

46th District Democrats Federal Questionnaire

Candidate Information : 2016 COMMITTEE TO ELECT ARUN JHAVERI FOR CONGRESS

Candidate Name : ARUN JHAVERI, Ph.D.

Office sought : 7th Congressional District, State of Washington

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Have you read the Washington State Democrats 2014 Platform? Yes _____, No _____

(See the web link - <http://www.wa-democrats.org/about/documents> - and click "Platform".)

Why are you running for this office?

Because I am the most qualified Candidate with over 40 years of combined Public, Private, Academic, and Community Service experience, qualifications, and expertise. I will uniquely represent the 7th Congressional District as a Progressive, Pragmatic, and Performance-oriented candidate with specific expertise in Science, Engineering, Technology, Energy, Environment, Climate Change, Sustainability, Urban Governance Leadership, Education, International Affairs, and Social Justice, as reflected by my Campaign Theme "Because Science Belongs in Congress". I have worked and lived in the City of Burien within the 7th Congressional District since 1967 with my family and therefore, know very well the issues, governments, people, communities, socio/economic fabric, environment, and quality of life attributes.

Please briefly describe your qualifications for this office and your personal and professional background.

Among the many relevant qualifications of mine for the 7th Congressional District Candidate, include but not limited to, are – First Mayor of the newly incorporated City of Burien (1992-1998); First Appointed Science/Technology Advisor in the City of Seattle Mayor's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) from 1977-1979; 24 years (1991-2006) of Regional Senior Engineering/Technology Management Professional Work Experience with the Federal Government's U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U. S. Department of Energy, respectively; and Trustee of the Highline Community College from 1998-2005.

Do you consider yourself a Democrat? Have you ever been a member of another party? Have you been actively involved with the Democratic Party?

Yes, I have been a life-long Democrat since I became a Naturalized U. S. Citizen in 1976. I have been an active Precinct Committee Official (PCO) of the 34th Legislative District Democrats for over 15 years.

What's your plan to win?

My plan to be successful as a 7th Congressional District Candidate in 2016 is to politically, diplomatically, and convincingly present my unique Leadership Skills and Community/Public Service qualifications as well as experience to the electorate, constituents, registered voters, and residents/citizens who will exercise their personal rights by casting precious votes in the Primary and General elections in 2016. I believe strongly that the Grass-roots efforts at the local community levels is the best way to gain support and confidence, a truly democratic process where the electorate chose a candidate for Congress, based on exemplary and proven abilities, capabilities, and effective leadership qualities. Thus, my strategy to win is based on the short definition of a Leader like me, as a VIP (very Important Person) – “V” stands for Vision, “I” for Integrity, and “P” for Passion, which I have practiced as a Public Servant.

What do you see as the most important functions of the position you are running for? What qualities do you possess that make you the candidate best suited to this role?

In addition to be able to skillfully and with mutual respect/trust with my Congressional colleagues in the U. S. House of Representatives, Sponsor, Co-Sponsor, and/or Support important high-priority and critical Legislations, I also will be able to immensely contribute as a newly elected Congressman on the selected OVERSIGHT Committees of Congress (e.g. Science/Technology, Energy/Environment/Climate Change, Education, Medical/Health Research, Transportation), to make sure that our hundreds of billions of dollars investments every year in the Federal budget, are Efficient, Cost-Effective, and provide Sustainable Community Benefits to the people of the 7th Congressional District and the United States. I plan to accomplish these realistic and commonly shared objectives as a Congressman through Communication, Coordination, and Consensus-based approach in the decision-making process.

If elected what would your top three priorities be?

During the first year (2017) as a 7th District Congressman from the State of Washington, I will focus on three (3) critical Priorities of the 7th Congressional District and the United States as a whole, namely, 1)

Economic Prosperity through the creation of thousands of well-paid local community jobs for our young trained workforce in CLEAN ENERGY/ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES, such as Solar, Wind, Biomass, Recycling/Resource Conservation, Geothermal, Small Hydro, and Innovative Hybrid Renewable sources; 2) Immediate and aggressive Implementation of the United Nations Global Climate Change Agreement in Paris, here across the communities within the United States, resulting in significant reduction of Green House Gas Emissions as well as our Carbon Footprints by the anticipated Tipping Point of 2030; and 3) Urgent financial/technical/management funding support through a national legislation for the critical inter-related issues of Homelessness, Mental Health, Alcohol/Drug Abuse, Lack of Affordable Housing, Veterans, Criminal Justice System reforms, and Socio-Economic Employment Opportunities.

What are your ideas for combating climate change?

As a Professional Energy, Environment, and Climate Change Senior Manager/Adviser with the Federal government for the past 25 years, I have deliberately and successfully designed, developed, and implemented a large number of Public/Private/Academic/Community Sector Policies, Programs, and Projects to help reduce our dependence on Fossil Fuels, increase the use of Energy Efficient and Renewable Energy Technologies, and aggressively incorporate Carbon Reduction strategies to combat Global Climate Change. We now have the necessary Tools, Innovative Technologies, and Financial Mechanisms to help significantly reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Local Carbon Foot-Prints. These Success Stories, Case Studies, and Replicable Models can easily be adopted by we all, as the Community.

