

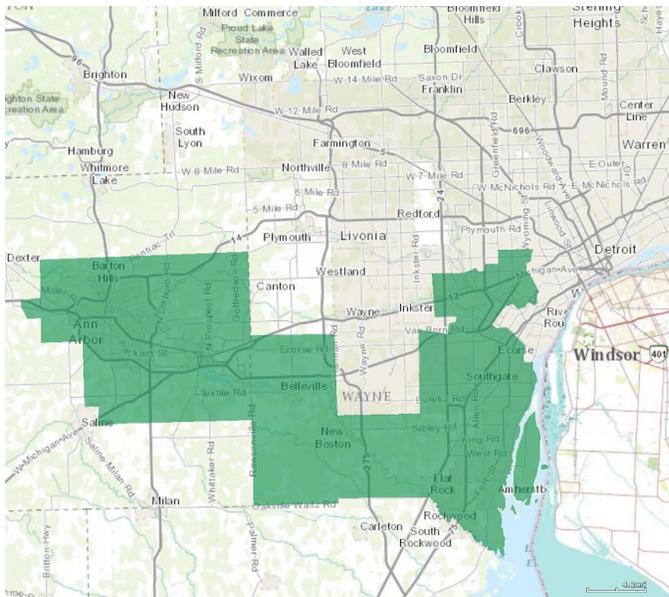
## 2020 Endorsement Questionnaire - U.S. House Representative

### Candidate Information

- Candidate's Name: Solomon Rajput



- You are a candidate for what office in what district?  
I am running for the US House seat in Michigan's 12th congressional district.



- Website Link: [SolomonRajput.com](http://SolomonRajput.com)

## Political Ideology

- Please introduce yourself by providing a short biography.

My name is Solomon Rajput. I am a Muslim American and the son of Pakistani immigrants. I am a medical student at the University of Michigan, though I am currently on leave to pursue this run for office. I am also the founder of an activist organization called Michigan Resistance, which stops harmful bills in the Michigan state legislature from passing by bombarding elected officials with phone calls via organized phone banks. I have now chosen to direct my efforts towards undertaking the great task of challenging an 85 year political dynasty as I seek the US House seat in Michigan's 12th district.

- Why are you running for office?

I'm running because the establishment has totally failed us. The only thing they know how to do is to think small. But it's that same small thinking that has gotten us into this mess in the first place. By now we all know that we can't keep putting bandaids on our broken systems and expecting things to change. We have so many serious issues like climate change, the cost of college, and healthcare coverage, and we need bold policies that are going to address these issues at a structural level.

We've begged and pleaded with our politicians to go out there and fight for these policies, but they've ignored us time and time again. We can only beg for so long before it's clear that the establishment will never act. If we want to get these policies passed, we've got to do it ourselves, because at this point we're done waiting.

Currently, Representative Dingell holds this seat. She doesn't support policies that progressives care about, like the green new deal, single payer healthcare, and free college. She has also taken almost 2 million dollars in corporate pac donations. This is a very progressive district- Bernie Sanders won this district in 2016- and we deserve someone who fights for progressive values. Also her family has held this seat for 85 years straight, and no family should hold power for that long in a democracy.

- Many progressives feel that the United States of America has a serious problem with wealth inequality and social/racial injustice. It is our ideology that a political revolution is needed in this country, one that changes our current law system from only benefiting the millionaires and billionaires and makes America an equal and just society for all. Other than the Progressive Caucus, organizations such as Justice Democrats and Democratic Socialists of America share this ideology. Do you?

**Yes** No Please explain

I could not agree more. It is clear to anyone who is not incredibly privileged that the status quo is not just inadequate - it is fundamentally broken. The political engine has only served to further and further crush working families beneath its heel and it has been fueled, to varying degrees, by both major political parties. In my view, the rhetoric of “revolution” accurately captures the need for a clean break from business as usual. We need radical institutional change in this country.

Of course, just saying this is not enough. I back up these ideals with the proper policy. Take the issue of wealth inequality, for instance. One of the ways you combat the Gilded Age levels of wealth inequality we see today is by working towards decommodifying survival. That is, essentials like healthcare and housing must be guaranteed to all as a right.

Moreover, we must grapple with the fact that gross levels of wealth inequality create a power imbalance that is completely antithetical to what democracy is all about. The only way we can fully restore and protect the democratic values we progressives hold so dear is by siphoning money and power away from ultra wealthy and investing it in the public good. This is why, if elected, I will fight like hell to pass a common-sense wealth tax.

One thing we are trying to make clear on the campaign trail is that you cannot discuss the issue of wealth inequality without including the dimension of race. Tragically, the average black household has roughly one-tenth of the wealth that the average white household does. Combating wealth inequality is, in fact, an issue of racial justice. Creating an economy that works for all includes ensuring that our minority communities, who have been put upon for so long, have an equal shot at life.

