

PA PAC Questionnaire for Congress - 2018

Please return this completed form along with your resume or a brief biographical statement describing your education, work history, community service, and prior political experience as soon as possible, but by **March 9**, at the latest.

You may e-mail your responses to Tom Miller at tom-miller1@nc.rr.com or you may send a printed copy of your responses to Durham PA-PAC c/o Tom Miller, 1110 Virginia Avenue, Durham, NC 27705

Please note that following the March 9 deadline, the Durham People's Alliance PAC may publish your responses to this questionnaire and your resume.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire and your willingness to serve the people of Durham.

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When responding to this questionnaire, type your answers in italics, bold, or a different font to distinguish your answers from the questions. Please do not use colors. You may explain your answer to every question, but please be concise. If possible, limit your answer to each question to no more than 350 words. If you use words or ideas from another person, please attribute your source.

Why You Are Running

1. What are the three most important issues facing North Carolina and the nation? What are your top priorities in addressing those issues?

I am running for reelection to continue fighting for progressive policies that matter to North Carolina families and to help lead the resistance against President Trump's extreme agenda. While there are many challenges facing our state and our nation, these are my top three legislative priorities today:

First, we must ensure that every American worker who wants a job can find one and that the benefits of economic growth are broadly shared. This means investing in education and worker training, mitigating the disruptive consequences of globalization, making the tax code fairer for working families, and ensuring that all American workers earn a living wage. It also means new investments in affordable housing and transportation, which are essential foundations for economic opportunity—especially in areas like the Research Triangle that are experiencing rapid growth. As the senior Democratic member of the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee, I am leading the fight in Congress for affordable housing and transportation investments, including the public transit systems under development in the Triangle.

Second, we must move beyond "thoughts and prayers" and Republican obstructionism to enact common-sense measures that make our communities safer from gun violence. As a Vice Chair of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, I have helped lead the charge to enact bills to reinstate the assault weapons ban, lift the gun violence research ban, establish universal background checks, and allow local authorities to keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

Third, we must resolve the dire and unnecessary crisis facing “Dreamers,” as a first step toward comprehensive immigration reform. The futures of millions of vulnerable young people have been jeopardized by President Trump’s heartless decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program as well as his broader mass-deportation agenda. I have been a cosponsor of the DREAM Act since it was first introduced and was a strong supporter of President Obama’s decision to implement DACA in the face of congressional inaction. Congress must act immediately to bring the DREAM Act to the floor and give Dreamers a pathway to citizenship.

The Economy and Federal Spending

2. What do you see as the primary sources of our current economic problems? What measures should Congress use to address them? What are some of the possible negative consequences of your proposed solutions?

Thanks to the sound economic policies of the Obama Administration, our nation has largely recovered from the Great Recession, created millions of new jobs, and taken steps to address the reckless financial practices that precipitated the economic downturn. But too many Americans are being left behind by stagnating wages, rising inequality, economic dislocation, or institutional discrimination. Now, instead of upholding his promises to working families, President Trump and congressional Republicans are giving away trillions to corporations and the wealthy. We must give Americans a better deal: better jobs, better wages, and a better future.

I have fought to provide American workers the education and training they need to compete in the global economy and to help those displaced by globalization and automation. I created a federal program that provides grants to community colleges to train local workers and have championed worker protections and collective bargaining rights throughout my career. In the current Congress, I am a cosponsor of bills to raise the minimum wage for working families to \$15 an hour, to protect the pensions workers have earned, and to establish paid family and medical leave for all Americans. I am also a leading advocate for bold new investments in infrastructure and other job-creating programs.

Progress in these areas will not come easily or inexpensively, and we must always be looking for new efficiencies and cost savings. However, these are critically important investments in our nation’s future that we can’t afford not to make.

3. Are you in favor of reducing government spending in any specific areas? If so, please list your top three specific areas and explain your reasons. Are you in favor of increasing government spending in any specific areas? If so, please list your top three specific areas and explain your reasons.

