

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/RESPONSES for the DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY, only on Vote411.org - US SENATE candidates:

**6. INEQUALITY: What policies would you support to address increasing concern about economic, racial, and social inequality?**

**Freddie Donald Dickson, Jr.** This starts in the MIND of our children!! Our educational systems and the homes of our kids dictate the actions of our children who then become employees!! We need a tax break for businesses that hire minorities both black corporations Asian and Caucasian

**Donna F. Edwards** The fight to alleviate economic inequality starts by investing in our nation's urban core. That means targeted investments for neighborhoods in need by census tract in infrastructure, education, and wraparound services necessary to help working families get ahead. Federal disinvestment in our nation's urban core is tantamount to Congress ignoring the problems that beset cities like Baltimore.

**Ralph Jaffe** Topic is too complicated to answer in small amount of space. Please call me and I'll be glad to discuss it with you in detail.

**Theresa C. Scaldaferrri** I have mixed relatives within my extended family I am reminded that no one side is more innocent or essential than the other. I believe people are aware of this in their hearts. We need a strategy of sensitivity to start, since sensitivity with each other is all we have.

**Charles U. Smith** enforce the laws fairly in the present not like they did in the past.

**Violet Staley** Restrengthening the Voting Rights Act that the Supreme Court recently weakened is a priority. Once it addresses all concerns, a provision should be included that it doesn't have to be ratified again; it should be law. School staff should be reflective of the communities in which they serve, this should also apply to the Police departments and managers in the restaurants and stores.

**Blaine Taylor** Equal pay for equal work all across-the-board. As with Parade magazine each year, we can Federally mandate that ALL salaries of everyone be published as both the best and quickest way to end this disparity for good. I'll introduce the National Trade School Bill of 2017. To end student debt, we need first to know its source, by auditing all collegiate institutions re: spending. Start with TU.

**Ed Tinus** I would only address the concerns of policies that do not conflict with the power that the Constitution grants to the federal government. I would act as a overseer to the State to insure uniform assist to all the citizens needs. I would continually search for the will of the voters to protect them from any legislature that does not give uniform concession to the voters.

**Chris Van Hollen** Our country must meet its promise of equal opportunity and justice for all, but we're not there yet. Our system is rigged for the wealthy and privileged. I want to stop CEOs from writing off big bonuses if they don't give employees raises. We have to open the doors of opportunity to all - with early education, debt-free college, and job training. We must end unjust mass incarceration.

**Lih Young** Equal protection, non-discrimination; employment/business/activities; rights/homes/vehicles/resources/reputation/freedoms/affiliation, environment; document, evidence. Equal pay, sick paid leaves. Prosecute "official misconduct-government gang- MURDER-FRAUD- CRIME- INJUSTICE NETWORKS" operation; threat/coercion/victimization; physical/mental/financial/medication/litigations/levies/foreclosures

## 7. TAX REFORM: What changes, if any, would you support in federal tax policy?

**Freddie Donald Dickson, Jr.** I think we need to down size The IRS not increase stop loop holes and give tax credits to coaching staff of all sports for fuel/equipment/expenses OUR KIDS NEED THIS TIME AWAY FROM SOCIAL MEDIA GAMES TO GET TEAMWORK AND UNITY NOT TAUGHT IN SCHOOL

**Donna F. Edwards** We must make affordable childcare available for families. I authored H.R. 1492, the Child CARE Act, to expand the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and ensure more families benefit. We need to use the tax code to incentivize job creation tax credits such as the Research and Development tax credits linked to domestic manufacturing, prioritized towards small and medium businesses and innovators.

**Ralph Jaffe** In favor of a flat tax system. Against any tax increases, period. I will try to abolish the IRS.

**Theresa C. Scaldaferrri** IRS is the only organization that collects money to keep the government working. Each tax report is different. People do not want to invest time in preparing these forms. Turbo Tax and other applications make it easier to fill out these forms. More information is needed to answer the deductions available.

**Charles U. Smith** tax every one fairly .

**Violet Staley** Tax breaks should not be given to companies who send their jobs and put their money in banks outside of the U.S. The middle class should get more tax breaks, because they spend more money. The millionaires and billionaires should pay their fair share. An equitable policy will help the lower class move up, and the middle class have more cash to spend in the upper class.