Another way I have woven the issue of racial justice into this campaign is through advocating for general policy against mass incarceration. It cannot be denied that what we call “the criminal justice” system has disproportionately targeted people of color. The War on Drugs is one example. Felon disenfranchisement is another. The criminalization of truancy is no different. All of these - and many more - are failed policies that must be done away with.

- When necessary, are you willing to publicly oppose your own party to stand up for progressive issues?

**Yes**    No    Please explain

Absolutely. The Democratic Party establishment has been hurting the needs of working people for too long. While there is something to be said for party unity, my moral compass is something that is unwavering. I will never hold my tongue when it comes to speaking up for what is right. I believe it is important to be flexible and willing to adapt, but standing up for progressive values is something I refuse to compromise on. If, at some point, that ends up putting me at odds with my own party, so be it.

I should also note that this question basically sums up my entire campaign. That is, in taking on an 85 year Democratic political dynasty by running to its left, I am, in effect, publicly opposing my own party to stand up for progressive issues. If the people of the 12th district believe in me enough to elect me, I vow to continue this in the halls of congress.

- How would you define the difference between equity and equality?

Equality has to do with people being able to take advantage of every opportunity. Equity is synonymous with fairness and impartiality.

While I could stop there, I would like to point out that the latter has become somewhat of a bastardized term. Indeed, pernicious voices in and around the corridors of power have attempted to categorize certain groups of people as undeserving in an attempt to rob them of their basic rights. For example, the Right has often made the case that those stuck in cyclical poverty brought it upon themselves - perhaps by way of laziness and/or immorality - as a reason to slash social services. This is the same rhetoric that mischaracterizes Affirmative Action as unfair, or giving people of color more opportunities as unnecessary.

The idea of equality, on the other hand, has been at the forefront of so many noble social movements in this country. The civil rights, feminist, and workers movement(s) are all united via this ideal. Unfortunately, despite the strides made by said movements, we still have a lot of work to do.

### Policy Questions on the Issues

- K-12 education equity
  - How will you support equitable public K-12 education?

As someone who attended public schools for my K-12 education, I understand the need for a robust public education system. For far too long - particularly in inner cities - public schools have been grossly underfunded. We must reverse this trend, and that is why I support greatly increasing funding for our public school system. I also support increasing the funding for students with disabilities so that all students are able to fully participate in our school system. I also want to see a system of universal pre-K implemented, as it is an essential step in ensuring that all families have access to early education opportunities for their children.

Moreover, I support Senator Bernie Sanders' Thurgood Marshall Plan for Public Education. His plan bans for-profit charter schools and provides a series of regulations, as well as provide equitable funding, for public education and guarantees public school teachers a starting annual salary of at least \$60,000.

- Will you pledge to support extra funding for poorer schools to bring the health and safety of the facilities up to basic standards?

Yes. As I mentioned earlier, the underfunding of public schools in poorer communities is a real problem and it is one with systemic roots. It largely stems from the fact that so much of the funding for public schools are procured via property taxes. This only serves to reinforce existing disparities. We need radical restructuring of the way in which we fund our public schools. A good first step, though, is to support initiatives to improve the health and safety standards of schools that have fallen behind.

- College Education and Student Debt
  - Do you support making college tuition free and canceling student loan debt?

**Yes**

Why or why not?

The bedrock of why I support making college tuition free goes back to human rights. It is my firm conviction that education is not a privilege, but a fundamental human right. Thus, it must be guaranteed to all, free of charge.

What makes me even more adamant about this policy is how easily it could be done. As far as annual cost, it is estimated that making college tuition free would cost \$47-\$75 billion. While this might sound like a lot, it is actually marginal when compared to our mismanaged federal budget.

The Trump administration has repeatedly called for increases to our already bloated military budget. I would much rather see hard-earned taxpayer dollars be invested in people, rather than fighter planes. The American people overwhelmingly agree with me. Polls consistently show strong support for making public colleges tuition-free.

I am also a strong supporter of canceling student loan debt. I refuse to sit idly by as rising university tuitions punish people for simply wanting to educate themselves. The current system is indefensible in every conceivable way.

We must therefore cancel every last penny of student debt. Currently, there is a large segment of the population - both young and old - who, because of their debt, are unable to meaningfully exercise their economic rights. This is leading to economic stagnation.

One of the many reasons I support student debt cancellation is because it is pro-growth, expansionary macroeconomic policy. Studies show that cancelling student debt would serve to revitalize the economy to the tune of \$1 trillion over a ten-year period. Such a boost might just save us from future economic crashes.

