



2018 Candidate Questionnaire - House

Candidate Name: Robert Matthew Tager

Campaign Address: 26133 US Highway 19 n Suite 202 Clearwater Fl 33763

E-mail Address: Tager@tagerforcongress.com

Office for which you are running: US House of Representatives, Fl. District 12

Date of Election: Primary is August 28, 2018

Campaign Manager: Fired last one, Interviewing replacements

Phone: 727-723-1616 Fax: 888-212-0853

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?

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.

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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)

YES _____

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

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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, But the bill has some problems. There are other ways to get to a Medicare for all system and/or fix our broken medical delivery system. Healthcare is a human right and we must do whatever it takes to fix this nightmare broken system.

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 _____

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 Prescription drug prices and healthcare must be a priority

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

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

YES _____

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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)

Yes _____

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

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

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.

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

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

Yes _____

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 If we are to continue in war, there should be a new authorization for Use of Military Forces. _____

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

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

Yes _____

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

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

Yes _____

H.R. 669 Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Ted Lieu

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

Unsure There are certain defensive benefits to the current system. I am unsure That I would agree to change it.

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 _____

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

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

Yes _____

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

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

Yes _____

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

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

Yes _____

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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)

Yes _____

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

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

Yes _____

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

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

Yes _____

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

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

Yes _____

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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)

Yes _____

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 _____

Economic and Social Justice:

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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 _____

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, but also fight to strengthen union

H.R. 1000 Jobs For All Act

Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers

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

Yes _____

H.R. 1902 Social Security Act of 2017

Sponsor: Rep. John Larson

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

Yes

H.R. 1114 Social Security Expansion Act

Sponsor: Rep. Peter DeFazio

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

Yes _____

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)

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

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

Yes _____

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

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

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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)

I do not know other then more money, more resources, and more FEMA working directly with communities, but that will not stop politized or racist prioritizing. Money should be spent on rebuilding destroyed communities with mitigation in design. Strengthen dams and water retention walls to prevent spillovers and/or bursts. Looking at Puerto Rico and Texas, and Louisiana , there is no question there is racist, socio/economic and/or politicized effects on mitigation and response. There is more attention paid to the more affluent, who overwhelming are white. I would consult with experts to develop a solution or consider any solutions proposed. There is no question that more resources would permit more response coverage.

Puerto Rico is a unique case. From day one it does not appear that any effort was made in preparation or response. There should have been ships ready to be deployed with assets and the Hospital Ship Comfort should have been prepared to be in area. Other supplies should have been on island in preparation. Again though, this is not an area of expertise or knowledge I posses but I would look for better answers from the experts other then more money.

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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)

Yes _____

HJ Res 88 Constitutional Amendment to regulate corporations

Sponsor: Rep. Jim McGovern

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

Yes _____

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 _____

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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)

Yes _____

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

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

Yes _____

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 _____

Equality Issues

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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 _____

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

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

Yes _____

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

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

Yes _____

Immigration

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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 _____

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

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

Yes _____

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 _____

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

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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 _____

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 _____

General

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


- Your campaign plan with some *detail*. *Canvassing volunteers. Concentrating in areas I under performed in during 2016 election. Building more grassroots volunteers, mailers, and tv. Social media will also play a role.*

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- Your capacity to raise the necessary capital to fund the campaign,
I will actively solicit for campaign contributions as well as having supporters assist. Hopefully, now that qualifying is over, people in the District will begin to give more freely. Due to my progressive positions, I do not have the party support, but I will continue to fundraise the best I can. I believe I am the only true progressive in this race and last election (2016) I was identified as a Berniecrat. I hope to again be identified as the progressive candidate.

- grassroots support- Yes and lots of grassroots supporters from last election.
- your campaign staff in place: My self and several top level volunteers. Currently interviewing and looking for a new manager.



Signature of Candidate

4-30-18
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.**