**Blaine Taylor** Abolish the Federal Income Tax of 1912 in 2017, and replace it with National Sales Taxes on income spent to fund the Federal Government; convince States to do likewise to fund their governments. As it is now, personal income is taxed TWICE: first in full, and second when it is spent. That is inherently unfair by its very nature. It should be taxed as spent, not as earned en toto.

**Ed Tinus** Repel the free trade act. Eliminate the federal income tax, and collect a tariff on all imports and exports of goods. This is the Constitutions method for the federal government to support its needs

**Chris Van Hollen** Our tax code is rigged for those who make money off of money instead of working Americans. My plan would eliminate tax breaks that reward corporations that move jobs overseas instead of creating jobs here at home, and close loopholes that benefit hedge fund managers. I also support a Wall Street trading fee to crack down on risky trading.

**Lih Young** Prosecute "official misconduct-government gang- MURDER-FRAUD- CRIME- INJUSTICE NETWORKS" operation, unjust practices= ROBBER-ISM; false/misleading/abuse/deprivation; inc. civic non- profit, think tanks. Reduce tax burden/increase revenues. Promote productivity, accountability, public interest, social needs; solve socio- economic-political- election- media- budget- legislation- system problems.

## 8. OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

**Freddie Donald Dickson, Jr.** I am deeply Concerned with the homeless/drug inflicted/And mental illness!! I want to bring federally funded sports facilities to the city more!! Last but foremost the fight of cancer to treat us and our families more humanly then currently DONATE TO CANCER NOT MY OR ANY POLITICAL CAMPAIGN Nano Cellular - Technology warfare is more important than Nukes !! NANOTECHNOLOGY IS THE FINAL FRONTIER!!

**Donna F. Edwards** We must stand up to the NRA once and for all and pass commonsense gun legislation. That means passing real gun laws that will actually prevent gun violence in our country, including banning high capacity magazines, military style assault weapons, and getting guns out of the hands of domestic abusers. Washington politicians on both sides of the aisle need to end the empty talk, and take action.

**Ralph Jaffe** I'm a teacher, not a politician. Leading the Jaffe Movement whose mission is getting money out of politics and career politicians out of business. They're messing up our country. We need a new standard of behavior for politicians. They need to focus on doing what's right for the people rather than themselves. Check out my website, [fedupwithcrookedpolitics.com](http://fedupwithcrookedpolitics.com)

**Theresa C. Scaldaferrri** Other priorities are security, jobs, health, safety, women's issues, education and peace. Informing constituents of all current legislation being considered for passage, and initiating a system for constituents to be able to reply back either positively or negatively are the other priorities from this U.S. Senator's office.

**Charles U. Smith** ost important is veterans rights to me .

**Violet Staley** Our Veterans should be respected and appreciated for the sacrifices they have made for our country. They should receive the highest level of service for their needs, in a timely manner. The VA should hire more Veterans and Veterans should receive more educational credit towards a degree for the job skills they've acquired. Logistics, computer technology, and personnel mangement are a few.

**Blaine Taylor** We find ourselves like a trio of runaway trains, all running simultaneously down parallel tracks toward the same brick wall upon which all three will collide and be destroyed: Warfare State, Welfare State, and Police State. History shows that Republics fall in all three, resulting in dictatorships and world wars. That is the direction we are embarked upon now, and have been since 1945. Reversal!

**Ed Tinus** To open a line of communication to the voters that has never been seen before, modernize the voting process ,making voting safe and secure from your own home, protect the Right that all voters can vote in every election even primaries, protecting restoring social security, investing in transportation, creating jobs, strengthening small business, stop terrorism through educating women to have value

**Chris Van Hollen**1.Protect and expand Social Security and Medicare to guarantee retirement security 2.Invest in education in every neighborhood so every child gets a fair opportunity 3.Reform the criminal justice system to treat drug addiction as a health issue and improve ex-offender reentry to help people rejoin their communities 4.Reform the campaign finance system to get big and secret money out of politics

**Lih Young** Prosecute/eliminate "official misconduct-government gang- MURDER- FRAUD- CRIME- INJUSTICE NETWORKS"= "cruel tyranny"= "robbery machine"= "ROBBER-ISM"= "super classes of crimes, parasites, welfares, disservices"; public-private; 3 branches, local- global. Promote accountability, social needs. objective evaluations. Televisе candidate debate; maintain/disseminate accurate meaningful records.