- What will you do to make sure that everyone has access to a higher education and help those facing crushing student debt?

For starters, I fully support free college for all. My proposal for this policy would be to endorse the College for All Act, which would provide \$41 billion per year to eliminate tuition and fees at higher education institutions. We will assist those facing the tremendous weight of student debt by cancelling all \$1.6 trillion of it. This would be paid for by increasing federal income tax rates on the 1%, rolling back the corporate tax breaks, and instituting a wealth tax. I am also pushing for an increase in funding for non-profit HBCUs to the tune of roughly \$1.3 billion.

### Climate Change and Environmental Policy

- The consequences of climate change rise with every fraction of a degree of warming. According to the IPCC, net emissions must drop to zero by 2050 to avoid exceeding two degrees C of warming. When do you think the United States can achieve net-zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions? How do you plan to bring us there?

The first question is a tough one. Ultimately, this issue is in our hands. The lack of urgency among policymakers is, to a large extent, what is holding us back.

As stated in the prompt, the IPCC has concluded that we must achieve “net zero” by 2050 in order to keep warming at around 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Such levels of warming would still wreak havoc on our planet’s biodiversity, cause sea levels to rise drastically, and so on. So, when it comes to achieving net zero, the sooner the better. The plan to bring us there is clear.

We need a Green New Deal. Since the nonbinding resolution rose to prominence, we have seen many different versions of a Green New Deal proposed. My commitment to the Green New Deal can be found at ([solomonrajput.com](http://solomonrajput.com).) We would not only achieve full decarbonization of the economy by 2050, but it would also create 20 million well-paying unionized jobs in what would be a burgeoning green energy sector. This is how I plan to bring us to climate sanity.

- Do you support the Green New Deal?

**Yes** If not, what alternatives do you have?

- Is water a human right?

**Yes** If yes, how would you ensure communities have access to clean water?

Water is absolutely a human right. We are 60% water, after all. I would ensure communities have access to clean water by supporting the WATER Act, introduced by Reps. Brenda Lawrence and Ro Khanna in the House, which would provide up to \$34 billion for a whole matter of clean water initiatives. I would also ensure that politicians who have put water accessibility and safety in jeopardy, such as Rick Snyder, are held accountable for their lack of oversight.

- Environmental crises disproportionately harm communities of color. Do you support actions to remediate this imbalance?

**Yes** No

- Who do you think should pay for externalized costs brought by environmental malpractice?

To me, it makes the most sense for those who engage in environmental malpractice to bear the cost. That is, we need to go after the oil and gas multinationals who have been stripping our environment while simultaneously paying next to nothing in taxes. We must hold the fossil fuel industry accountable. And this, by the way, does not stop at simply making sure they pay their fair share in taxes. While this is important and elected officials must make sure that they do so, we must go further. I would go as far as to call for the criminal prosecution of those fossil fuel executives who have knowingly laid waste to the environment purely for the selfish pursuit of bigger profit margins. A huge problem with this country's criminal justice system is the refusal to prosecute white collar crime.

- Everyone needs a fundamental understanding of environmental science to do well in the 21st Century. How would you ensure our schools are equipped to teach the next generation the skills they need to succeed?

Being a teacher is one of the most important jobs there is. Mentoring and educating the next generation is quite obviously a task of tremendous weight. Therefore, we want the best and brightest to educate our children.

In order to ensure this, we must make teaching an attractive profession. A solution to this is to increase teacher pay. That is why, as I mentioned earlier, I fully support Bernie Sanders' plan to guarantee public school teachers a starting annual salary of at least \$60,000. I will support any federal law to prohibit lesson plans that indicate climate change is not backed by science.

- Money in Politics - Campaign Finance

- What is your plan regarding campaign finance reform, especially regarding political donations from fossil fuel executives, Wall Street execs, and corporations?

On the issue of campaign finance reform, I am starting with myself. I refuse to take any corporate PAC money whatsoever, as I am not running to answer to corporate entities. I am beholden to my constituents, and my constituents alone.

This is a choice I am making. However, we cannot simply place our trust in any and all candidates running for office to do as I have done. That is why, if elected, I will support a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United decisions and fight to get corporate money out of politics once and for all. I am a strong believer in the public financing of elections, which helps to somewhat offset the incredible financial influence that the rich and powerful exert over our elections.

- What have you done to ensure political contributions are transparent and representative of the interests of the residents in your district and not the interest of for-profit entities?

I am refusing to take any corporate PAC money. For me, it is all about my constituents, not corporate entities.

- If elected, please describe campaign finance reform legislation you would support or create?

As I stated earlier, I would support - and, frankly, be more than willing to draft - a constitutional amendment that would overturn Citizens United and get corporate money out of politics once and for all. I agree with Cenk Uygur (who interviewed me back in November) and Wolf PAC that the ultimate solution to this problem requires us to go above Congress and the Supreme Court to achieve what the people want, and a constitutional amendment accomplishes just that.

I also support the public financing of elections. New York City has put into place a system whereby donations of \$175 or less are matched by the government six times over, while the same is not done for large corporate donations. Implementing this kind of system on a federal level seems to me like an excellent place to start.

- Health Care
  - Depending on private health insurance companies to provide financial coverage for medical bills is not working. We need a single-payer health care system which would reduce the administrative cost currently allocated to the multi-payer system we have now. Single-payer would reduce costs by 24%, saving \$829 billion in the first year by cutting administrative waste and allowing negotiation of prescription drugs ([Friedman, 2013](#)). While private health insurance executives and

pharmaceutical companies are profiting off of sick people, average Americans are going bankrupt and relying on go-fund-me campaigns to cover the costs. Will you co-sponsor H.R. 1384 which will create a single-payer healthcare system for all Americans?

**Yes** If not, what plan would you propose?

- What have you done to reform health insurance and/or make healthcare more accessible?

Much of the healthcare advocacy work I have done prior to this run for Congress has been through my activist organization, Michigan Resistance. When our Republican-dominated state legislature has - over and over again - tried to relax regulations on, and give handouts to, big insurance firms, we made countless calls to elected officials urging them not to support those bills. Many of these efforts were quite successful.

As a candidate for the US House, I am running on Medicare for All. To be a bit more specific, I am a proponent of universal healthcare that is free at the point of entry. No co-pays, no premiums, and no deductibles.

- Given the continued rising death toll from overdoses, would you support legislation developed with the medical community and public health experts to form safe use clinics?

**Yes** No

- Mass Incarceration
  - a. Do you believe that our country over incarcerates and if so what have you done and what will you do in the future to help reduce the number of citizens and undocumented immigrants held in detention facilities in our state and nation?

**Yes** Please explain

I definitely believe that this country has an over incarceration problem. Despite having a mere fraction of the population of countries like China and India, we incarcerate more people than any other country. Even if you adjust for population, we have by far the highest incarceration rate. To assert that we do not have an over incarceration problem is simply counterfactual.

One of the reasons we incarcerate so much is that, through our system of for-profit prisons, imprisonment is incentivized. That is precisely why we must abolish the said system. I am all in favor of ending for-profit incarceration.

Additionally, any coherent vision of criminal justice reform must address the fact that undocumented immigrants are literally being thrown into concentration camps. That is why my campaign is calling for the abolition of ICE and CBP. We must put an end to this unconscionable practice and putting immigrants in cages just for wanting a better life.

- b. If elected would you commit to introducing a bill similar to California Assembly Bill 32 at the federal level which bans the government from renewing or entering into contracts with for profit prison companies or immigration detention centers?

Yes

If not, please explain

- Living Wage
  - What is your idea of a living wage, and how do you plan to enact it?

In some sense, it is hard to state definitively what constitutes a living wage. So long as the cost of living continues to increase, so too does the dollar amount that qualifies as a living wage. That said, I am currently running on increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

The Raise the Wage Act was a big step in the right direction, and I was absolutely thrilled when it sailed through the House back in July of 2019. However, I am afraid that it does not go far enough as it does not cover all workers. For example, the Raise the Wage Act does not protect farmworkers and those working in the gig economy.

We need to raise the minimum wage dramatically, and that increase must apply to all workers. With a Republican Senate and president, the Raise the Wage Act has virtually no shot of being signed into law. We need to build on the strengths of the Raise the Wage Act and make the appropriate changes so that its benefits extend to all workers. The way we enact what would be a monumental change is by rallying Democrats around this issue - which is especially popular with the base - similar to what was done with the Raise the Wage Act. With a Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, along with a Democratic president, this can be done.

- Institutional Racism
  - How will you address white supremacy?

White supremacy manifests itself in so many ways. One way is through voter suppression, which disproportionately affects communities of color. On this front, I will fight to make sure

there are as few obstacles as possible preventing minority citizens from exercising this fundamental right.

I support restoring voting rights to felons, and making election day a national holiday. Moreover, if elected, I will push for a federal ban of bigoted so-called "voter ID" laws. I will also work towards restoring the Voting Rights Act, which has been systematically gutted since being signed into law back in 1965.

Another way white supremacy rears its ugly head is through housing discrimination and redlining. Despite being technically outlawed by the 1968 Fair Housing Act, the latter is still very much in effect.

Both redlining and housing discrimination disproportionately affect communities of color. Home ownership rates show this disparity. The rate of home ownership in the black community, for instance, is barely half that of the white community. If elected, I will do everything in my power to end redlining and housing discrimination.

- Communities of color have historically been disproportionately targeted in countless instances. One of those significant ways being redlining, only to be exploited decades later by gentrification. How will you address institutional racism, such as gentrification, if elected?

In order to prevent the displacement of communities of color, I support strict rent control standards both nationally and locally. I also support the right for government-funded council for tenants that are evicted unjustly. To re-establish communities in already gentrified neighborhoods, developers must delegate sections of affordable housing to the communities in the area and reinvest their profits into those communities.

- What is your opinion on
  - i. Reparations?

I support bill HR 40, which would allow for an investigation into the benefits of reparations for Black Americans. After 400 years of stolen labor and unrestrained brutality, Jim Crow, and the existing framework of institutional racism, it is clear that black Americans are owed something by a government that has worked against them for so long. Therefore, it is our duty to ensure that the federal government is given the best information and the correct tools to create a path forward for full racial equality in this country.

By passing HR 40, congress would be equipped with the tools to best dismantle institutional racism. People can debate whether reparations should take the form of a one time monetary

payment to descendants of slaves, or be enacted through new governmental programs dedicated towards improving the lives of Black Americans, or whether we should use a combination of both. As of now, I favor enacting governmental policies targeted towards helping Black Americans over giving one time monetary payments, as a one time payment would have transient benefits on one's life moving forward. However, I will reserve my final decision until HR 40 is passed and research is done on the issue. While no amount will ever be enough to make up for the astronomical injustices of slavery and racism, something is better than nothing and it is our duty to ensure that we provide the best reparations possible.

ii. Police Brutality?

Police brutality is a real problem. Officers abuse their power way too often, and these abuses disproportionately affect people of color. In order to curtail this brutality, we must hold the police accountable. This is why I support mandating that on-duty officers wear body cams. I also support the prioritization of de-escalation training and implicit bias training for police officers.

iii. Police Demilitarization?

Back during the summer of 2017, then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions lifted an Obama-era ban on the transfer of certain military equipment to local police departments. This was wrong. We cannot afford to risk turning our streets into war zones. Military-grade weaponry has no business being in the hands of police officers. Many other countries have significantly disarmed their police while still maintaining public safety. We must demilitarize the police.

- Strengthening Unions
  - What plans do you have for strengthening unions and what have you done to support unions?

Tragically, union membership has been on the downswing since the mid-1950s. Just prior to this period, a famous piece of legislation was passed that forcibly limited the organizing capacity of unions: the Taft-Hartley Act. My number one legislative goal in regards to labor is to get that bill repealed.

Over the years, I have done quite a bit to support unions. Most of this was through my activist organization, Michigan Resistance. We have done quite a bit of phone banking in an attempt to convince our elected officials to overturn Michigan's status as a right-to-work state. Specifically, we made many calls to defend the Prevailing Wage, which requires a healthy minimum wage for construction workers.

- Will you oppose HR 2561, the national "right to work" act?

Yes

Please explain

While packaged in what sounds like pro-worker language, a national “right to work” act would be yet another crushing blow to the dying institution of organized labor in this country. Back in late 2012, Michigan became a “right to work” state - and the consequences have been utterly disastrous. Unsurprisingly, union membership in our state subsequently experienced a drop.

We cannot afford to let this happen on a national level. The research on this is very clear. No country on Earth has both high union density and high inequality. Labor power is an absolutely essential element of any just economic system. This is why I wholeheartedly oppose HR 2561.

- Do you support workers co-ops?

**Yes** No Please explain

Any workplace that can run effectively without the traditional, arbitrary hierarchies of subordination and control seems to me like a very good thing. Workers taking greater control of their lives is something that should be both celebrated and encouraged. Co-ops are a great way to give workers that control. Democratic workplaces have also become well-known for their innovative capacity. Harnessing the power of collaboration is a very powerful thing. I would love to see an expansion of co-ops both in our state and nationwide.

- How will you legislate based on your support or opposition of (b) or (c)?

As for opposing national “right to work”, it starts with me voting “nay” on HR 2561 and/or any bill like it. That, however, is really only a temporary measure. To get rid of “right to work” once and for all, I will work to repeal section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act. It is that provision that has allowed this plague to spread to a whopping 28 states.

As for worker co-ops, I support the legislative package that was introduced back in May of 2019 of the WORK Act and the United States Employee Ownership Bank Act.

- LGBTQ rights

- Did you/will you support the Equality act HR5?

**Yes** No

- Do you believe that religious freedom ever supersedes the rights of an LGBTQ person?

Yes **No** Please explain

I do not believe that religious freedom ever supersedes the rights of an LGBTQ person. As a Muslim myself, I understand the importance of religious expression. Protecting the rights of citizens to worship - or not worship - whichever God(s) they choose is a necessary function of government.

However, a truly tolerant society cannot allow discrimination of any kind - regardless of who the perpetrator is. This is why we need strong anti-discrimination legislation in place. This is why I fully support the Equality Act.

Moreover, I am a proponent of equality. And, of course, that entails that the law applies equally to everyone. Therefore, one cannot just get out of having to abide by the law simply because they claim it conflicts with their religion.

- What anti-LGBTQ+ legislation have you supported in the past if any?

Yes **No** If you have, why? Would you support it today?

- Voting Rights

- Do you support ranked choice voting?

**Yes** No Why or why not? If so, do you have a plan to enact it?

I support ranked choice voting because I do not believe voters should feel dissuaded from voting for their favorite candidate out of concerns about electability. A Princeton study found that “preferences of the average American appear to have only a miniscule, near-zero, statistically non-significant impact upon public policy”. I believe this is - at least, in part - due to our system of first-past-the-post voting.

The state of Maine recently adopted a system of ranked choice voting that they will use for the 2020 presidential election. I would model a system off of what they now have in place and, of course, expand it so it applies at a national level. That is, so it applies to all 50 states.

- How would you prevent voter purging?

The rise in voter purging over the past decade is due in large part to a 2013 Supreme Court decision that gave nine states with a long history of racial discrimination free rein to do, essentially, whatever they want insofar as their election laws are concerned. This was accomplished by striking down part of the Voting Rights Act. Prior to the ruling, these sorts of changes required federal approval. Based on this information, the way to prevent voter purging is quite clear. We must fully restore the Voting Rights Act.

- Would you support automatic voter registration?

**Yes** No

- Would you support giving prisoners the right to vote?

**Yes** No

- Cannabis Policy

- Would you support the plan to federally legalize recreational marijuana?

**Yes** No If yes, what would you like to see in such a plan? If no, why not?

My vision for marijuana legalization is quite simple, actually. Of course, people should be able to make the choice to ingest it - whether via smoking or eating - without fearing a run-in with the law. I am also in favor of vacating and expunging all past marijuana convictions.

- Affordable Housing

- How do you plan to combat historical and future racism/inequity through housing policy?

I believe Senator Bernie Sanders has been a real trailblazer on this issue. I fully support every provision of his Housing For All plan, and believe that it could remedy much of the existing inequity we see in the housing sector. With six homes for every person without one in this country, the idea that someone should be forced to sleep without a roof over their head in the United States is morally indefensible. That is why, as a legislator, I plan on putting particular emphasis on the very doable goal of completely eliminating homelessness.

I also believe we need to pressure HUD to reverse their disastrous decision regarding the interpretation of the disparate impact standard. If elected, I would join in the chorus of Democratic voices in the House who have been vocal about the disparate impact standard being "the most important tool" for enforcing the Fair Housing Act. By raising the burden of proof on parties alleging discrimination, Trump's HUD is guaranteeing that more Americans are discriminated against without any sort of recourse.

- Do you support the affordable housing credit improvement act (H.R. 3077)?

**Yes** No Why or why not?

Yes, I support it. I must say, though, that I am always a bit skeptical when I see the word “affordable” thrown around. I say this because “affordable” means different things to different people. And, as someone who believes that housing is a human right, ideally, it would be provided to all in some capacity regardless of ability to pay.

However, the bill is a significant step up from where we are at right now. In other words, while not a final destination, it is a good start. Accordingly, I support it. I especially like that it would produce nearly 2 million “affordable” housing units over the next decade. I also like that it would increase the number of credits available to extremely low-income people by 50%, and how it seeks to meet the needs of our Native American community.

- What in your voting record shows your commitment to affordable housing?

Running as an outsider, I do not have a “voting record”, per se. However, I am fully committed to affordable housing. In fact, I have already made a vow to support any measure that makes housing more affordable if elected. Said vow can be found [here](#) under the “economic justice” section.

- What will you do to help low to no income families with housing?

I support the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act of 2019. I will also support any other legislation that positively reforms housing credit for low-income individuals. I support repealing the Faircloth Amendment as a means to stop all legislation that does not support the creation of sustainable public housing communities. I support improving the Fair Housing Act, requiring ‘just cause’ explanations when landlords attempt to evict tenants, advocating for a 3% cap on the increase of rent prices each year, and pouring more resources into Section 8 vouchers.

- Foreign Policy
  - a. If elected will you fight to curtail military spending and the reckless use of military force across the world?

**Yes** Please explain

It is no secret that our military budget is beyond bloated. It is far less about national defense, and much more about lining the pockets of plutocratic defense contractors. This parasitic relationship is why we, in some cases, pay as much as 15-20 times what other countries pay for the same equipment. Our military spending is wasteful, and the majority of that money would be better spent elsewhere.

Our actions abroad have gained us the reputation of a rogue state. Our military-industrial complex is responsible for untold levels of death and destruction. We have lost so many brave servicemembers to the scourge of endless wars - not to mention the millions of civilians who have been mercilessly slain over the years. This is a clear-cut issue. The deadly plague of militarism must end.

- b. In your opinion, are there places where the U.S. is currently utilizing military force or funding the use of military force that you believe to be inappropriate, and if elected, how would you use the power of your office to change this.

Yes     No    Please explain

We are currently engaged in active bombing campaigns of eight different countries. We should not be bombing anybody right now. We have active-duty troops across the Middle East and in West Africa. I want these brave men and women brought home as soon as possible.

One way I would use my power to do this would be to fight to repeal the AUMF. This abominable piece of legislation essentially gives the executive branch a blank check in engaging in acts of war. One way we can help to bring an end to endless wars is by making war harder to declare in the first place. By the same token, I would support war powers resolutions that restrict the president's power to launch attacks without congressional approval. On the issue of military spending, I would readily endorse and support just about any bill that calls for a reduction.

- c. Conversely, are there places that you believe the U.S. should be engaging militarily that we are not?

Yes     No    Please explain

I will keep this short and sweet. War should always be a last resort. The way problems should be dealt with on the international stage is through diplomacy and peaceful negotiation. It is about time we start making friends, rather than enemies.

- d. While it's important to make good trade agreements and ensure Americans have access to good jobs, protectionism and isolationism is on the rise globally. What will you do to protect Americans from being harmed by trade while ensuring the US maintains the benefits of trade and do not cut ourselves off from the rest of the world?

The way balance is achieved is by realizing that trade agreements are not the enemy. Bad trade deals are. When it comes to trade, my loyalty is, first and foremost, to the American worker.

Thus, I will not support any trade deal that I feel adversely affects workers and the working class broadly.

Frankly, as the world superpower, we have quite a bit of sway on this issue. I am confident that we can make great deals: ones that both enhance the quality of living of our workers and allows us to enjoy the benefits of global trade. We just need pro-labor advocates negotiating on behalf of the American people - and this is something we have not had in quite some time now.

- Immigration

- a. Do you support a moratorium on all deportations?

**Yes**    No    Why or why not?

I do support a moratorium on all deportations. Ideally, this would last at least until we can complete a thorough audit of all current and past immigration practices. For decades, the undocumented community had been promised what politicians often refer to as “comprehensive immigration reform”. In that time, millions were deported as ICE’s campaign of terror struck fear into the hearts of immigrants - both legal and illegal - from coast to coast, and no reform was implemented.

We have deported enough. We do not need to continue violently throwing people out of the country, separating families and hollowing out entire communities. What we need is a pathway to citizenship.

- b. Members of the Latinx community live in a constant state of fear and anxiety due to the Trump Administration’s demonization of Latinx/Chicano people. If elected, how will you fight for the Latinx community?

One way I will fight for the Latinx community is by advocating for real change in our immigration system. I want to abolish ICE and CBP, institute a moratorium on all deportations, and provide a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. Another way in which I will fight for the Latinx community is rhetorically. As a Muslim person of color who is the son of immigrants, I understand what it is like for your identity to be stigmatized. On the campaign trail, I am making clear that people of all backgrounds are welcome and encouraged to take part in the American project. If elected, I will continue to be an advocate of multiculturalism and an open society.

- c. How will you address immigration, ensuring a balance between documented and undocumented migrants who are already here and waiting for citizenship?

We need to be more welcoming to immigrants across the board. That is why I support a pathway to citizenship for the undocumented. I also think we could stand to expedite our legal process. We typically make Green Card holders wait a minimum of five years to apply for

naturalization. This long waiting period puts these people in a state of uncertainty that is simply unacceptable. It is no way to treat law-abiding, contributing members of society.

- Disability Equity
  - What is your plan to ensure persons with disabilities are provided with the equitable services they require?

Part of my plan is a commitment to actively work against the notion that employers should be able to pay disabled workers less than the minimum wage. Employers should never be allowed to pay below minimum wage for any reason, and never use a person's disability as an excuse to do so. As a country, we should be working towards creating job opportunities that pay a living wage for everyone.

Another part of my plan is supporting the Disability Integration Act. In my view, insurance providers should not legally be allowed to deny services to disabled individuals that need long-term support. People with disabilities should be able to live full and independent lives without facing continuous discrimination from institutions.

- Gun Safety
  - Do you take contributions from the NRA?  
  
