



2020 Candidate Questionnaire

U.S. House of Representatives

Candidate Name: **Richard Thripp**

Campaign Address: **265 HICKORY AVE, ORANGE CITY FL 32763-6014**

E-mail Address: **me@thripp.com**

Office for which you are running: **U.S. House of Representatives, FL's 6th**

Date of Election: **August 18, 2020 Primary; November 3, 2020 General**

Campaign Manager: **Emily Humphrey**

Phone: **386-316-2407**

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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.

The Congressional Progressive Caucus

Do you pledge, if elected to this office, to immediately join the Congressional Progressive Caucus?

Yes

No

Comment? (50 word limit)

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 Comment? (50 word limit)

Yes, I have read about people leaving Congress for better pay as a lobbyist. I have no interest in doing this regardless of pay.

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.

Notice to Candidate

The questions below refer to legislation introduced by bill number in the 115th and 116th Congress. Unless noted, bill numbers refer to the 116th 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 117th Congress.

Presidential Fitness

H.R. 1987 To establish the Oversight Commission on Presidential Capacity, and for other purposes. – 115th Congress

Sponsor: Rep. Jamie Raskin

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Yes, this is needed in light of Donald Trump.

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. 1384 Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act
Sponsor: Rep. Pramila Jayapal

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

I will co-sponsor H.R. 1384 when re-introduced in the 117th congress and convince colleagues to do the same! Also, I want to focus on getting Florida and other southern states to expand Medicaid, as a step forward. I will co-sponsor the Incentivizing Medicaid Expansion Act of 2019 (H.R. 584).

H.R. 1692 Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance of 2019
Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R. 275 Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2019
Sponsor: Rep. Peter Welch

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R. 1776 Improving Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs – 115th Congress
Sponsor: Rep. Jan Schakowsky

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R. 1185 FAMILY Act
Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Long overdue!

War and Peace/Foreign Policy

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 2019
Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Much better than dumping money into the war machine.

H.R. 1274 Repeal of the Authorization for Use of Military Force
Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

I support restoring congressional authority over declaring and funding war.

H.R. 608 Stop Arming Terrorists Act – 115th Congress
Sponsor: Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Much more sensible than the Hyde amendment...

H.R. 4837 No Unconstitutional Strike against North Korea Act – 115th Congress
Sponsor: Rep. Ro Khanna

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R. 669 Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2019
Sponsor: Rep. Ted Lieu

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.Res. 496 Affirming that all Americans have the right to participate in boycotts in pursuit of civil and human rights at home and abroad, as protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution

Sponsor: Rep. Ilhan Omar, Rep. Rashida Tlaib, Rep. John Lewis

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Climate Emergency/The Environment

Environmental degradation and global warming/climate change threaten human

civilization, constituting a climate emergency. 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) – 115th Congress
Sponsor: Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

We must transition away from fossil fuels, quite rapidly. It is long overdue already. The true costs of extracting and burning fossil fuels are not factored in. In fact, we are still offering tax subsidies.

H.Res. 109 Recognizing the Duty of the Federal Government to Create a Green New Deal
Sponsor: Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

We need a Green New Deal in the Daytona Beach area quite urgently. We are affected by hurricanes, heat, and rising seas. We are still using coal, oil, and natural gas and do not have many solar panels despite being the sunshine state. Offshore wind farms could also be a good idea.

H.R. 2242 Keep it in the Ground Act – 115th Congress
Sponsor: Rep. Jared Huffman

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.Con.Res. 52 [T]here is a climate emergency which demands a massive-scale mobilization to halt, reverse, and address its consequences and causes

Sponsor: Rep. Earl Blumenauer

Yes No Comment? (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.

H.R. 645 Automatic Voter Registration Act
Sponsor: Rep. David Cicilline

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R. 1 For the People Act (passed 116th Congress)
Sponsor: Rep. John Sarbanes

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Gerrymandering needs to end, and private political "donations" are out of control. We need better ethical standards with real enforcement power.

H.R. 118 Streamlined and Improved Methods at Polling Locations and Early (SIMPLE) Voting Act of 2019
Sponsor: Rep. Steve Cohen

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Many people in my district think vote-by-mail is a Democratic plot to steal votes... even though our vote-by-mail and supervisors of elections do an excellent job and more Republicans than Democrats vote by mail here!

Economic and Social Justice

The enormous wealth disparity between the top 1 percent and the rest of America is an unsustainable economic and social injustice. PDA supports 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. 2923 Inclusive Prosperity Act of 2019
Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

We need to level the playing field between rent-seekers and wage earners. No wage earner gets to time their income as with capital gains, and wage earners suffer payroll taxes and higher income tax brackets, too.