How will you support women and families' economic opportunities? Would you support legislation closing the wage gap, funding childcare options, and requiring paid family leave?

I have and will continually support "Equity and Equality" in all our Socio/Economic strata, including but not limited to local/state/Federal legislations on Human Rights, Civil Rights, Women's Rights, and Rights of every Minority and Racial/Ethnic Group in our Communities and the nation at large. Specifically, I am a strong supporter of EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK, MINIMUM WAGE, PAID FAMILY LEAVE, CHILDCARE SUPPORT, and SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE/MEDICAID SUPPORT NETWORKS for MARGINALIZED, POOR, SENIOR CITIZENS, and DISENFRANCHISED as well as MINORITY COMMUNITY GROUPS locally/nationally. This would require collection and communication of real demographic data, facts, and figures as well as prioritizing the urgent needs of the communities prior to sponsoring shared legislations with consensus.

How will you work to address racial equity?

Fundamental to addressing present day RACIAL EQUITY issue is to thoroughly understand and implement the relevant sections of the U. S. Constitution, 1964 Civil Rights Act, 1965 Voting Rights Act, 1968 Fair Housing Act, and 2011 Executive Order 13583, issued by President Obama. In addition to these Federal Legislative Laws/Guidelines/Rules, every State and Local government in the USA has complementary statutes and/or regulations to UPHOLD Racial Equity through elimination of Racial and other Discriminations, which need to be enforced without delay or excuses. We also need to abide by the “International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)” around the world including the USA. As a Congressman, I will work closely with such experienced and talented groups as the U. S. Civil Rights Division of the U. S. Department of Justice, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and the National League of Cities (NLC)’s Race, Equity, and Leadership (REAL) division, to help with New or Modified Legislations, Rules & Guidelines, Enforcements.

Are there issues that you’ve worked on or are excited to work on that are not receiving much media attention?

I am an Eternal Optimist with a record of Successful Performance-oriented Results on the above-listed Issues. Therefore, I always do my homework and work as part of a multi-disciplinary team in identifying Champions, Resources, and Strategies that are realistic, practical, and provide quantifiable outcomes for the sustainable community benefits – both tangible and intangible. I believe in “LEADING BY EXAMPLE”, CONDUCTING SMALL CASE STUDIES, and COMMUNICATING SUCCESS STORIES. Once these steps have been professionally completed, the MEDIA, PUNDITS, and COMMUNITY AT LARGE will notice the importance and significance of these Policies/Programs/Projects that can be replicated elsewhere.

What are the United States’ essential security interests and needed outcomes in the Middle East? How will you decide what should be pursued with force and which left to diplomacy?

Our IMMEDIATE Concern and Strategy internationally is to stop and destroy ISIS as a barbaric organization that threatens the very fabric of our democratic institutions in the USA and the world. I am fundamentally against any kind of wars, since Peace & Diplomacy have proven to be more effective in resolving foreign policy issues historically. ISIS is an exception to this strategy. Additionally, as a Congressman, I will support International Treaties and Partnerships to encourage the Middle Eastern countries to take the lead in dismantling the ISIS infrastructure and resources with the help of USA and our European and Asian allies. Once this immediate task has been accomplished, then the USA must continue its genuine efforts to bring Israel and the Palestinians to agree on a Two-State solution. Again,

this would require strong Diplomatic efforts as well as other security and financial commitments via United Nations support. Therefore, DIPLOMACY and PEACE EFFORTS must remain a Priority One.

Congress has huge responsibility on many, many issues. How will you prioritize between those most important to you? For example, how will you prioritize funding for mental health services, veteran affairs, education, healthcare, transportation and infrastructure, homelessness, etc.?

PRIORITIES of URGENT and CRITICAL ISSUES become transparent when the situations at the community levels become intolerant and out of control. Therefore, the best way to deal with these situations is to use the tested strategy of “PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE”. Therefore, I, as a Congressman, will study and analyze the issues at hand with my knowledgeable staff and other relevant resources, to come up with a Legislative Solution that complements existing laws, funding support, and regulations for the High Priority issues like Mental Health, Veterans, Education, Healthcare, Transportation, Affordable Housing, Infrastructure, Basic & Applied Scientific Research, Science/Technology/Innovations, Energy & Environment, Community/Economic/Sustainable Development; and Social/Criminal Justice Reforms.

Question	Support	Oppose	Qualify, if needed
Do you support or oppose adopting Pres. Obama’s proposal for raising the national minimum wage to \$10.50?	YES with incremental annual increases to \$ 15/hr		
Do you support or oppose access to safe and legal abortion?	Support fully		
Do you support or oppose requiring a two-thirds vote to raise revenue?	I support Simple Majority		
Do you support or oppose allowing coal or oil to be exported from Washington State’s ports?	Oppose strongly because we must use Clean/Green energy fuels		

Do you support or oppose making two years of community college or technical school tuition-free?	Yes, with offsets from reduced higher education O&M costs		
Do you support or oppose requiring paid vacation and sick/safe leave?	Support fully		
Do you support automatic voter registration?	YES		
Do you support or oppose the death penalty?	OPPOSE		
Do you support or oppose barring employers from asking criminal history questions in job applications?	OPPOSE		
Do you support or oppose legislation to fix "three strikes" law?	SUPPORT		