



## 2016 Candidate Questionnaire - House

Candidate Name: Alina Valdes, MD

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Office for which you are running: US House of Representatives FL  
CD 25

Date of Election: November 8, 2016

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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 If not, why not?

My issues are progressive and I will have no difficulty with joining a caucus that has similarly minded people.

## Lobbyist

Do you pledge, if elected to this office, to NOT become a paid lobbyist when you leave Congress?

Yes

No    If not, why not?

As I am not now a politician, I would never become a lobbyist, especially since they advocate for issues that I do not support. I had enough experience with drug representatives who wished to convince me to use expensive drugs their companies manufactured. My giving them time was always directed towards obtaining enough samples so I could treat the uninsured patients with quality medications they otherwise would not be able to afford. To this end, I was always successful.

## 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 the nomination for this office.

## Notice to Candidate

Most questions below state: "If elected to this office, do you pledge to cosponsor the following legislation as an original cosponsor, or within 2 weeks of its introduction: (bill number and description).

You must understand and agree that a version of the bill which is materially the same, with the same or a new number, or a new Sponsor, may be introduced, and is included within the meaning of that bill number and name, and you further pledge to co-sponsor such version.

## Healthcare

60 million 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.

If elected to this office, do you pledge to cosponsor the following legislation as an original cosponsor, or within 2 weeks of its introduction?

H.R. 676 Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act

Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

As a physician for over 30 years, I have always advocated for a one-payer health care system. Serving the poor, uninsured, homeless, and other disenfranchised members of society, I have seen firsthand how lack of care leads to poor health and inability to fully participate in family and social situations. This segment of society ends up having early death and complications leading to disability, all of which could be avoided by early diagnosis and treatment of mostly treatable conditions. They do not have access to recommended health maintenance visits and tests which could lead to early diagnosis and treatment. My goal has always been to provide the best quality care within my power and limitations so this population could have the best quality of life possible. This has been my mission and will continue to be so that the uninsured get the best quality care possible. Having all covered with health insurance will allow these folk to have the full range of services those with insurance now have the privilege to access. I believe in health insurance for all from birth to death.

H.R. 3061 Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2015

Sponsor: Rep. Peter Welch

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Please see above statements.

H.R. 1339 Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act

Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

As a supporter and health care provider of poverty wage workers, I have seen how many need to go to work sick and worry about their sick children who must remain at home, many times alone, while they worry. They are torn between being there for their kids and having to work to pay bills. Having to work sick does not help anyone, especially those who work in the service industry and come in direct contact with many people.

## 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



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.

If elected to this office, do you pledge to cosponsor the following legislation as an original cosponsor, or within 2 weeks of its introduction?

H.R. 1930 End Polluter Welfare Act of

Sponsor: Rep. Keith Ellison

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

As a scientist and environmentalist, I believe in the science of climate change, which is based on facts and not fiction as many would have us believe. Too many people have been profiting for too long on the denial of the facts and it is time we not only remove subsidies but add a tax for those who continue to profit from the destruction of our planet.

H.R. 1902 Protect Our Public Lands Act

Sponsor: Rep. Mark Pocan

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Public lands belong to the people and we need to stop the perpetual selling and polluting for profit of those whose only goal is wealth. We must preserve these lands not only for ourselves but for future generations. FL CD 25 happens to include a good portion of the Everglades, which is its own individual ecosystem comprised of many species of plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. It is our job as guardians of this planet to speak up for their protection because once they are gone, they will be lost forever. I am actively involved in many groups whose only purpose is to advocate for clean air and water and the protection of these species. I am against drilling and fracking in the Everglades as this is not necessary and would subsequently lead to a compromise of our water and air and the destruction of many unique plants and animals.

H.R. 2202 Tax Pollution Not Profits Act

Sponsor: Rep. John Delaney

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

See above statement.

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.

If elected to this office, do you pledge to cosponsor the following legislation as an original cosponsor, or within 2 weeks of its introduction?

HJ Res. 25 Constitutional Right to Vote

Sponsor: Rep. Mark Pocan

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Every citizen in this country, no matter their background, has a protected constitutional right to vote. We need to preserve this right of one citizen, one vote, rather than what it has become. Money is not speech and, unfortunately, our elections have become about wealth equaling power and control.

H.R. 12 Voter Empowerment Act of 2015

Sponsor: Rep. John Lewis

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Government by, from, and for the people is our basic tenet and we must return to that principle.

H.R. 411 Streamlined and Improved Methods at Polling

Locations

Sponsor: Rep. Steve Cohen

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

We must make it easier for the people to exert their right to vote. There has been a systematic and deliberate action on the part of those presently in power to make it harder for people to vote. This includes eliminating early voting days and hours, not restoring the rights of felons, decreasing the polling and registration locations to name a few. The voice of the people, all of them, must be protected and encouraged.

## Economic 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.

If elected to this office, do you pledge to cosponsor the following legislation as an original cosponsor, or within 2 weeks of its introduction?

H.R. 1464 Inclusive Prosperity Act of 2015

Sponsor: Rep. Keith Ellison

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

There is no reason why everyone in this country cannot achieve their American Dream, which usually includes a well-paying job with benefits so they can raise their families with dignity and security. When we are all able to live to our potential, society as a whole benefits and prosperity is there for all.

H.R. 1000 Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act of 2015

Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Our infrastructure is crumbling, our environment is being destroyed by the continued use of fossil fuels, many of our people go without health care, while others do not have a decent place to live. We can create millions of jobs by retraining people to work in infrastructure repair, converting and maintaining renewable energy sources, rebuilding homes for the homeless, computer technology, and health care. These are but a few examples of employment opportunities available for all if we invest in our people and their education.