H.R. 582 Raise the Wage Act of 2019 (passed 116th Congress)
Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Long overdue. The federal minimum wage has been stagnant since 2009.

H.R. 1000 Jobs for All Act
Sponsor: Rep. Frederica Wilson

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R. 860 Social Security 2100 Act
Sponsor: Rep. John Larson

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

With some reservations, but I think this is a great improvement overall. I know raising the Social Security payroll tax from 12.4% to 14.8% over a period of 24 years is not a perfect solution nor progressive, strictly speaking.

H.R. 1170 Social Security Expansion Act
Sponsor: Rep. Peter DeFazio

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

This may need to be reconciled with H.R. 860 at some point. I think we have a shot at strengthening Social Security in the 117th Congress.

H.R. 40 Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act
Sponsor: Rep. Shelia Jackson Lee

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R. 4396 ME TOO Congress Act – 115th Congress
Sponsor: Rep. Jackie Speier

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R. 4152 Fair Employment Protection Act of 2017 – 115th Congress
Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R. 4782 The Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands Equitable Rebuild Act of 2018 – 115th Congress
Sponsor: Rep. Stacey Plaskett

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

I also support statehood for Puerto Rico. The incumbent I will face after I win my primary, Rep. Michael Waltz (R), claims to as well, surprisingly.

H.R. 1296 Assault Weapons Ban of 2019
Sponsor: Rep. David Cicilline

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R. 2474 Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019
Sponsor: Rep. Bobby Scott

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

We will get it done when we flip the Senate and presidency blue.

H.R. 3760 Domestic Workers Bill of Rights Act of 2019
Sponsor: Rep. Pramila Jayapal

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Caregiving at home should contribute to GDP statistics... The creator of that statistic even said it was not a good measure of our nation's prosperity. It would be nice if stay-at-home parents and others could even get Social Security credits... probably will never happen unfortunately.

Emergency Aid for Natural Disasters

The climate change-intensified natural disasters of 2017-18 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, and effective federal responses to future events? (No more than 250 words)

This is not a popular thing to say, but I think we should stop subsidizing beach houses, second homes, or luxury homes above a certain value that are situated in at-risk areas. These should be excluded from FEMA aid or subsidized flood insurance. We need to prevent further development, particularly in low-lying areas such as Tampa Bay and the Florida Keys. This is also happening right here in Florida's 6th congressional district in sensitive areas, flood zones, coastal areas, and wetlands, because local politicians are funded by developers.

At the federal level, we should have disaster aid pre-authorized so it can be delivered timely, such as for the upcoming 2020 hurricane season which looks like it could be quite bad. Puerto Ricans should not be treated as second-class citizens. Even here in Florida, people are still waiting on aid in the panhandle that never comes. The application process for disaster aid should be simple, but with verification processes to avoid the federal government being scammed. It should also be targeted toward those who need it rather than favoring the wealthy, especially if they are already insured.

In the long run, we create a moral hazard by bailing out wealthy people and businesses who choose to locate in dangerous areas such as right by the ocean. We need managed retreat, but we are doing precisely the opposite. We also must forsake fossil fuels, but we are just putting green energy on top of them instead of replacing them. This must change.

Corporate Rule

Big corporations and banks dominate our political process, spending billions to lobby for programs against the public interest, and to privatize public services for profit. This influence 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.J.Res. 2 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections

Sponsor: Rep. Ted Deutch

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

I believe the Supreme Court erred in classifying this as a 1st amendment issue.

Mass Incarceration/Criminal Justice Reform

The United States houses 25 percent of the world's inmates despite having only 5 percent 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 – 115th Congress

Sponsor: Rep. Raul Grijalva

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R. 1498 End Racial Profiling Act of 2017 – 115th Congress

Sponsor: Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R. 65 Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education (RAISE Act) – 115th Congress

Sponsor: Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

The school to prison pipeline, or cradle to prison pipeline as it is also known, is a national travesty.

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.

H.J.Res. 38 Removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment
Sponsor: Rep. Jackie Speier

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R. 7 Paycheck Fairness Act
Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R. 489 No Religious Registry Act of 2017 – 115th Congress
Sponsor: Rep. Suzan DelBene

Yes No Comment? (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 all undocumented immigrants living in the U.S.

H.R. 2820 Dream Act of 2019
Sponsor: Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Should it really make that much of a difference if someone came here as a 2-year-old vs. being born here? The right acts like dreamers are pariahs... they would not know a dreamer vs. natural-born citizen if they ran into one.