Solving our nation’s long-term fiscal challenges will require a comprehensive and bipartisan agreement that puts everything on the table: new sources of revenue, reforms to preserve and strengthen “entitlements,” and reasonable restraints on “discretionary” spending. Instead, Republicans have targeted discretionary spending—the spending Congress appropriates annually, which includes priorities such as research, education, and affordable housing—for cuts year after year. This represents the worst of both worlds: it does very little to solve our budget problems, but it does grave damage to our nation’s strength and prosperity.

As our state’s only member of the Appropriations Committee, I have strongly opposed Republican cuts to key investments and have advocated for bipartisan budget agreements that would allow us to invest

once again in our nation's future. While many federal agencies and programs are in dire need of additional funding, I believe our top priority should be programs that both create economic opportunity today and improve our future competitiveness, including education, scientific research, affordable housing, and transportation infrastructure.

I believe certain areas of the federal budget could produce considerable cost savings that could be reinvested in other priorities. Our Department of Defense is still largely designed to confront Cold War threats, and we can build a leaner, smarter, and stronger military without cutting support for active duty troops or veterans. I also support cuts to outdated nuclear weapons programs at the Department of Energy. And I am currently fighting the efforts of President Trump and congressional Republicans to waste untold billions on a foolish "border wall" and other unnecessary immigration enforcement activities, including lavish spending on ICE, CBP, and unnecessary detention facilities.

4. What changes, if any, do you support with safety net programs (Social Security, Affordable Care Act, Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans programs, etc.)?

I support the expansion of Medicaid implemented under the Affordable Care Act, which would give hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians access to affordable health care and help ensure that Obamacare works as the law was intended to. I oppose work requirements for Medicaid and strongly oppose proposals to convert the program into block grants.

Social Security and Medicare face long-term demographic challenges, but privatizing these vital programs or slashing earned benefits are not acceptable answers. I believe we must find a way to strengthen these programs in the long run without cutting earned benefits or harming beneficiaries. One obvious first step would be to increase the wage base against which Social Security taxes are levied, which is currently limited to the first \$118,500 of income.

While the Affordable Care Act was a huge step forward toward universal health coverage and we must protect those whose coverage is threatened, we must also strive to ensure that every American family has the health care it needs at a price it can afford. I am a cosponsor of "Medicare for All" in the current Congress and hope the proposal will be considered when Democrats regain the majority.

5. Are you concerned about the affordability of a college education in the U.S.? If so, what role can the federal government play in addressing your concerns?

As the son of educators and a former college professor, I have always considered education to be one of my top priorities in Congress. One of my earliest legislative successes was to enact the law that makes student loan interest tax-deductible and allows penalty-free IRA withdrawals for education, and I was a strong supporter of Democratic efforts to expand Pell Grants, lower student loan interest rates, and expand loan forgiveness during the Obama Administration. As North Carolina's only member of the Appropriations Committee, I have also championed federal funding for Triangle-area universities, including our Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Today, access to a quality, affordable postsecondary education has never been more important, yet the cost of attending college has far outpaced inflation or wage growth. I am fighting against the Trump Administration's attempts to cut education funding or divert it from public schools to private vouchers and for-profit colleges, and I have introduced legislation in the current Congress to expand support for foreign language education. I am also working on legislation to implement President Obama's call to make the first two years of college tuition-free--whether at community colleges, HBCUs, or other institutions.

6. Do you support an increase to national minimum wage? What additional measures would you support, if any, to address income inequality in the U.S.?

Yes, I remain a strong supporter of the federal minimum wage and believe we must not only increase the wage, but ensure that its value keeps pace with rising costs. I am currently a cosponsor of the Raise the Wage Act, which would increase the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2024 and index it to inflation. I also believe the federal government can do more to support state and local efforts to establish living wages or incentivize employers to offer them.

I believe the minimum wage should be part of a comprehensive federal strategy to reduce poverty and expand economic opportunity for all Americans. Throughout my career, I have advocated for food security programs, tax credits for working families such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, substantial unemployment insurance, and other investments in working families and social safety net programs. I have been dismayed at the misguided attempts of Republicans in Congress to cut these programs in recent years.

