



2022 Candidate Questionnaire

U.S. House of Representatives

Candidate Name: Amy Vilela

Campaign Address: PO Box 12413, Las Vegas, NV 89112

E-mail Address: info@amyvilela.org

Office for which you are running: U.S. House of Representatives

Date of Election: Primary: June 14, 2022
General: November 08, 2022

Campaign Manager: Alvin Chan

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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)

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 116th and 117th Congress. Unless noted, bill numbers refer to the 117th 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 118th Congress.

Healthcare

Millions of Americans have no reliable access to healthcare and millions more have inadequate or overly expensive coverage. Despite spending twice as much as other developed nations on healthcare, 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.1976 Medicare for All Act of 2021

Sponsor: Rep. Pramila Jayapal

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.2234 EACH Act of 2021 (To ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every person)

Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.2071 Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2021
Sponsor: Rep. Peter Welch
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.804 FAMILY Act
Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

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 U.S. 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 2021
Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.256 Repeal of the Authorization for Use of Military Force
Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee
Status: Passed the House on June 17, 2021, with a vote of 268-1651; awaiting action in the Senate. Do you support this legislation?
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.669 Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2021
Sponsor: Rep. Ted Lieu
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.2590 Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act
Sponsor: Rep. Betty McCollum
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 (116th Congress)
Sponsor: Rep. Ilhan Omar, Rep. Rashida Tlaib, Rep. John Lewis (dec.)
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

The Defense Spending Reduction Caucus

Do you pledge, if elected to this office, to join the Defense Spending Reduction Caucus, launched by Reps. Mark Pocan and Barbara Lee last year?

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 U.S. policy, imposing a nearsighted focus on short-term profits instead of serving the welfare of future generations of Americans.

H.Res.332 Recognizing the Duty of the Federal Government to Create a Green New Deal

Sponsor: Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.794 Climate Emergency Act of 2021

Sponsor: Rep. Earl Blumenauer

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.2184 End Oil and Gas Tax Subsidies Act of 2021

Sponsor: Rep. Earl Blumenauer

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.2242 End Polluter Welfare Act of 2021

Sponsor: Rep. Ilhan Omar

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.1845 American High-Speed Rail Act

Sponsor: Rep. Seth Moulton

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.2301 Automatic Voter Registration Act

Sponsor: Rep. David Cicilline

Yes **No** Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.1 For the People Act (passed House 116th Congress and 117th Congress)

Sponsor: Rep. John Sarbanes

Status: Passed the House on 3/3/2021 with a vote of 220-210. Failed to reach cloture in the Senate. Do you support this legislation?

Yes **No** Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.4 John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (116th Congress)

Sponsor: Rep. Terri Sewell

Status: Passed the House 228-187 on 12/09/2019. It has not yet been re-introduced in the 117th House, as Sewell is holding off on re-introduction in order to compile evidence about the on-going wave of Voting Rights violations occurring in many states. Do you support this legislation?

Yes **No** Comment? (50 word limit)

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.603 Raise the Wage Act of 2021

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Yes **No** Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.1808 Assault Weapons Ban of 2021

Sponsor: Rep. David Cicilline

Yes **No** Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.842		Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2021
Sponsor:		Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott
Yes	No	Comment? (50 word limit)
H.R.2923		Inclusive Prosperity Act of 2019 (116 th Congress)
Sponsor:		Rep. Barbara Lee
Yes	No	Comment? (50 word limit)
H.R.3760		Domestic Workers Bill of Rights Act of 2019 (116 th Congress)
Sponsor:		Rep. Pramila Jayapal
Yes	No	Comment? (50 word limit)

Emergency Aid for Natural Disasters

The climate change-intensified natural disasters of recent years have laid bare the federal government’s responses 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)

Las Vegas is the fastest growing, fastest warming city in the nation, and we’re rapidly running out of water. Extreme heat and drought continue to threaten our existence, with our main sources of water—Lake Mead and the Colorado River—proceeding to evaporate at an exceptionally alarming rate. As legislators, we must begin to view our battle against the climate crisis on our terms—it is not enough to simply adapt to the climate crisis, we must work to prevent and reverse it. We must do this in an equitable manner that begins by prioritizing the Black, indigenous, and communities of color that have been most devastated by the climate crisis during the recovery process. That means creating millions of good paying, union jobs that center frontline communities, transition fossil fuel workers to the renewable industry, and keep people working close to home through a Green New Deal. We must also move quickly to update and decarbonize existing buildings and housing stock and invest in millions of new public and housing units to ensure safe and affordable housing for all. By taking preventive measures against the climate crisis we are investing in the lives of those at the greatest risk of being threatened by this preventable, corporate-funded-greed devastation.

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.1 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)

H.R.1996 Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2021

Sponsor: Rep. Earl Perlmutter

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

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, and the growth of private, for-profit prisons has placed incarceration beyond public view. Administration of justice system is prejudiced against the poor and minorities.

H.R.1280 George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021

Sponsor: Rep. Karen Bass

Status: Passed the House on 3/3/2021 with a vote of 220-212 Awaiting action in the Senate. Do you support this legislation?

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.994 Justice Is Not For Sale Act of 2021

Sponsor: Rep. Raul Grijalva

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.4339 End Racial Profiling Act of 2019 (116th Congress)

Sponsor: Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee

Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.128 RAISE Act of 2021-Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring,

Intervention, Support and Education
Sponsor: Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Equality/Equity 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 equity to any and all groups seeking equal status.