## U.S. Representative District 3 -

Additional questions/responses, only on Vote411.org, for the Democratic Primary

### 6. INEQUALITY: What policies would you support to address increasing concern about economic, racial, and social inequality?

**John Rea** No Comment.

**John Sarbanes** Inequality is among the most pressing issues facing our nation today. We must lift up every struggling community & provide hope and opportunity to those Americans who feel left out and left behind. This includes policies that would strengthen voter protections, raise the minimum wage, expand the affordability and accessibility of health insurance and improve our K-12 and higher education systems.

### 7. TAX REFORM: What changes, if any, would you support in federal tax policy?

**John Rea** I support the Tax Code as is!

**John Sarbanes** The tax code should reflect our nation's values— encouraging private enterprise and innovation, strengthening communities and ensuring that the shared costs of government are distributed equitably. Changes to the current tax structure must be undertaken with the greatest caution so as not to cause unanticipated consequences for American taxpayers or compromise the Nation's overall fiscal outlook.

### 8. OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

**John Rea** I would like to see our kids have the educational tools to compete in tomorrow's U.S. Economy.

**John Sarbanes** One of my top priorities is to end the reign of big money in our political system that has corroded our institutions of democracy. That's why I introduced the Government By the People Act which would amplify the voices of everyday Americans by empowering grassroots supporters, providing a tax credit for campaign contributions and supporting candidates when they are up against Super PACs.

## U.S. Representative District 6 -

Additional questions/responses, only on Vote411.org, for the Democratic Primary

### 6. INEQUALITY: What policies would you support to address increasing concern about economic, racial, and social inequality?

**John K. Delaney**We must ensure that every kid, no matter their race, economic background or zip code has access to a world-class education, from pre-k to college that is affordable. I also believe that we must combat inequality by ensuring equal pay for equal work, ending discrimination against LGBT Americans and making sure that civil rights and voting rights progress is not undone.

**Tony Puca**All people have a right to be treated as equals, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, religious belief or any other reason. As a Congressman, I will work to enforce our anti-discrimination laws, and to ensure that those who violate them are held accountable, regardless of role or position in the community.

### 7. TAX REFORM: What changes, if any, would you support in federal tax policy?

**John K. Delaney**I believe that high-earners can and should pay a little bit more and support the Buffett Rule, which is designed to make sure that no CEO is paying lower taxes than their secretary. We also need to pass international tax reform to prevent inversions and bring back corporate profits that are trapped overseas. My legislation does this and uses these revenues to rebuild our infrastructure.

**Tony Puca**I support additional tax brackets for upper income earners with the highest rate being 52%; the elimination of offshore tax loopholes used by major corporations that allow them to avoid hundreds of billions of dollars in taxes; the taxation of all Wall Street trades and impose higher taxes on Hedge Fund transactions, and increased tax rates on corporate employee bonuses to rates as high as 75%.

### 8. OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

**John K. Delaney**In Congress I have been a strong advocate for supporting veterans and military families and have fought to increase federal support for the Fisher House Foundation every year I've been in office. Fisher House provides free lodging near hospitals for the families of veterans and service-members and I believe that no veteran should spend time in the hospital alone.

**Tony Puca**A free college education for all Reduce all current college loans to prime or lower A single payer universal health care system Protecting Social Security while increasing current benefits Guarantee returning veterans health insurance, a job, and a place to live Provide treatment instead of jail for many drug offenses Eliminate most mandatory sentencing; return sentencing discretion to judges

**U.S. Representative District 8 -** Additional questions/responses, only on [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org), for the Democratic Primary; no response Dan Bolling

**6. INEQUALITY: What policies would you support to address increasing concern about economic, racial, and social inequality?**

**David M. Anderson** The issues surrounding inequality are complex and will require multifaceted solutions. We need to address bias in policing, the courts, the prison system, education, employment and housing. I support the use of police body cameras. I also support increasing the minimum wage to \$15, a jobs program for millennials, and tax credits for small businesses that hire young people and minorities.

