



2016 Candidate Questionnaire - House

Candidate Name: Bob Seay

Campaign Address: Bob for Colorado
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Office for which you are running: U.S. House, Colorado's 4th
Congressional District

Date of Election: _____ Nov. 8, 2016

Campaign Manager: __Diane Irvin

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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?

Yes. I am a Progressive. This is my tribe. Progressive values are important to me and are crucial for the future of this country.

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?

Yes. Absolutely. The incestuous relationship between Congress and the businesses it is supposed to regulate is responsible for many of our current problems. I believe that it is unethical for former Congressmen to exploit their position for personal gain. It should also be illegal. I would also fight to keep former lobbyists out of Presidential cabinets and from other appointed positions.

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)

Yes. Healthcare should be a right, not a privilege. This is a cornerstone of my campaign and will continue to be a signature issue for my term.

H.R. 3061 **Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2015**
Sponsor: Rep. Peter Welch

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Yes. Price gouging by pharmaceutical companies should be stopped. Price negotiations is one way to do that, along with price caps on orphaned drugs so we never face another Martin Shekreli situation again. Pharmaceutical companies should not be allowed to extort money from patients or from their insurers.

H.R. 1339 Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act

Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Yes. We need to support families, whatever they may look like.

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.

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. 1111 Department of Peacebuilding Act of 2015

Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Yes. We have always invested and planned for war. It is time we plan and invest in peace.

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H.R. 1303 Repeal of the Authorization for Use of Military Force
Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)
Yes. War should be a last resort. Unfortunately, in the United States, war is viewed as just another stream of revenue. War has become an economic sector along with manufacturing, mining, and other industries. This is immoral and unsustainable.

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.

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)
Yes. Polluters should be punished, not rewarded. We need to accelerate our transition from fossil fuels to a cleaner fuel economy.

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H.R. 1902 Protect Our Public Lands Act
Sponsor: Rep. Mark Pocan

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)
Yes. Public lands are national treasures that should be kept for future generations. Any mineral or other potentially exploitable resources on these lands should be held in reserve for the future and not used for the immediate benefit of private corporations.

H.R. 2202 Tax Pollution Not Profits Act
Sponsor: Rep. John Delaney

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)
Yes, but I would offer an amendment that would change Section 4 from " up to 2 percent of the revenues generated under this Act **may** be used by the Secretary of Labor to implement a program to assist workers" **as it is currently written to "WILL" be used ...to implement a program to assist workers. Worker displacement is a real problem for coal economies and must be addressed.**

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

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Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Yes. Every American should be allowed to vote. Period. The efforts that go into voter restriction in this country are ridiculous.

H.R. 12 Voter Empowerment Act of 2015

Sponsor: Rep. John Lewis

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Yes. Every effort should be made to see that voters are informed, empowered, and able to participate in the election process.

H.R. 411 Streamlined and Improved Methods at Polling Locations

Sponsor: Rep. Steve Cohen

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Yes. Voter restriction often occurs because the system is intentionally unprepared to handle the volume of voters. Voter volume is a predictable number. If we know that X Number of people are expected to vote, then we need to make facilities that can accommodate that many voters in a timely manner.

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)

Yes. We should tax every stock transaction. Investment income should be taxed at the same rate as all other income. I would prefer to tax wealth instead of income, but I recognize the political difficulties of such a policy.

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

Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Yes. American workers need job training, especially in industries such as coal, oil, and gas that are affected by a changing world.

H.R. 3164 Pay Workers A Living Wage Act
Sponsor: Rep. Keith Ellison

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Yes. This is another of the fundamental principles of my campaign. "You can't call it a minimum wage if it doesn't meet the minimum requirements to live in a community."

Economic Justice (cont'd):

H.R. 1391 Social Security Act of 2015
Sponsor: Rep. John Larson

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Yes. We must take all steps necessary to preserve Social Security and to ensure that Social Security recipients have a decent standard of living.

H.R. 40 Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act
Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Yes. Reparations are complicated by the difficulties of tracing African American ancestry to current times. One of the tragedies of slavery was the destruction of families, and African American genealogies are often difficult to trace. There is also the issue of African families that arrived in the United States after the 1860s and were therefore never slaves (although it could be argued that Jim Crow was a form of slavery). The Commission to Study could address these and other problems and begin the process of economic justice for these Americans.

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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.

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)

Yes. Banks that are too big to fail are also too big to regulate and control.

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

Sponsor: Rep. Michael Capuano

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Repealing Glass-Steagall was one of the worst decisions of the Bill Clinton administration. We need to restore this vital legislation.

HJ Res 23 Constitutional Amendment to regulate corporations

Sponsor: Rep. Jim McGovern

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Yes, however, this name is too broad to be effective. We must overturn Citizens United and do away with other interpretations of the idea of "corporate personhood." This proposal appears to be related to campaign finance and election issues. The title should reflect that.

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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.

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. 1933 End Racial Profiling Act of 2015

Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Yes. Racial profiling is a continuation of racist 19th century theories about the atavistic criminal, somatotyping, and, ultimately, eugenics. We should be profiling behaviors, not body types. Security and law enforcement interests are better served in other ways.

H.R. 429 Grand Jury Reform Act

Sponsor: Rep. Hank Johnson

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

I would sponsor Grand Jury Reform with one amendment. Police violence is a serious issue and must be addressed. However, I am not convinced that a single judge in a given jurisdiction would be any less impartial towards law enforcement than anyone else who has a working relationship with co-workers, which is what police, prosecutors, and judges essentially are. I would propose an automatic change of venue for all cases of officer involved shootings, especially those that result in death.

H.R. 2197 Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention,
Support and Education

Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Yes. This should be policy.

Equality Issues

The belief in 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.

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 51 Removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment

Sponsor: Rep. Jackie Speier

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Yes. The 27th Amendment (addressing Congressional salaries) was given 202 years, 7 months, and 12 days for ratification. I think we can extend the ERA for a few more decades at least.

H.R. 1619 Paycheck Fairness

Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Yes. Everyone deserves equal pay for equal work. This includes equal opportunities for higher paid positions.

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H.R. 1404 Social Security and Marriage Equality Act
Sponsor: Rep. Ron Kind

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)
Yes, although I question whether this is necessary now that marriage equality is the law. Why is this still an issue?

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)
Yes. If we truly support families, then we have no business tearing them apart.

H.R. 2808 Protecting Taxpayers and Communities from Local Detention Quotas Act
Sponsor: Rep. Ted Deutsch

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)
Yes. Quotas are unacceptable in this instance.

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H.R. 3201 New American Success Act of 2015
Sponsor: Rep. Tony Cardenas

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)
Yes. We need to do all we can to help law-abiding immigrants succeed.

H.R. 1959 **College Options for Dreamers Act**
Sponsor: Rep. Ruben Hinojosa

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)
Yes. Absolutely. As a teacher, I know several former students who would qualify under the Dreamer Act. These are good students who could make important contributions to our country. We need to encourage and assist them in those accomplishments.

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)
Yes, however I would prefer and will work for tuition-free post-secondary education options, including college, qualified trade schools, and other opportunities.

H.R. 2521 REAL Act of 2015
Sponsor: Rep. Donna Edwards

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)
Yes. Prison should be for rehabilitation.

H.R. 2192 Pro Students Act
Sponsor: Rep. Mark Takano

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)
Yes. Too many students are scammed by for-profit colleges like Trump University.

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General

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

Ñ Your campaign plan with some detail

At this point – it is August 10 as I write this – our campaign strategy is still focused on fund raising and name recognition. This is being done through phone banking, personal appearances, and publishing articles in newspapers and in online outlets.

We are using social media as much as possible on all platforms. Canvassing efforts with the candidate and volunteers have already begun and will continue until the election.

In early September we will launch a radio ad campaign. Colorado 4 is primarily rural and covers about 45,000 sq. miles. People tend to spend a lot of time in their cars. Radio is an effective advertising medium for this market.

We will use direct mail in mid-October. All voters in Colorado are sent a mail-in ballot. We want to time our mailers to arrive at about the same time as the ballots.

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

As with many campaigns that challenge income inequality and other social justice issues, fundraising has been a challenge for this campaign. However, we are gaining ground. We have several events scheduled for August, September, and October, including house parties and other

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donor opportunities, that will bring in enough to cover our projected expenses.

Ñ grassroots support

VERY STRONG. Our campaign has become a rallying point for progressives in our area.

Ñ your campaign staff in place

We currently have a campaign manager, a volunteer coordinator, a communications director, and a campaign consultant. We also have several volunteers who are handling data entry and other important tasks.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

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