



## **2018 Candidate Questionnaire - House**

Candidate Name: \_Alina Irene Valdes, MD\_

Campaign Address: \_PO Box 823297 Pembroke Pines, FL 33082-3297\_

E-mail Address: \_alina@alinavaldesforcongress.com\_

Office for which you are running: \_FL CD 25\_

Date of Election: \_Nov 6, 2018\_

Campaign Manager: \_Charlie Hill\_

Phone: \_305-498-1942\_ 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?

I can go even further in stating that I don't plan on ever being a paid lobbyist. \_\_\_\_\_

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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. 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:

***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)

First I believe we need to address and fund an infrastructure repair bill that would bring technological advances to disaster prone areas. These tend to be in neglected parts of the country where lower income people live looking for affordable housing.

While these improvements continue and are constantly re-evaluated, there needs to be a more equitable distribution of funds with a built in reserve to make sure that relief is available in a timely fashion to all who need it and continues for as long as the community in need requires it.

What happened and continues to happen in Puerto Rico should NEVER happen again.

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## 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 of 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*

Since we have qualified for the ballot, we are having our first campaign kick-off May 1 in Naples for the west coast portion of the campaign. This is to be followed by a similar event in Miami for the east coast part of the district. We will be having phone banks and begin to canvass as we are gathering volunteers to assist in our efforts.

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

I will increase the number of calls made on a daily basis and attend events to achieve our fundraising goals, which we estimate will be about \$7500-10,000/month.

- grassroots support

This campaign has been fueled by a grassroots movement since 2015 when I first started my quest to defeat the incumbent. Our staff is presently filled with volunteers who believe in the People's Progressive Platform followed by this campaign.

- your campaign staff in place

Campaign manager, campaign coordinator, webmaster, social media guru, volunteer coordinator, financial consultant, candidate assistant/intern

*Alina Valdes*

**Signature of Candidate**

04/30/18

**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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