



## 2024 Candidate Questionnaire

### U.S. House of Representatives

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Bob Lorinser \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Address: P.O. Box 936, Marquette, MI, 49855 \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ bob@votedrbob.com \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date of Election: \_\_\_\_\_ August 6, Primary, November 5 General \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Kevin Numerick \_\_\_\_\_

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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  No  Comment? (50 word limit)

Yes, the progressive Democrats are fighting for the American people and especially Medicare for All

## 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 have no interest or intentions of becoming a lobbyist. I am running to represent the people of Michigan's 1<sup>st</sup> and Rural Americans.

## 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 117<sup>th</sup> and 118<sup>th</sup> sessions of Congress. Unless noted, bill numbers refer to the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. By checking YES as your answer, you pledge that, if elected, you will immediately cosponsor the reintroduced version of these bills in the 119<sup>th</sup> 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)

I am already running on Medicare for All and as a medical professional who has worked on all sides of this issue, I can come into congress as an expert on the topic.

**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)

Reproductive care is Healthcare.

**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)

As a former diplomat, I strongly believe in increasing funding for diplomacy instead of war.

**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)

As with the above, wars almost always end with diplomacy. We should focus more on that. I also worked in Iraq while serving the state department, and have a special perspective to this as a former Diplomatic Medical Liason.

**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)

Nuclear weapons are a lose-lose-lose for everyone.

**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)

In Short, Yes, but I want a bill with action, not a wireframe to vote on. I agree Climate Change is a top priority and a significant threat, and solutions are opportunities to be had. My district is unique in that it has many people supportive of this below the bridge, while many people scoff at this idea above the bridge. I believe in a just transition that leaves no one behind and support the ideas individually within the Green New Deal, but cannot openly advocate specifically for “The Green New Deal” in the language due to this complex district.

**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)

It is absolutely the role of Congress to immediately address Climate Change for our freedoms and our future.

**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)

Seems like a great way to create high-paying, long term jobs, while reducing our carbon footprint. As someone who has traveled the world as a diplomat, this is another area the United States has fallen behind on.

## **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 117<sup>th</sup> 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)

Every vote, every voice matters. We should do everything we can to ensure our Democracy is fair and secure.

## **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)

I am a strong union advocate and absolutely support the PRO Act.

**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 (117<sup>th</sup> 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 119<sup>th</sup> Congress?

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)*

To address the structural flaws in federal disaster relief and preparedness funding, it is crucial to prioritize equity and effectiveness.

First, establish a transparent, data-driven approach to disaster relief that ensures funds are allocated based on need, vulnerability, and impact rather than political influence. This involves creating a standardized assessment framework that includes climate risk and socio-economic factors.

Second, equity audits and an independent oversight body should be established to monitor and report on the effectiveness and fairness of disaster relief efforts, ensuring accountability and continuous improvement.

Third, funding for community-based disaster preparedness programs should be increased, particularly in vulnerable and underserved areas.

Fourth, disaster preparedness plans should integrate climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. Legislation should mandate that all federally funded projects consider future climate risks and prioritize sustainable infrastructure improvements.

## **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)

Also legalize Marijuana sales on the federal level.

## **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 (117<sup>th</sup> 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 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. Do you support this legislation?  
Yes  No  Comment? (50-word limit)

We should be relying on our police to protect our communities, not be concerned if they will abuse their positions of power, and destroying public trust. We should pass this legislation to protect citizens from abuse, and ensure we have a strong, trustworthy police force that does their job – defend and protect.

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

Yes  No  Comment? (50-word limit)  
We must ensure fair treatment and integrity in all that the federal government touches. Also appreciate



that the bill works to improve immigration centers.

**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 118<sup>th</sup> 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)

## 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)

I would like more details on what the commission entails and how it would work.

**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)

I fully support studying this to develop further understanding.

**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)

Paying reparations, though well-intentioned, may not effectively address the root causes of past harm and could create new challenges. The complexity of determining eligibility and managing distribution could lead to significant administrative burdens and inefficiencies. Socially, reparations might inadvertently deepen divisions, fostering resentment among those who do not receive payments and detracting from efforts to promote unity. Reparations could also shift focus away from comprehensive, sustainable solutions that address systemic inequalities. Investing in education, healthcare, and economic opportunities for disadvantaged communities can more effectively promote lasting social justice. These long-term strategies can help dismantle structural barriers and ensure that efforts to redress historical injustices are both inclusive and impactful. By focusing on broad-based initiatives, we can build a more equitable society for all, rather than risking new social tensions with reparations.