H.R. 1036 American Families United Act – 115th Congress
Sponsor: Rep. Beto O'Rourke

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

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. – 115th Congress

Sponsor: Rep. Pramila Jayapal
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Education

U.S education is unaffordable for a majority of Americans. Securitization of student debt has placed students at the mercy of corporate predators. Minorities are denied equal access to education. Our education system must be accessible and affordable to all.

H.R. 3472 College For All Act
Sponsor: Rep. Pramila Jayapal
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

We are pretty close to free college with Pell grants for certain students at certain colleges in certain states already, such as Daytona State College and our 27 other state colleges in Florida. It would be great to take this a step further.

H.R. 3027 Student Loan Borrowers' Bill of Rights Act of 2019
Sponsor: Rep. Frederica Wilson
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R. 3448 Student Debt Cancellation Act of 2019
Sponsor: Rep. Ilhan Omar
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

We have so much money for millionaires and billionaires. This has become quite clear with the COVID-19 emergency, which has turned out to be a bonanza for the rich. Canceling student debt would be a much better boost to the economy and the American people.

General:

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

- Your campaign plan with some *detail*

Our campaign plan is to contact voters by mass email (which we have already begun to do), phone and text banking, direct mail, and social media (Facebook, Twitter), including a limited amount of paid advertisements. Our focus is on important local issues including raising the minimum wage, preserving Social Security and Medicare, expanding Medicaid in Florida as a step toward Medicare for All (passing H.R. 584 would help), protecting our beautiful beaches and natural habitats, and focusing on education.

This is an all-volunteer campaign on a shoestring budget against a weak Democratic primary challenger (Clint Curtis) than I have a strong chance at defeating on August 18, 2020. The race

against Lt. Col. Green Beret Michael Waltz, Trump's favorite congressman, is a long shot by anyone's estimation, but we will raise hell and already have a lot of grassroots support. There may be a significant backlash against Republicans in November. Waltz has tied himself to Trump quite fervently, and also has weaknesses due to being a never Trumper in 2016, not living in his district, not knowing where his district is, his history as an arms dealer in Libya, scandals such as claiming to be a woman-owned business long after his partner Mary Beth Long left Metis Solutions, and his insistence on spearheading race-baiting anti-China rhetoric as well as outlandish ploys like storming the Capitol's Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility in October 2019.

Presently, we have built a database of Democratic voters to target for phone calls, emails, and ads in the primary based on being frequent past voters and will expand as the season goes on. It does not look like traditional canvassing will be an option due to COVID-19.

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

This is quite limited. I have only raised \$1,300 from outside donors since beginning to run on January 2, 2020. I am totally new to politics. However, these are all small donations of anywhere from \$2 to \$100, and probably more than Waltz who gets mostly \$2,800 per person and \$5,000 PAC contributions. We are doing a lot while being very frugal through channels such as Twitter and Facebook groups, which are very popular with voters here. The average voter is 59 years old in this district. I think we have a shot, and my volunteer Campaign Manager, Emily Humphrey, does too.

I am trying to get funding and endorsements from 314 PAC, AAPI, and others. After winning the primary I expect we will have more success, although time is very limited between August 18 and November 3, 2020, particularly being that so many will vote by mail and mail ballots arrive up to 40 days early. Because this is a "safe" Republican district with a Cook's PVI score of R+7, funding may be more limited than we would like.

- Evidence of grassroots support

Local Bernie supporters have designated their monthly contributions to me and are helping me with ideas and endorsements. Presently, 7 people have established monthly recurring contributions on ActBlue summing to \$102 per month. I have endorsements from Volusia for Bernie and Our Revolution: Volusia and we are working on getting to the state and national level with OurRev. I have lived in the Daytona Beach area most of my life and now in Orange City, FL near Deltona, which gives me an advantage as I have many local connections. I have Slack and Facebook groups with about 50 people who have expressed interest in volunteering, although only a few have been particularly active.

I have also met most of the Democratic leaders in the area by attending Democratic Executive Committee meetings, club and caucus meetings, sign-waving events, parades, festivals (prior to COVID-19), and now, digital meetings. Overall, I think they will support me in the primary. Many are disappointed in my Democratic primary opponent, Clint Curtis, due to his complete lack of action. He announced he was running in July 2019 and did not really re-appear until I emerged as a challenger in January 2020.

- Your campaign staff in place

Volunteer Campaign Manager, Emily Humphrey

Volunteer Political Director, Sean Abshire

Field Director for East Volusia, John Navarra

Many others give me advice regularly and some may be coming on-board soon



Signature of Candidate

5/18/2020

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.