



2018 Congressional Questionnaire

Please limit your response to each question to 150 words or less.

1. **Raising the Wage:** Do you support the “Fight for \$15” movement and a national minimum wage of at least \$15/hour?

The minimum wage absolutely needs to be raised; no one should ever find themselves working a back-breaking full-time job and yet still be unable to lift themselves up out of poverty or provide better lives for their families. I support the “Fight for \$15”, but it needs to be gradually increased over time and the impact on small businesses needs to be considered. We can’t stop there though—what we really need are \$45,000, \$60,000, and \$75,000 jobs. Our young people that leave their hometowns to go to college and earn degrees often graduate and then move out of the district because we don’t have an economy that can absorb them. I also believe we should consider the universal living wage, which would index the minimum wage to the local cost of housing throughout the United States.

2. **Climate Justice:** As a member of Congress, would you sign on to – and organize more support for – HR 3671, the Off Fossil Fuels Act?

Yes, I stand for protecting our planet and moving to more renewable energy is key. The scientific and economic evidence is clear: investment in green technologies, conservation, and a cleaner planet creates jobs, improves people’s health, and builds pathways to a better, more innovative future for everyone. Iowa’s wind energy revolution is just one example. At national level, addressing climate change needs to be a top priority before its impacts on our climate and agriculture are irreversible. And we need to ensure that every American has access to clean water by managing the impact of agriculture without casting blame and undercutting our independent farmers. Moving to renewable energy is just a start in the urgently necessary need to address climate change.

3. **Private Prisons:** Once elected, what steps would you take to dismantle the private prison industry that profits off communities of color?

I would push to end for-profit prisons and also to eliminate mandatory minimums which have been proven to disproportionately impact people of color. A much larger fix to the problem is to increase funding for education. One of the ways that companies that invest in for-profit

prisons decide where to build prisons is based on 3rd grade test scores. We absolutely need to eliminate for-profit prisons. It's immoral that institutions have incentives to keep people in prison rather than reform them.

4. **Fair Economy:** Do you support the Robin Hood Tax that would tax Wall Street financial transactions to raise billions of dollars in much-needed revenue and rein in the abusive practices on Wall Street?

Yes, I stand for reforming our tax code, but for doing so in a way that benefits the working class instead of the wealthy and corporations. Tax rates that favor Wall Street investments over regular income need to go, and the wealthy should be paying a fair share of taxes across the board to help fund basic services, as well as investment in public goods like infrastructure that enabled their success, and the success of others. We can simplify and potentially lower business taxes, but it should be done to ensure that benefits go to small businesses first, and that big companies pay their fair share, bringing jobs and profits home. The tax bill passed this year that provides only minimal and temporary cuts to the working class and permanent cuts to big corporations is a big step in the wrong direction.

5. **Money in Politics:** Will you work to overturn Citizens United, and instead push for publicly-financed elections and real-time disclosure of campaign contributions during elections?

Absolutely. One question I get asked frequently is, "What's your #1 issue?" There are many issues that are major priorities for me: health care, the environment, and income inequality are three of the biggest, but when you look at it, these three issues and most of the things I stand for all have one thing in common: big money in politics is obstructing their progress. Big pharma and insurance companies lobby against reasonable drug prices and universal health care. Big oil lobbies against cleaner, renewable sources of energy. And the one percent continues to push for tax cuts, like the one passed this year that ultimately end up putting more money in the pockets of the most wealthy and hurting everyday working Americans. For these reasons, ultimately, campaign finance reform should be everyone's #1 issue. We absolutely need to get the influence of big money out of politics.

6. **Immigration:** How would you push for comprehensive immigration reform that includes a reasonable pathway to citizenship, and would you work for passage of a clean DREAM Act?

I stand for common sense on immigration. We need to improve our immigration and work toward bringing our undocumented community members out of the shadows. I will advocate for securing a practical and reasonable pathway to residency and then to citizenship, so immigrants can join unions and organize, so they can report crimes, and so our businesses that do it right, by hiring lowans, and by hiring union, are not put at a competitive disadvantage. It is time for comprehensive immigration reform, which hasn't been passed since 1986. Yes, I would work for a passage of a clean DREAM Act. I've met several DREAMers and their stories

are heartbreaking. I can't even imagine being kicked out of the only country I've ever called home. As a nation, we must fulfill our promise to these young people. Economically, and more importantly morally, it's the right thing to do.

7. **Healthcare:** As a member of Congress, would you sign on to – and organize more support for – HR 676, the Medicare-for-All bill?

Yes. Healthcare is a human right and we need a system that works for all of us. We must guarantee healthcare as a right of citizenship by introducing a public option to stabilize the market. Then we push for Medicare-for-All and lowering the price for prescription drugs. We need a healthcare system that focuses on saving patients, not profits. I stand for providing everyone in Iowa with access to affordable, reasonable, effective healthcare as the foundation for a better future. Period. The number one issue in this district is health care, and that includes mental health too. Healthcare affects everybody. I want to ensure that Iowans never again need to worry about healthcare as a barrier to living free, productive, and successful lives.

8. **Food & Ag Justice:** Will you push for and support a farm bill that puts independent family farmers first and fully funds the SNAP program?

Yes, we need to fully fund SNAP, a vital program to so many Americans. Farmers are the backbone of Iowa. I'm a fifth-generation Iowan, but the first to grow up in the city. My goal personally is to someday pass down my family farm that is both environmentally and economically strong. I talk to farmers daily, and our Party has failed to engage with many of the rural folks here. Their mindset is not what the government can do FOR them, it's what the government does TO them. We need to let them know that Democrats and the government are here to work WITH them. The best way to support our farmers is to stop treating our land – our most valuable natural resource – like factories to be exploited by the biggest companies with the most money. We need to reinforce farm policies that support small and independent farmers.