Campaign Manager</b>

  
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.

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL