



2016 Candidate Questionnaire - House

Candidate Name: Khary Penebaker

Campaign Address: 336 Wisconsin Ave. Waukesha, WI 53186

E-mail Address: khary@kharyforcongress.com

Office for which you are running: US House of Representatives WI 5th CD

Date of Election: November 8th, 2016

Campaign Manager: Justin Koestler

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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?

ABSOLUTELY!

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?

I don't plan to have a long-term career in politics, however, once my Congressional career ends (I believe in term limits), I will continue to fight for gun violence prevention at the State, local & National levels.

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)

ABSOLUTELY! In WI, we have more than 80,000 of our citizens without adequate access to affordable healthcare due to Republican ideology. That is unacceptable.

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

ABSOLUTELY! I'm an asthmatic & some of my prescriptions are severely overpriced. This is the net effect of having a profit motive in our healthcare system.

H.R. 1339 **Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act**
Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

ABSOLUTELY!

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)

Peacebuilding should be of paramount importance to our country, given how long we've been at war.

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

ABSOLUTELY!

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)

There must be increased ramifications against those who pollute our environment. If companies fail to take appropriate actions to prevent pollution, then they shouldn't benefit from our tax dollars.

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

We simply can't allow the corporatization of our country's lands. Corporations have a profit motive and would severely degrade our national treasures, while making more money for themselves.

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Again, if there were increase penalties on those that pollute our environment, fewer companies would engage in such dirty & environmentally harmful actions. It would be a strong deterrant.

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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.

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)

As an African American, I wholeheartedly support this. We should make voting more accessible, not less so.

H.R. 12 Voter Empowerment Act of 2015
Sponsor: Rep. John Lewis

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Too many folks have fought & died for the right to vote to have it continually tampered with by those who would seek to prevent our access to supreme activity. The VEA should have occurred long ago, given our country's history with voter suppression & restriction to the ballot.

H.R. 411 Streamlined and Improved Methods at Polling Locations
Sponsor: Rep. Steve Cohen

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

We should make it easier for people to exercise their franchise. We should modernize our voting process as opposed to antiquated methods.

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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)

ABSOLUTELY!

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

Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers

Yes

No

Comment? (50 word limit)

Creating an environment in which more job opportunities can be created. In doing so, we would be able to address many of the social ills that face our country, including reducing crime rates & gun violence. I've got a similar proposal: <http://www.kharyforcongress.com/issue/jobs-economy/>

H.R. 3164 Pay Workers A Living Wage Act

Sponsor: Rep. Keith Ellison

Yes

No

Comment? (50 word limit)

I am a firm believer in increasing the wages of our workers. I think that this bill has the graduated process in it that would enable the business community to plan and adjust accordingly, so as to not have a high amount of dissention & the greatest amount of implementation by all.

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Economic Justice (cont'd):

H.R. 1391 Social Security Act of 2015

Sponsor: Rep. John Larson

Yes

No

Comment? (50 word limit)

YES! This bill will not only help beneficiaries Social Security, but will also help to make Social Security solvent for a much longer duration by increasing the income threshold above its current limits.

H.R. 40 Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act

Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers

Yes

No

Comment? (50 word limit)

ABSOLUTELY! We need to take a stronger look at our country's history that is embroiled in racism and slavery, as well as the net effects of those behaviors on our African American population. But, once the studies are complete, we need to take actions to stem the effects of generations worth of policies that allowed racism to grow, to dominate & to harm the African American community.

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)

Plainly stated: There is no company that is too big to fail. We need to stop conducting ourselves as if companies are too big to fail, all while they engage in extremely risky behavior.

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

Sponsor: Rep. Michael Capuano

Yes

No

Comment? (50 word limit)

This is a much needed policy to provide increased protections against the terrible behavior that got our country into the Great Recession.

HJ Res 23 Constitutional Amendment to regulate corporations

Sponsor: Rep. Jim McGovern

Yes

No

Comment? (50 word limit)

CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PEOPLE! Period! Our constitution protects WE THE PEOPLE, not WE THE CORPORATIONS!

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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)

As a black man who has experienced racial profiling, YES! Not only is racial profiling immoral, it is also ineffective & causes increased mistrust between Law Enforcement & the communities they are sworn to protect.

H.R. 429 Grand Jury Reform Act
Sponsor: Rep. Hank Johnson

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

ABSOLUTELY! Allowing Law Enforcement to continue to investigate itself is a corruption of justice. There needs to be independent prosecutors that handle the overall process; a person that is not connected to the agency involved in the case.