No
  - With the increase of gun violence in America, what policies do you support and what policies would you propose in regards to firearm safety?

I support both the Assault Weapons Ban of 2019, and would propose an assault weapons buyback. I also support both universal background checks and the implementation of a federal waiting period. I would also support comprehensive legislation to close the Charleston loophole and the boyfriend loophole, which have led to countless domestic abusers being able to get their hands on firearms.

- Please explain your position on school safety as it relates to educational facilities, including the issues surrounding retrofitting or upgrading buildings for safety and possibility of arming school staff.

Retrofitting schools for safety purposes can, of course, take many different forms. If schools want to install bullet-proof windows or make sure every room has multiple escape points, that is fine by me. However, I am totally opposed to the idea of arming teachers. Not only does it make schools less safe, but it creates a poor learning environment for students.

- Wealth Inequality

- Would you support a wealth tax such as the following: a 2 percent tax on net worth from \$50 to \$250 million, 3 percent from \$250 to \$500 million, 4 percent from \$500 million to \$1 billion, 5 percent from \$1 to \$2.5 billion, 6 percent from \$2.5 to \$5 billion, 7 percent from \$5 to \$10 billion, and 8 percent on wealth over \$10 billion?

**Yes** If not, what plan would you support to reduce the wealth inequality gap?

- Infrastructure

- What plans do you have to fix our country's crumbling infrastructure?

One infrastructure project I would like to see pursued is a big expansion in the number of electric car charging stations nationwide. My plan provides about \$85.6 billion in funding for this. I would also like to see an investment in, and rejuvenation of, our existing public transportation systems to the tune of about \$300 billion. In addition, we must invest in regional high-speed rail systems. My plan provides about \$607 billion in funding for such an initiative.

- Do you support public transit implementation as a critical investment and multi-dimensional solution to the effects of climate change, road congestion and its wear and tear, and the income disparity preventing travel throughout Michigan communities?

**Yes** If no, please explain why not and your alternative.

- Would you support efforts to transition Michigan away from the solely automobile industry and into the mass transit industry, with the goal of becoming a global competitor in the needs of a more sustainable economy?

Yes

- Indigineous Rights

- Will you include Tribal Nations in the conversation when initiatives affect Indigenous communities, so they have the opportunity to have their voices heard? This requires input on issues not just governed by Treaty, but as real negotiation and discussion.

**Yes** Please explain

Time and time again, Tribal Nations have been given no say in decisions that directly affect them. The Dakota Access Pipeline was a key example of this. One thing I admired about President Obama was that, after meeting with tribal leaders, his administration denied a key permit for the construction of the pipeline. That was the right thing to do, and I promise that, if elected, Tribal Nations will always have a seat at the table when it comes to negotiating these issues.

- Do you have a working relationship with Native Nations or representative Native organizations within the district/region you serve?

**Yes** No Who are they & what issues have you worked together on?

As of the writing of this endorsement packet, I have met with the leader of the Anishinaabe Caucus and we are coordinating together to find time for me to speak with the caucus' membership. We are actively planning to create a thriving relationship with native nations and representatives of native organizations. It is my goal to run on a platform that best champions the issues brought forward by indigineous activists, and to involve them in the process as much as possible.

- Will you support and ensure the investigation of missing and/or murdered Indigenous men, women and children on and off the reservation lands as citizens of both their Tribal Nations and the State of Michigan?

**Yes** Please explain

There is an epidemic of missing and/or murdered Indigenous people - particularly women. Indigenous lives are being treated as though they matter less- we must confront this crisis. Time is of the essence. That is why, if elected, I will support any measure to authorize further investigation into these cases.

- Do you support replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day?

Yes

### Campaign Structure

- Contact with voters
  - a. Describe the different ways you are connecting with voters. Be as specific as possible.

We are phonebanking, canvassing, emailing, mass texting, and giving people flyers on and off university campuses. We are also emphasizing a large social media presence and building positive media relations with newspapers and digital news and political platforms.

- Finance
  - a. How are you funding your campaign? Please be as specific as possible and provide links to campaign finance records.

We are funding our campaign through grassroots donations, and grassroots donations only. We are currently receiving donations through mail, through our ActBlue account, and also through the ActBlue account of the Rose Caucus. We are also attending house parties for fundraisers and having dedicated call time. [Our campaign finance records can be found here.](#)

- Staff/Volunteers
  - a. How many individuals do you have as paid staff, and how many volunteers do you have?

We have one paid staff (campaign manager), and our number of volunteers is constantly growing.

- b. What is the nature of employment for your campaign staff? Union, hourly, salary, wages, benefits?

Everyone except the campaign manager is a volunteer, the majority of whom are college or high school students. People can receive course credit from their university for working on our campaign.