**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)

In theory, I support this bill because I do not believe families should be separated through the immigration process, but I also know that this issue is far more complex than a general black and white scenario. I would like further details on this type of legislation, but in short, yes I support keeping families together and believe it has devastating impacts on families and children.

**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)

Education is a priority of mine and I believe this bill would help many people in my rural district.

**H.R.3027** Student Loan Borrowers' Bill of Rights Act of 2019 (116<sup>th</sup> Congress)

**Sponsor:** Rep. Frederica Wilson

Status: The bill did not get out of committee. Since the 116<sup>th</sup> 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)

I believe in cancellation for public service, especially for those serving underserved communities as a way to provide for rural communities and underserved areas, I believe this would help accomplish a few goals – bring in new jobs and new residents because they would now have access to basic needs, like medical care, better education, and other critical infrastructure that people look for when choosing where to live.

**H.R.3448** Student Debt Cancellation Act of 2019 (116<sup>th</sup> Congress)

**Sponsor:** Rep. Ilhan Omar

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

Yes  No  Comment? (50-word limit)

Yes, the best way to cancel debt is to ensure education is a federal and state right. I support two years of paid education. Addressing existing student debt without cancellation involves expanding income-driven repayment plans, lowering interest rates, strengthening loan forgiveness, increasing funding, improving financial literacy, and expanding work-study programs.

## **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)

I believe that food, housing, and healthcare are fundamental human rights. Implementing a single-payer healthcare system ensures medical care for all. Increasing funding for public housing and providing subsidies guarantees everyone a safe home. Expanding SNAP benefits, supporting local food banks, and investing in sustainable agriculture ensures access to nutritious food. These are not just policy proposals but moral imperatives. Everyone must take personal and civic responsibility to achieve these goals according to their abilities. Together, we can create a just society where everyone's basic needs are met.

### **21<sup>st</sup>-Century Economic Bill of Rights:**

**A 21<sup>st</sup>-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 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Economic Bill of Rights?

Yes  No  Comment? (100-word limit)

We can do all of these things at once by having active leaders in Congress who are there to represent the people and not party lines, or special interests. We need problem solvers.

### **21<sup>st</sup>-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 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Rural New Deal?

Yes  No  Comment? (100-word limit)

My district is 100% rural, and the Rural New Deal is a fantastic example of what the Democratic Party needs to bring to districts like mine. This platform covers many areas I discussed during the campaign trail.

## General Campaign Information

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

· Your campaign plan with some *detail*

Knock 30,000 Rural doors in Primary, 150,000 in the general – Averaging about 12,000 to 14,000 doors knocked per month right now.

100,000 phone calls in the primary, 1 million in the general

Aggressive, Persuasive and informative digital ads for both the primary and general elections through Meta, Streaming Services and other digital methods

We are doing a mail program to our most rural voters that are harder to knock doors on: 20,000 in primary, 150,000 in General

Broadcast television across the district to cover the entire region for the general election

Texting through Scale to Win software to get out the vote and fundraise

Your capacity to raise the necessary capital to fund the campaign

Always an area where we can use additional help. We raise most of our funds through email fundraising with some call time, in-person events and texting.

Evidence of grassroots support -

We have more individual donations of less than \$200 from people in our district than anyone else in our primary or the incumbent. We also have more as a whole from out-of-state donors in the low dollar range, averaging approximately \$30 (it changes a little every month) per donor.

Endorsed by the Michigan Democratic Party Progressive Caucus

Your campaign staff currently in place

Campaign Manager – Kevin

Communications Director – Andrew

Field Director / Political Director– Sam

Field Organizer – Ramiro

Field Organizer – Juan

Field Organizer – Maxine

Field Organizer – Liam

Field Fellow - Max

Compliance – Sonia

*Bob Lorinser*

June 26, 2024

**Signature of Candidate**

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