7. What is your position concerning the future of the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau?

I have been a strong supporter of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which plays a critical role in ensuring Americans are protected from risky, predatory, or unethical behavior by financial institutions. This agency has returned billions of dollars to consumers, and it serves as an independent “cop on the beat.” My vote for the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act was one of the best votes I’ve taken in Congress, and I have opposed efforts by Republicans to strip the agency of its enforcement powers and funding. We must ensure a strong, independent CFPB remains in place to prevent another financial crisis from occurring.

The Congress

8. Public approval of Congress is at an historic low. In what ways has your party contributed to this problem? What measures or reforms, procedural or otherwise, do you believe would promote a more functional legislative branch?

Our political process has become corrupted by special interests and paralyzed by partisan dysfunction, and Congress is failing to meet the needs of the American people. There are many factors that have contributed to our current situation, including extreme partisan gerrymandering, the rise of “dark money” in politics, and our highly polarized media environment. Republicans have contributed disproportionately to these trends, but both parties bear a share of the blame and a share of the responsibility for solving them.

We must empower citizens to take back their democracy and reform our political processes to ensure that every voice and every vote counts equally. I have introduced comprehensive democracy reform legislation to serve as an important first step in the right direction. My bill, the “We the People Act” (H.R. 3848), would end partisan gerrymandering, reduce the influence of money in politics, expand voter registration, and require the President to disclose conflicts of interest, among other provisions. Ultimately, I believe we must overturn the Supreme Court’s destructive Citizens United decision, either by reconstituting the Court under a Democratic president or by adopting a constitutional amendment.

Foreign Policy, Immigration, and Refugees

9. What are the top priorities for U.S. foreign policy?

Our nation’s security is enhanced by the vitality of our institutions at home and the strength of our relationships abroad. Even in these turbulent times, the world still looks to the United States to be a

leader in global efforts to promote democracy and the rule of law, combat poverty and disease, and protect people displaced by conflict and climate change. By upending our alliances and eviscerating our diplomatic capabilities, President Trump has done grave damage to our nation's ability to address these and other challenges.

As the founding co-chair of the House Democracy Partnership, I have played a leading role in Congress's efforts to strengthen democracy and the rule of law abroad. I have also helped lead efforts to promote U.S. leadership in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, and invest in diplomacy and development.

As a member of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, I am fighting to protect our nation's diplomacy and development budgets against severe cuts and to hold the Trump Administration accountable for its reckless disregard for diplomatic norms. I have also introduced legislation reaffirming support for Israeli-Palestinian peace and led the effort to defend the Iran nuclear agreement against the President's attacks.

Finally, President Trump's failure to recognize or respond to Russian interference in the 2016 election represents a grave and disconcerting threat. The President must enforce the sanctions on Russia that were enacted with a nearly unanimous bipartisan majority, and Congress must use its oversight powers to hold the President accountable and protect against future foreign interference in our elections.

10. How would you reform U.S. immigration policy? Since agreement on immigration reform has proved difficult to obtain, what measures should be taken in the meantime that would improve the lives of undocumented immigrants? Is the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency performing as it should?

For years, our immigration policy has failed to meet the needs of our economy and forced millions of contributing members of American society to live in the shadows. Now, President Trump is pursuing a racist mass deportation agenda that is tearing apart families and forsaking American values of tolerance and compassion. We can and must do better.

As the former chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, I have been a forceful advocate for comprehensive immigration reform and for just and humane enforcement of immigration laws. I have been a cosponsor of the DREAM Act since it was first introduced, and I have also championed funding for refugee resettlement.

In the current Congress I have cosponsored bills to repeal the President's "Muslim Ban," signed multiple letters raising concerns about the Trump Administration's immigration enforcement actions, and taken various actions to oppose President Trump's repeal of the DACA program and to advocate for a path to citizenship for Dreamers--including inviting one as my guest to the State of the Union address. I have also forcefully opposed the President's outrageous and ineffective "border wall," and I have worked to hold ICE accountable for its enforcement activities against individuals in the Fourth District.