H.R. 2197 Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention,
Support and Education
Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Policies that engage in prevention on the front end, are more effective long-term than policies that engage in stringent punishment only.

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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)

ABSOLUTELY!

H.R. 1619 Paycheck Fairness
Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

As a parent of two daughters and as a husband to a wife that works in corporate America, I want to make sure that we have policies in place that protect them in the workforce from discrimination.

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

We need to root out ANY forms of codified discrimination within our government. My uncle is gay & I want to make sure that others like him receive the equal rights & protections from our government as heterosexual people enjoy.

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)

If we are to believe that our country supports the family unit, then we need to stop tearing them apart using immigration as a weapon to do so. We need to keep families together, which helps to strengthen our country & local communities.

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Private detention firms have a financial interest in detaining people so that they can make more money. Making money off of detained people, is flat out wrong.

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Assisting with the success of integration of immigrants into US society is important so that those folks have a greater chance of succeeding and reaching their dreams.

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

DREAMERS should have a chance at having access to a college education, which will only go to help to improve our economy by having a larger pool of college educated individuals that will help to improve outputs and results. It would also reduce reliance on other social programs that address unemployment matters.

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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.

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)

I graduated from college 15 years ago, and am still not done paying off my student loans! Our student loan debt problem has negatively impacted more than just families and their children, but also other industries that rely on disposable income purchasing. Additionally, if banks can discharge their debts, why can't students?

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

If we truly want to have folks become productive members of society again once they've served their time, then we need to establish opportunities that allow them to better themselves upon release. This would help to reduce recidivism rates and repeat offenders.

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

It is a shame that Institutions of Higher Education allow their students to take on burdensome amounts of debt, but fail to prepare those students for their futures adequately. We can't look at our children as profit centers; they should be looked at and treated as the change agents of the future.

General

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

- Ñ Your campaign plan with some detail:
 - Ñ Our campaign is staffed by 4 full-time employees who have a history of working on other successful campaigns.
 - Ñ Justin Koestler is our campaign manager and I am his 7th campaign.
 - Ñ Luke Mathers is our Finance Director and I am his 3rd campaign.
 - Ñ Ed Longstreth is our Field Director. Ed has worked on MANY campaigns prior to mine, including Governor Martin O'Malley's presidential campaign.
 - Ñ Scott Becher is our Communications Manager and I am his 7th campaign.
 - Ñ Our campaign is fortunate to be able to work with WI's coordinated campaign. That has enabled us to be a part of every call script that is utilized on a daily basis in every county of our district. It also enables us to be a part of every single canvas (door knocking effort) that occurs in this district and the canvassers hand out our literature along with Russ Feingold & Hillary Clinton's. Access to the coordinated campaign has provided much needed credibility and visibility to our efforts to make history.
 - Ñ Now that the spring and fall primaries are over in Wisconsin, we can begin to work with more radio stations and earned media opportunities, which is something that our Communications Manager is taking on. Additionally, we are also making efforts to put increased pressure on my opponent to participate in a public debate so that our issues can be presented before the people in our district.
 - Ñ We also know that Republican turnout is already substantially lower than in the 2014 off-year cycle, which means that there is increased opportunity for us to reach more disaffected voters; folks who are more open to listening to a different message than they had in prior elections.

- Ñ Your capacity to raise the necessary capital to fund the campaign:
 - Ñ We have raised money from more than 800 people across the country. That is a result of a robust social media program, in conjunction with phone calling efforts as well as house parties. Our access to the coordinated campaign has helped to mitigate some of the costs that we would have normally incurred, by eliminating the cost of phone banking and canvassing on large scales.

- Ñ grassroots support:
 - Ñ Again, our campaign has been fueled and supported by a grassroots effort. More than 800 people have invested in our campaign because they believe in our message and what we stand for. We have also gotten help from local grassroots organizations to help spread the word about our campaign.

- Ñ your campaign staff in place
 - Ñ Our campaign is staffed by 4 full-time employees who have a history of working on other successful campaigns.
 - Ñ Justin Koestler is our campaign manager and I am his 7th campaign.
 - Ñ Luke Mathers is our Finance Director and I am his 3rd campaign.
 - Ñ Ed Longstreth is our Field Director. Ed has worked on MANY campaigns prior to mine, including Governor Martin O'Malley's presidential campaign.
 - Ñ Scott Becher is our Communications Manager and I am his 7th campaign.
 - Ñ Kristin Hansen is the 5th Congressional District Executive Committee Chairwoman. She helps on an ongoing basis with GOTV as well as assisting with strategy on an as-needed basis.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.
We believe that an informed electorate is
the greatest assurance of a strong democracy.