H.Con.Res.19 Urging the Establishment of a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation
Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.40 Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act
Sponsor: Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.J.Res.17 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.5 The Equality Act
Sponsor: Rep. David Cicilline
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.6 American Dream and Promise Act of 2021
Sponsor: Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.2920 American Families United Act
Sponsor: Rep. Veronica Escobar
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.2222 Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act of 2021
Sponsor: Rep. Pramila Jayapal
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Higher Education

U.S education beyond K-12 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.2730 College For All Act of 2021
Sponsor: Rep. Pramila Jayapal
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.3027 Student Loan Borrowers' Bill of Rights Act of 2019 (116th Congress)
Sponsor: Rep. Frederica Wilson
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

H.R.3448 Student Debt Cancellation Act of 2019 (116th Congress)
Sponsor: Rep. Ilhan Omar
Yes No Comment? (50 word limit)

Hunger, Housing, Healthcare = Human Rights

Do you consider food, housing, and healthcare to be human rights?

Yes

If so, please explain briefly your proposals to ensure that all people in the United States will be guaranteed these human rights? (100 word limit)

COVID-19 has exposed the holes in our systems which many of us already knew existed. Rep. Pramila Jayapal's Medicare for All bill needs more than co-sponsors, it needs people like me who know loss and struggle that will fight and organize for it. Housing needs to be treated as a human right, which means fully backing Rep. Cori Bush's Unhoused Bill of Rights, Rep. Ilhan Omar's Rent & Mortgage Cancellation Act of 2020, and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Green New Deal for Public Housing. No person or child should go hungry, which means passing living wages plus free school breakfast and lunches.

General Campaign Information

**Please provide us with information in the sections provided below about your campaign:
Your campaign plan with some *detail***

Nevada's First District is a working-class district that has been left behind by our status quo leadership. Despite being home to the most heavily Democratic constituency of any congressional district in the state over the past decade, our opponent, the longtime incumbent Democrat, contributes the fewest Democratic votes—in both primary and general election elections and during both presidential and midterm cycles—to the statewide totals of all four districts. That's because it's long been held by a complacent Democrat who's failed to engage the broad base of potential voters in the district, particularly among the many immigrant and working class communities of color in the heart of Las Vegas; communities on the frontlines of the many crises we face right now.

As Bernie 2020 Nevada State Co-Chair—and with the help of hundreds of activists across the city that came together to demand more—we organized NV-01 into our stronghold in a landslide caucus victory. Our path to victory is straightforward and our mission is simple: unite and expand upon our incredible and diverse 2020 coalition. We believe we can and will do that by organizing at the grassroots and developing meaningful and authentic relationships with the voters and potential voters who are bearing the brunt of so many of the crises we are facing. Because the incumbent has set the bar so low, the electorate really has nowhere to go but up. We believe our campaign, along with the broader local movement in Las Vegas, stands to both expand the electorate during the primary election and win over a critical mass of existing Democratic primary voters.

As an aside, the barriers we face to victory here in NV-01 are much smaller than progressives around the nation. We expect, at the upper bound, approximately 45,000 people to vote in our primary, compared to over 140,000 in Congresswoman Bush's primaries in 2018 and 2020, or even to nearly 77,000 voters in Senator Turner's special election. With the support of PDA and organizations like PDA, we can knock, talk, and organize our way to victory in 2022.

Your capacity to raise the necessary capital to fund the campaign

I'm a working-class, small business owner helping to elect other progressive into office by providing finance and compliance services. Having worked on the successful campaigns of multiple members of Congress, I know better than most the devotion necessary to raise the funds to defeat a corporate-backed primary incumbent. When I'm not on the phone calling donors who support everyday people running for office, I'm working with my finance team to build a robust digital arm of our campaign to raise the funds necessary to unseat a corporate-backed Democrat.

Evidence of grassroots support

With over 11,000 individual contributions from more than 5,000 unique grassroots donors, our campaign is breaking through the noise and inspiring progressives across the country to invest in the opportunity we have in 2022 for Nevada's First District. Not only am I refusing corporate donations, but I have the name recognition, message, and working-class values that resonate with voters across the country. My campaign has already been endorsed by elected officials and organizations with our same, shared values like Congresswoman Cori Bush, Senator Nina Turner, Brand New Congress, Matriarch, Barrier to Entry, Sunrise Movement Las Vegas, and the Center for Biological Diversity Action Fund. Our experience speaking to voters in-district reinforces the notion that our existing leadership is nowhere to be seen. The vast majority of voters have no idea who their Congressperson is. At the moment, over 60% of our conversations at the doors, on phones, or via text, result in a favorable support score for Amy.

Your campaign staff currently in place

Keenan Korth, General Consultant

Alvin Chan, Campaign Manager

Craig Phelps, Press Secretary

Moumita Ahmed, Social Media Director

Erica Wilson, Field Organizer

Peak Performance Consulting, Direct Mail & Research (Consultant)

Outside Strategies, Digital Fundraising (Consultant)

Casitas Media, Traditional Fundraising (Consultant)

Amy Vilela

3/3/22

Signature of Candidate

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.