



2024 Candidate Questionnaire

U.S. House of Representatives

Candidate Name: John Padora

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Office for which you are running: Congress, Colorado CD-4

Date of Election: Primary, June 25th

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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 federal 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 X **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 X **No** **Comment? (50-word limit)**

PDA Issues

PDA focuses on fundamental issues of concern to voters. The questions are grouped by subject, 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 117th and 118th sessions of Congress. Unless noted, bill numbers refer to the 118th Congress. By checking YES as your answer, you pledge that, if elected, you will immediately cosponsor the reintroduced version of these bills in the 119th 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.3421 Medicare for All Act of 2023

Sponsor: Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D, WA-07) 112 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

A single-payer healthcare system is, in my view, the most straightforward way to bring down the cost and expand access to quality healthcare. I strongly support this measure.

H.R.561 EACH Act of 2023 (To ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every person)

Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee (D, CA-12) 178 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.R.3899 American Family Act (To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a refundable child tax credit with monthly advance payment.)

Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D, CT-03) 209 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

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 2023

Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee (D, CA-12) 35 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.R.932 Repeal of the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq

Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee (D, CA-12) 69 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Status: H.R.256 passed the House on June 17, 2021, with a vote of 268-1651; no action in Senate before the end of the session. The Senate has passed S.316, sent to the House, and held at the Desk (3/30/2023). Reintroduced in House.

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.R.669 Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2023

Sponsor: Rep. Ted Lieu (D, CA-36) 21 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.R.3103 Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act

Sponsor: Rep. Betty McCollum (D, MN-04) 28 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

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 in 2021?

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.319 Recognizing the Duty of the Federal Government to Create a Green New Deal

Sponsor: Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D, NY-14) 95 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.Con.Res.37 Expressing the sense of Congress that there is a climate emergency which demands a massive-scale mobilization to halt, reverse, and address its consequences and causes

Sponsor: Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D, OR-03) 80 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.R.1483 End Oil and Gas Tax Subsidies Act of 2023

Sponsor: Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D, OR-03) 14 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

Most funding for development of a national high-speed rail network was cut from the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. Would you be willing to sponsor or cosponsor stand-alone legislation to achieve a national system of high-speed passenger rail lines?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

Election Integrity and Reform

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.14 John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2023

Sponsor: Rep. Terri Sewell (D, AL-07)

Status: As H.R.4, this bill passed the House 228-187 on 12/09/2019. It was re-introduced in the 117th House, and passed 219-212 on 8/24/2021. It was filibustered in the Senate, and has been reintroduced in the House as H.R.14 with 214 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023.

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.4889 Raise the Wage Act of 2023

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (D, VA-03) 165 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.R.698 Assault Weapons Ban of 2023

Sponsor: Rep. David Cicilline, succeeded by Rep. Lucy McBath (D, GA-07) 205 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.R.20 Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act of 2023

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (D, VA-03) 214 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.R.4119 Tax on Wall Street Speculation Act

Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee (D, CA-12) 17 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.R.4826 Domestic Workers Bill of Rights Act (117th Congress)

Sponsor: Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D, WA-07)

Status: Died in committee; 136 cosponsors. Would you support this legislation if it were reintroduced in the 119th Congress?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

Everyone deserves fair pay and dignity in the workplace -- no matter the sector. Work in the household is work, and it deserves the same protections afforded to everyone else.

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)

I believe that investing in community preparedness and resiliency is key to lessening the blow of natural disasters and that historically marginalized communities should be prioritized for federal investments. Our programs ought to be guided by data-driven decisions, lean into the leadership of experts in the field, and establish response protocols that are less likely to be bungled by politicking during moments of crisis. To improve federal responses from event to event, we must commit ourselves to transparency in operations, be accessible to 3rd-party reviews, and communicate the results of these reviews to program stakeholders and the public.

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.54 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing that the rights protected and extended by the Constitution are the rights of natural persons only
Sponsor: Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D, WA-07) 70 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.R.2891 Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2023
Sponsor: Rep. David Joyce (R, OH-14) 78 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

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 (117th Congress)
Sponsor: Rep. Karen Bass [retired]
Status: Passed the House on 3/3/2021 with a vote of 220-212; stalled in the Senate. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee has plans to reintroduce this bill in the 118th Congress. Do you support this legislation?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.R.994 Justice Is Not for Sale Act of 2021 (117th Congress)
Sponsor: Rep. Raul Grijalva (D, AZ-07)
Status: Not yet reintroduced in the 118th Congress. Do you support this legislation?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

Nobody should profit from the incarceration of our neighbors. The justice system will work more fairly when we remove profit-based incentives from detainment and sentencing.

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

Sponsor: Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D, TX-18)

Status: Language was incorporated into H.R.1280, George Floyd Justice in Policing Act that passed the House in 2021, but stalled in the Senate. Not yet reintroduced in the 118th Congress. Do you support this legislation?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.R.56 RAISE Act of 2023 (Reforming Alternatives to Incarceration and Sentencing to Establish a Better Path for Youth Act of 2023)

Sponsor: Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D, TX-18) 1 cosponsor as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

Sick people do not get better in jail. Whether our neighbors are struggling with addiction, suffering from traumas, or need extra support to succeed, prison is rarely the best option. This is especially true with the youth in our communities.