H.R. 3164 Pay Workers A Living Wage Act

Sponsor: Rep. Keith Ellison

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Right now, there are many in our society who want to work so they find themselves taking several poverty wage jobs without any benefits just to pay their bills. This does not allow them to care for their families with dignity. It is time to increase the minimum wage to a living wage so people can better raise their families knowing that there will always be opportunity for any who want to work. It is time for the workers to share in the prosperity of their employers instead of continuing to increase income inequality, where so few have so much and so many have so little.

H.R. 1391 Social Security Act of 2015

Sponsor: Rep. John Larson

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

We must find a way to strengthen and expand social security so the elderly and disabled have a means of supporting themselves in a dignified manner.

H.R. 40  
African Americans Act

Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for

Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers

Yes

No Comment? (50 word limit)

I agree that a commission should be formed to study what, if any, reparations can be made to the African American community for centuries of human rights abuses and discrimination.

## 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.

If elected to this office, do you pledge to cosponsor the following legislation as an original cosponsor, or within 2 weeks of its introduction?

H.R. 2600 Too Big To Fail, Too Big To Exist Act

**Sponsor:** Rep. Brad Sherman

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Corporations are not people and, if elected, I will make this one of my priorities. If they are too big to fail, then they are too big to exist and the people should not be responsible for bailing them out when they make poor investments because of greed or bad judgment as we have done in the past.

H.R. 3054 21st Century Glass-Steagall Act of 2015

**Sponsor:** Rep. Michael Capuano

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

We need to insure that the major recession that occurred in 2008 does not happen again by keeping commercial and investment banking separate. Big banks and Wall street corporations should not be allowed to collude and use our savings accounts for risky investments to increase their profits.

HJ Res 23 Constitutional Amendment to regulate corporations

**Sponsor:** Rep. Jim McGovern

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Corporations are not people and as such, should be treated as business entities. Finally having a constitutional amendment would prevent SCOTUS from ever considering this argument again.





# 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.

If elected to this office, do you pledge to cosponsor the following legislation as an original cosponsor, or within 2 weeks of its introduction?

H.R. 2095 American Families United Act

Sponsor: Rep. Beto O'Rourke

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Families should never be divided especially when the children are American citizens by birth or brought into this country before age 16.

H.R. 2808 Protecting Taxpayers and Communities from Local Detention Quotas

Act Sponsor: Rep. Ted Deutsch

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

No quotas for detention of undocumented immigrants. The quotas provide incentive, usually monetary, to arrest and detain people for profit.

H.R. 3201 New American Success Act of 2015

Sponsor: Rep. Tony Cardenas

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

We are a land of immigrants and this is what has made our country great. As an immigrant myself, I serve as an immediate example of the impact immigrants can make on a community. I am the first person in my family to go to college, to become a physician, and remain to serve the medically underrepresented communities including the uninsured, the poor, and the homeless. I am a proud American citizen and grateful to have been given the opportunity to make my life meaningful by helping others and serve as an example to others who wish to achieve their American Dream.

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H.R. 1959 College Options for Dreamers Act

Sponsor: Rep. Ruben Hinojosa

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Dreamers have the same hopes for a future for themselves and their families as any other immigrant, whether undocumented or not. They should have the tuition assistance needed to help them achieve their dreams. Most come from families who do not have the financial means to afford a college education and this should not be the reason for them not to get a higher education. Among these young people could be the next researcher who finds the cure for cancer or the solution for many of the planet's problems.

## 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.

If elected to this office, do you pledge to cosponsor the following legislation as an original cosponsor, or within 2 weeks of its introduction?

H.R. 1352 Student Loan Borrowers' Bill of Rights Act of 2015

Sponsor: Rep. Frederica Wilson

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Students should have the same rights and protections afforded other loan borrowers to refinance at a lower rate or even exchange their debt for a needed service like working in a medically underserved community. Many have acquired a level of student debt that will be with them for the rest of their lives. They will start out their adult life in the workplace with crippling debt that will never allow them to own a home or raise a family with dignity. Lending institutions should not be making such high profits on the backs of people who want an education to improve the quality of their lives and become productive citizens of society.

H.R. 2521 REAL Act of 2015

Sponsor: Rep. Donna Edwards

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Incarcerated people should be able to qualify for Pell grants so they can develop skills which will make them less likely to reoffend.

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H.R. 2192 Pro Students Act

Sponsor: Rep. Mark Takano

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Another level of protection needed for students who borrow money to pay for their higher education.

## General

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

Your campaign plan with some detail

My campaign structure is already in place with a website, social media, stationary, etc. to keep the campaign going with little or no further monetary investment. At this point, my goal is to collect petitions to qualify for the ballot without having to pay the \$10,440 required for a US House race. Once this is accomplished, I plan on contacting donors and constituents to support my candidacy and inform them of my platforms. I have already started doing the latter but once I qualify, then I can report that I will be on the ballot and that I qualified with the support of the community.

Your capacity to raise the necessary capital to fund the campaign

I know what I am capable of doing once I set my mind to a task and I feel that I can put in the time needed to meet as many of the people in the district as I can while also raising money. Because of FL redistricting, I am no longer living in the district but my goal has always been to replace the republican incumbent of district 25. The district has become more republican but the people need to have a choice, one they have not had since 2008. The incumbent has gone unopposed since then and it is time that changes. He has no reason to listen to what the people of the district need because he has the support of the large corporations and the wealthy who have a different agenda than the needs of the people.

grassroots support

My support is purely grassroots with volunteers providing the ground work and small donor contributions from people who believe in me and my issues.

your campaign staff in place

0  Right now, my entire staff is comprised of volunteers. This includes my campaign manager, senior advisors, media support, and fundraisers.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

We believe that an informed electorate is the greatest assurance of a strong democracy.