11. What if any effect should person's country of national origin have on their ability to enter and remain in the United States.

The United States is a nation of immigrants, and our society and economy are enriched by diversity of all types, including country of origin. Moreover, we have a moral obligation to open our doors to refugees fleeing conflict, persecution, or other crises, and we should allow them to remain in the country for as long as is needed to ensure their safety. I have visited with countless immigrants and refugees in the

Fourth District and worked to secure funding for the organizations—many of them faith-based—that help refugees settle into their new communities.

I have been deeply concerned by the rise of xenophobic and anti-immigrant sentiments on the right, which have found voice in the language and policies of President Trump. Conflating immigrants and refugees with terrorists doesn't make us safer; it merely perpetuates an environment of suspicion and anxiety and often risks lending credibility to terrorist propaganda and recruitment efforts around the world. I have been an outspoken critic of President Trump's "Muslim ban," his decision to end Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for certain countries, and his other anti-immigrant and anti-refugee policies. We must continue to resist these efforts and to confront racism and discrimination wherever it exists in our society.

Public Security and Criminal Justice

12. What measures, if any, do you support for reducing the number of incarcerated Americans?

The United States has the largest prison population in the world, with over 2 million people incarcerated, many for non-violent offenses. Additionally, the prison population reflects staggering racial disparities: African Americans represent roughly 14 percent of the nation's population but more than 40 percent of the prison population. This shameful fact reflects both a historical failure to create equal social and economic opportunities for all Americans and the continued persistence of institutional discrimination in our criminal justice system today.

I believe we must fundamentally rethink our nation's criminal justice and sentencing policies. We should pursue alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders; we should emphasize rehabilitation and education for those who are incarcerated; and we should do more to create economic opportunities and reduce recidivism for individuals once they are released from incarceration. It is clear that "mandatory minimums" and "three-strikes" policies have failed, and we must give judges greater discretion to take into account the circumstances of a case in their totality. We must also continue to better educate, train, and equip law enforcement officers to prevent discrimination—and to hold them accountable when it does occur.

Finally, I support marijuana decriminalization and believe decisions about its medicinal and recreational use should be left to the states. The "war on drugs" has failed, and we must place greater emphasis on treating substance dependency and reducing demand instead of criminalizing substance use.

I have cosponsored numerous bills to advance these and other criminal justice reforms, including the Smarter Sentencing Act and the End Racial Profiling Act. I have also secured funding for local initiatives such as juvenile justice interventions and veterans' treatment courts.

13. What action, if any, should the federal government take to decrease gun violence in the U.S.?

Would you support a federal ban on assault rifles?

With each passing tragedy, the need for concerted action to address the gun violence epidemic becomes ever more glaring, and Republicans' failure to do so becomes ever more shameful. "Thoughts and prayers" are no longer enough: we must summon the will enact common-sense, widely supported gun violence prevention measures that will make our schools and our communities safer.

As a Vice Chair of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, I have helped lead the charge to enact comprehensive and common-sense gun violence prevention measures, including bills to reinstate the assault weapons ban, lift the gun violence research ban, establish universal background checks, and allow local authorities to keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous individuals through gun violence restraining orders. I consider my “F” rating from the NRA to be a badge of honor.

Elections, Civil Rights, and the Supreme Court

14. What are your concerns, if any, with the state of campaign finance in U.S. elections? What measures should Congress take to address your concerns?

Our political process has become corrupted by special interests, with “dark money” from corporations and wealthy individuals overwhelming the voices of individual voters. We must empower citizens to take back their democracy and reform our political processes to ensure that every voice and every vote counts equally.

I have worked throughout my career to protect and expand voting rights, promote ethics in government, and empower citizens over corporations and wealthy donors. I authored the “Stand by Your Ad” requirement for election ads and have sponsored legislation to expand this requirement to online advertising. I am also a longtime sponsor of legislation to modernize the public financing system for presidential elections and to establish a similar system for congressional elections.

In the current Congress, my “We the People Act” is a comprehensive blueprint for democratic reform: it would end partisan gerrymandering, reduce the influence of Super PACs, expand voter registration, and require the President to disclose conflicts of interest, among other provisions. Ultimately, I believe we must also overturn the Supreme Court’s deeply damaging Citizens United decision—by reconstituting the Court under a future Democratic president, or by considering a constitutional amendment if we must.

15. What can be done to protect U.S. elections from interference?

The integrity of our election system is the backbone of American democracy, and interference in our elections by foreign powers should be cause for bipartisan alarm and concerted action. President Trump’s failure even to acknowledge Russian interference in the 2016 election—let alone to take action to prevent future meddling—is as dangerous as it is disconcerting, sending a signal of impunity to hostile foreign powers while raising suspicions about the circumstances of his own election. This is one reason we must allow the investigations into Russian interference in the election to continue unimpeded until the full truth has been uncovered.

House Democrats have put forward a comprehensive plan to confront the major threat of foreign meddling in our elections. Our plan calls for additional federal funding to help states replace voting machines, pre-election threat assessments and post-election security audits, and a national intelligence strategy to counter efforts to undermine our democratic institutions. In addition to supporting this plan, I have sponsored legislation to require greater disclosure of election advertising, and I have called on the President to fully enforce sanctions against Russia as a deterrent to future interference.

16. What action should Congress take with regard to the Voting Rights Act following the Supreme Court’s *Shelby v. Holder* decision?

*The misguided *Shelby v. Holder* decision has opened the floodgates for states—including North Carolina—to enact sweeping new restrictions on voting rights. The Court cited the very progress made*

under the protections afforded by the Voting Rights Act as an excuse to gut its pre-clearance requirements under Section 5 of the landmark law—a dubious legal argument if there ever was one!

Although the federal courts have provided a check on some of the worst consequences of Shelby v. Holder, I believe we must comprehensively update the Voting Rights Act to preserve its original intent. I have cosponsored the Voting Rights Advancement Act, H.R. 2978, which would establish a new coverage formula that would apply to states with repeated voting rights violations in the last 25 years. This would ensure discriminatory actions by state legislatures to restrict the franchise will be faced with strict review by the U.S. Department of Justice, as was the case before the court's decision. I have also sponsored or cosponsored numerous bills to expand voter registration and to protect Americans from discriminatory voting restrictions.

17. How would you characterize the Black Lives Matter movement? What policy solutions would you support, if any, to address concerns raised by the Black Lives Matter movement?

Since its inception, the Black Lives Matter movement has been a testament to the positive impact of grassroots organizing and collective action. BLM has helped move longstanding problems such as institutionalized discrimination and criminal justice reform back to the forefront of the national political conversation, forcing our nation's leaders to respond.

As someone who came of age during the Civil Rights Movement, it is sometimes tempting to look back and marvel at how far we have come as a nation toward righting ancient wrongs. But BLM and other grassroots movements remind us of the pervasive inequality that still exists today—in our criminal justice system, but also in our schools, our businesses, our neighborhoods, and our society at large.

As citizens and as elected officials, we must confront racism and discrimination wherever it exists and strive continuously to realize the lofty ideals upon which our nation was founded. To this end, I am in favor of comprehensive reforms to our criminal justice system; of voting rights protections for all Americans; of efforts to eliminate the “achievement gap” in our education system; and of programs that support minority-owned businesses and entrepreneurs. I have also cosponsored a resolution to censure President Trump for his failure to condemn the white supremacist violence in Charlottesville, Virginia.

18. What policies, if any, do you think are important for protecting the rights of the LGBTQ community?

I believe in an America that doesn't discriminate based on race, religion, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other factor. Although we have made great strides over the last decade toward expanding rights for LGBTQ individuals, much more work remains to confront discrimination where it exists and ensure equal rights and responsibilities for all.

In the current Congress, I am an original cosponsor of the Equality Act, which would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect LGBTQ individuals. I am also a longtime cosponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would protect LGBTQ individuals on the job. I have signed multiple letters opposing President Trump's ban on transgender individuals serving in the military, and I have also expressed concern about the newly established “Conscience and Religious Freedom” division within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which poses a threat to LGBTQ individuals seeking health care. For these and other efforts, I am proud to have a 100% rating from the Human Rights Campaign.