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.44 Urging the Establishment of a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation

Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee (D, CA-12) 117 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

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

Sponsor: Rep. Shelia Jackson Lee (D, TX-18) 101 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.Res.414 Recognizing that the United States has a moral and legal obligation to provide reparations for the enslavement of Africans and its lasting harm on the lives of millions of Black people in the United States

Sponsor: Rep. Cori Bush (D, MO-01) 12 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

Our nation must come to terms with our legacy of slavery and the social and financial damages done to Black people and communities. I support a resolution that acknowledges the harm done and offers a framework for reparations to affected persons.

H.J.Res.25 Removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment

Sponsor: Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D, MA-07) 207 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.R.17 Paycheck Fairness Act

Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D, CT-03) 212 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.R.15 Equality Act

Sponsor: Rep. Mark Takano (D, CA-39) 214 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

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.16 American Dream and Promise Act of 2023

Sponsor: Rep. Sylvia Garcia (D, TX-29) 82 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.R.1698 American Families United Act

Sponsor: Rep. Veronica Escobar, (D, TX-16) 32 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.R.2760 Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act of 2023

Sponsor: Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D, WA-07) 114 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

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.4117 College for All Act of 2023

Sponsor: Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D, WA-07) 52 cosponsors as of 10/3/2023

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.R.3027 Student Loan Borrowers' Bill of Rights Act of 2019 (116th Congress)

Sponsor: Rep. Frederica Wilson

Status: The bill did not get out of committee. Since the 116th Congress, a number of states have passed student loan borrowers' bills of rights. Would you sponsor, cosponsor, or support such legislation at the federal level?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

H.R.3448 Student Debt Cancellation Act of 2019 (116th Congress)

Sponsor: Rep. Ilhan Omar

Status: Died in committee. Would you sponsor, cosponsor, or support such legislation in the 119th Congress?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (50-word limit)

Hunger, Housing, Healthcare = Human Rights

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

Food, housing, and healthcare are human rights. So many of our neighbors are struggling to make ends meet amid the overlapping pressures of inflation, ballooning housing costs, and stagnant wages. While emergency measures like shelters, temporary housing, and food stamps do a little to help the most acutely affected, it's not enough. I strongly support measures to end corporate price-gouging, support child tax credit advance payments, will back a Medicare for All single-payer healthcare system, and support the rights of workers to unionize and win better wages.

21st-Century Economic Bill of Rights:

A 21st-Century Economic Bill of Rights will establish that all Americans are entitled to these rights:

- 1. A useful job that pays a living wage.**
- 2. A voice in the workplace through a union and collective bargaining.**
- 3. Comprehensive quality healthcare.**
- 4. Complete cost-free public education and access to broadband internet.**
- 5. Decent, safe, affordable housing.**
- 6. A clean environment and a healthy planet.**
- 7. A meaningful endowment of resources at birth, and a secure retirement.**
- 8. Sound banking and financial services.**
- 9. An equitable and economically fair justice system**
- 10. Recreation and participation in civic and democratic life.**

Do you support PDA's call for a 21st-Century Economic Bill of Rights?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (100-word limit)

21st-Century Rural New Deal

Here are the ten pillars of PDA's Rural New Deal platform:

- 1. Rebuild Farm, Forest, and Food Economies**
- 2. Reward Work and Ensure Livable Wages**
- 3. Dismantle Monopolies, Empower and Support Local Business**
- 4. Invest in Community and Regional Infrastructure**

5. Re-Build Small Town Centers
6. Cultivate Self-Reliance and Resilience
7. Invest in Rural Healthcare
8. Fully Fund Rural Schools
9. Make Rural and Small Town Housing Affordable
10. Re-Localize Rural and Small Town Banks

Do you support PDA's call for a 21st-Century Rural New Deal?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Comment? (100-word limit)

General Campaign Information

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

Your campaign plan with some *detail*

It's going to *take* all of us to build an America that *works* for all of us. Our district is historically conservative, but it is our view that we also have suffered from a lack of investment by the Democratic Party. That's why we are deeply committed to connecting with voters and community members all across Colorado's 4th Congressional District -- at the door, in town halls, and online.

We have found that we win support from voters of all stripes when we put in the work and talk with them. There are many Democratic voters in our community who feel that the district has been written off because it's "too red to win." We will connect with those voters and bring them into the fold. We've talked with Republican voters who feel that their party has left them out of the process because a Republican victory has seemed like a foregone conclusion in the past. We find that we have many shared values with these folks (small-town revitalization, good schools for our kids), and can win some support. Finally, forty-nine percent(!) of our district is registered independent, and on the whole, more progressive than the electorate in other parts of the country.

Though our district is massive, geographically, the bulk of the electorate lives in the suburbs. A November victory requires that we reach these folks at their doorstep whenever possible to motivate turnout, flip votes, and build a winning coalition of support. We plan to build a winning coalition by showing up and bringing people together in town halls and forums across the district, on a platform that centers the needs of the folks who live here.

Your capacity to raise the necessary capital to fund the campaign

We have raised over \$250,000 towards the primary election, with our average contribution being \$28. We have earned the support of thousands of individuals, and have made good on a commitment to daily fundraising call time. We feel confident about our ability to motivate supporters through the primary and general elections to invest their time, money, and enthusiasm in the campaign.

Evidence of grassroots support

Our campaign launched in 2023, before Rep. Ken Buck announced his plans for retirement. Since then, we have been traveling the district meeting with voters, hosting house parties, and connecting with our community. We have earned the endorsement of 20 local elected officials and our campaign has received contributions from over 6,000 people across the country.

Your campaign staff currently in place

We currently have a Campaign manager, Political Director, and Campaign Assistant on payroll in addition to fruitful partnerships with a pair of digital and fundraising firms.



Signature of Candidate

5/13/2024

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.