



2020 Candidate Questionnaire

U.S. House of Representatives

Candidate Name: Cathy Kunkel

Campaign Address: PO Box 3931, Charleston, WV 25339

E-mail Address: info@kunkelforcongress.com

Office for which you are running: WV-02

Date of Election: 11/03/2020

Campaign Manager: Dan Taylor

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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)

I would support making this a requirement for all federal elected officials. _____

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, and I think this is a good idea regardless of who wins the presidency in 2020. _____

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)

Medicare for All is a central element of our campaign's healthcare platform. Healthcare is a human right and no one should go bankrupt to pay for the healthcare that they or a family member needs.

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

I believe that all women should have access to abortion coverage, and that this should not be denied by private insurers or federal health insurance programs such as Medicaid. _____

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

There is no reason for Medicare to not be able to negotiate prescription drug prices, as the VA already does. _____

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Prescription drug prices in the U.S. are multiple times higher than in other developed countries, and this bill contains a number of important provisions to bring costs under control. _____

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

The coronavirus pandemic has shown even more obviously the need for universal paid family and medical leave. _____

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)

Unsure. Not clear to me how this would avoid duplicating work of the Department of State and Department of Health and Human Services. _____

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Especially seeking to represent a state with a high rate of military service, I strongly believe that Congress must re-assert its power to declare war, and not cede that authority to the president.

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

U.S. aid should not go to terrorist organizations or to foreign governments that fund such organizations. _____

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)

I agree that the U.S. should commit to not launching a first strike with nuclear weapons. _____

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)

This is especially important as some have sought to criminalize the BDS movement and its peaceful protest of the Israeli occupation. _____

H.Res. 2407 Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act

Sponsor Rep. Betty McCollum

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

U.S. funding should not be used in support of the Israeli military detaining and mistreating Palestinian children in violation of international law. _____

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)

Yes, but such legislation would need to be accompanied by federal investment and economic development assistance in communities that have historically depended on the fossil fuel economy.

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)

Here in West Virginia, we need a Green New Deal to invest in infrastructure, clean energy manufacturing and clean energy manufacturing as our country transitions off of fossil fuels, which have dominated the WV economy for over a century. _____

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

The U.S. government should not facilitate the production of fossil fuel on federal lands. _____

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)

I support independent redistricting commissions to end partisan gerrymandering, and expanding campaign finance disclosure requirements. _____

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)

I support expanding early voting and reducing wait times at polling locations. _____

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)

I support taxing financial transactions, which would generate revenue from Wall St trading that could be productively spent on healthcare and public education. _____

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

I support raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour and eliminating the exemption for tipped employees. _____

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)

I support increasing Social Security benefits, including by calculating the cost of living adjustment in a way that reflects actual price inflation for seniors. _____

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

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)

Yes, I support strengthening protections against sexual harassment of Congressional employees.

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)

Yes, and I also support greater federal oversight over the use of federal disaster relief funds.

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)

I support imposing financial penalties on employers who retaliate against workers for organizing for

their rights. _____

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

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Domestic workers (and agricultural workers) should not continue to be excluded from key labor rights laws. _____

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)

In the case of Puerto Rico, the U.S. government needs to repeal PROMESA, which established an undemocratic fiscal control board for the island that, for the past 4 years, has failed to bring together stakeholders on the island to come up with a sustainable solution to Puerto Rico’s debt crisis and instead has endorsed draconian debt deals with creditors that Puerto Ricans will never be able to pay. The inability to resolve the debt crisis in a sustainable manner has crippled Puerto Rico’s ability to prepare for natural disasters (for example by investing in its electrical system).

With regard to federal disaster funding, Congress should revisit the model of independent private sector inspector generals (recognized as a best practice in the clean-up of the World Trade Center site after 9/11) to ensure that federal dollars are not mis-spent or used for corrupt activity.

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 support limits on campaign spending _____

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)

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)

I support greater enforcement of anti-wage discrimination laws, including increasing financial penalties on employers who engage in wage discrimination. _____

H.R. 489 No Religious Registry Act of 2017 – 115th Congress

Sponsor: Rep. Suzan DelBene

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

The government should not have the ability to classify citizens or non-citizens with respect to religious affiliation. We must maintain separation of church and state. _____

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)

I strongly support a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrant children. _____

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)

Any person in an immigration court or deportation proceeding should have the right to legal counsel. _____

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)

I support tuition-free public colleges and universities, so that all Americans can have a pathway to higher education without crippling debt. _____

H.R. 3027 Student Loan Borrowers' Bill of Rights Act of 2019
Sponsor: Rep. Frederica Wilson

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Borrowers should have the ability to discharge student loan debt in bankruptcy, just like other consumer debts. _____

H.R. 3448 Student Debt Cancellation Act of 2019
Sponsor: Rep. Ilhan Omar

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

I support forgiving outstanding student loan debt, and coupling this with tuition-free public higher education, as above. _____

General:

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

- Your campaign plan with some *detail*

We will win by energizing Democratic and independent voters who are frustrated with the status quo, mobilizing youth voters and continuing our geographic focus on the eastern part of the district, where a local environmental justice fight flipped seats in 2018. Our campaign has been successful in reaching and motivating young voters, through our campus organizing and social media efforts focusing on issues of particular concern to youth, including student debt and climate change. Over the last few years, Trump's net approval rating had fallen 13% in West Virginia even before COVID-19, giving us an opportunity to defeat a Republican who has spent the last four years defining himself by his support of Trump.

And we will win by continuing our focus on healthcare, infrastructure, climate change and economic revitalization – bread and butter issues where Congressman Mooney consistently votes against the interests of his constituents.

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

We have raised \$325,000 of our total \$750,000 budget. We will raise the remainder through a combination of call time, online and in-district outdoor fundraisers, and national endorsements.

- Evidence of grassroots support

We have received numerous endorsements from WV-based labor and grassroots organizations, including: WV AFL-CIO, American Federation of Teachers WV, United Steelworkers, United Autoworkers, Communications Workers of America, Rise Up WV, Eastern Panhandle Green Coalition, and Concerned African Americans for a Diverse Jefferson County.

- Your campaign staff in place

We have a campaign manager, treasurer, finance director, data/digital director, 2 regional field directors, and two student interns.



Signature of Candidate

Date

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. We believe that an

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