19. What are the two worst and two best decisions made by the U.S. Supreme Court since 2010?

Worst: Citizens United v. FEC; Components of NFIB v. Sebelius that allowed states to opt out of the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion

Best: Obergefell v. Hodges/Hollingsworth v. Perry; Components of NFIB v. Sebelius that upheld the majority of the ACA

Health and the Environment

20. Do you support universal healthcare for Americans?

Yes. Health care is a basic human right, yet millions of Americans continue to lack access to quality, affordable care. The Affordable Care Act was one of the best votes I've ever taken, and I have fought tooth-and-nail to defend it against Republican attempts to repeal it. As North Carolina's only appropriator, I have also been a champion of funding for medical research, community health centers, Planned Parenthood, and other health programs.

While the ACA was a huge step forward toward universal coverage, we must continue to expand access until every American family has the care it needs at a price it can afford. I have advocated for letting people age 55-65 buy into Medicare at cost, and I am a cosponsor of the Medicare for All Act (H.R. 676) in the current Congress. I hope these proposals will be considered when Democrats regain the majority; until then, we must protect Medicare, Medicaid, and the ACA from Republican attacks, and we must continue fighting to expand Medicaid in North Carolina and other states that have refused to do so.

21. Do you believe that Planned Parenthood should receive federal support?

Yes. Planned Parenthood provides critical health services to millions of women in the United States, many of them from vulnerable populations. Funding for Planned Parenthood should not be a political issue, and I have fought to protect it as North Carolina's only member of the Appropriations Committee.

22. Do you believe that global warming is real and caused by humans? Is it a problem for human life on earth? If so, what actions should Congress take to mitigate the effects of global warming?

The destabilizing impact of human activity on the environment is no longer in doubt: the only question is whether we will summon the courage and political will to address it. Throughout my career, I have championed clean air and water protections, conservation of natural habitat, investments in clean energy, and U.S. leadership in combating climate change. I was a strong supporter of President Obama's landmark Clean Power Plan and his leadership in negotiating the Paris Climate Accords, and I have been an outspoken critic of President Trump's decision to withdraw from the Accords. I am also gravely concerned by his appointment of a climate change denier (and anti-science fanatic) to lead the Environmental Protection Agency.

In the current Congress, I am leading the fight against President Trump's attempt to allow drilling and seismic testing off the North Carolina coast and have sponsored legislation to reinstate the Obama Administration's drilling safety regulations. I have also sponsored legislation to mitigate the environmental impact of agricultural facilities, which represent an often-overlooked source of greenhouse gas emissions. I am proud to have received a 100% rating from the League of Conservation Voters.

Concerning You

23. For whom did you vote in the 2012 and 2016 presidential general elections?

I voted for Barack Obama in the 2012 presidential election and Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election.

Thank you and please remember to provide us with your resume or biographical statement.

David Price represents North Carolina's Fourth District - a rapidly growing, research-and-education focused district that includes Orange County and parts of Durham and Wake Counties. He received his undergraduate degree at UNC-Chapel Hill and went on to Yale University to earn a Bachelor of Divinity and Ph.D. in Political Science. Before he began serving in Congress in 1987, Price was a professor of Political Science and Public Policy at Duke University. He is the author of four books on Congress and the American political system.

Price currently serves on the House Appropriations Committee and is the ranking member of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee. He is also a member of the Appropriations subcommittees covering homeland security, State Department, and foreign operations funding. He is a recognized leader in foreign policy, co-chairing the House Democracy Partnership, which he initiated to help strengthen parliaments in emerging democracies. In North Carolina, David's constituents know him as a strong supporter of education, accessible health care, affordable housing, clean air and water, and improved transportation alternatives.

David is a native of Erwin, Tennessee. He and his wife Lisa live in Chapel Hill and are parents of two adult children, Karen and Michael, and grandparents of Charlie (11) and Maggie (8). They also count two cats, Puffin and Buddy, as members of the Price family.