**Kumar P. Barve** I support an increase in the minimum wage, equal pay for equal work and paid sick days for workers. In education, we must address the achievement gap and make college affordable. As a Member of Congress, I will be a fighter on voting rights, environmental justice, and immigrants rights. My campaign has been endorsed by UNITE HERE International Union for my record on economic and social justice

**Ana Sol Gutierrez** • Education Equity - Eliminate disparate policies that create gaps in opportunities for Black & Latino students; dropout prevention; ELL services. • Criminal Justice Reforms - Change sentencing & incarceration laws to eliminate disparate impact on minority communities; improve prison conditions; early release programs; alternatives to incarceration • Affirmative Action - in univ admissions, employ

**William Jawando** One thing I've already done to help ease economic inequality was helping pass the Lily Ledbetter Act to help ensure women can earn equal pay for equal work. It is shameful that it took us this long to get there, but we need more to do more to ensure women are treated fairly in the workplace. Doing this will help lift all families up economically.

**Kathleen Matthews** I believe that income inequality is fueled by education equality. We must have accountability and resources for all students – no matter where they live. We must address pay inequity where women and minorities earn significantly less than white men for the same work. And we need to improve community policing and enact criminal justice reform to address the higher incarceration rates of minorities.

**Jamie Raskin** Sharp inequality damages people's health and undermines social cohesion. We need to increase the minimum wage; revitalize the right to organize and bargain collectively; reform criminal justice and restore former prisoners to the job market through laws like the Second Chance Act, which I introduced here; and end special interest legislation. Democracy requires equality!

**Joel Rubin** The level of inequality that exists in the US today is unsustainable. I'll raise the minimum wage and be a strong advocate for criminal justice reform, better policing, and equal pay for equal work for women. We must push back against Trump's dangerous vision of exclusion, racism and bigotry and also take on the big corporations and Wall Street in order to build an economy that works for everyone.

**David Trone** We need equal pay for equal work now. Education is also the key to economic progress. We need to make sure college is accessible and affordable. All children should get started off on the right track regardless of their socio-economic background. That's why I support a way to pay for pre-K programs. Early childhood education is one of the best investments we can make in the future.

## 7. TAX REFORM: What changes, if any, would you support in federal tax policy?

**David M. Anderson** In addition to the tax changes contained in my family policy, I support changes in the tax code that would make it more progressive. For example, I support elimination of the carried interest rule that allows hedge fund billionaires to get taxed at a lower rate than hard working middle class Americans. I also support increasing the marginal tax rates for those earning more than \$500,000 per year.

**Kumar P. Barve** I will continue my state legislative work where as Taxation Subcommittee Chair we enacted policies that shifted the tax burden from hard working families to the wealthiest individuals in our state. I also led the fight to close corporate tax loopholes and funnel the savings to reduce the costs of higher education in Maryland.

**Ana Sol Gutierrez** I support stronger federal actions necessary to address the growing income inequalities between the have and the have-nots. We must make the tax code more progressive to ensure a fair share of taxes by the rich and to close corporate tax loopholes. The wealthiest Americans and corporations have failed to pay their fair share in taxes to help pay for vital public services and national security.

**William Jawando** I think one thing we can do is provide a tax credit for multi-generational households and a care-giving tax-credit. Many families I know are taking care of a parent, or a grandparent and it makes it harder to make ends meet. I also would support closing corporate loopholes and giving tax credits to companies who relocate jobs from overseas back to the United States.

**Kathleen Matthews** Given the historic level of income inequality, it is clear that we need progressive tax reform. It is unacceptable that hedge fund managers pay a lower tax rate on their income than teachers and firefighters. I support raising the tax on capital gains, closing the carried interest loophole, and other progressive measures to support programs and policies to rebuild our middle class.

**Jamie Raskin** We need to restore progressivity to the federal income tax structure, eliminate special interest loopholes, and stop corporate tax inversion. Corporations should not be allowed to pay lower taxes on foreign income than they otherwise pay on domestic profits. Ending corporate tax evasion is critical to fighting the drastic income inequality that is undermining democracy in America today.

**Joel Rubin** Our tax policy favors CEOs and the very wealthy over ordinary Americans, and that has to change. I'll end tax loopholes that allow American corporations to ship jobs overseas and CEOs to pay less in taxes than their workers, strengthen Social Security by lifting the tax cap on those who can afford it, and make it easier for small businesses and taxpayers to file their taxes.

**David Trone** There's no doubt the top 1% needs to pay its fair share. There's no reason why someone like me shouldn't pay more taxes. We also need to close loopholes that allow corporations to hide money and ship jobs overseas.

## 8. OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

**David M. Anderson** Nearly 40% of Social Security beneficiaries rely on the program for between 90% and 100% of their retirement income. For these individuals, I want to increase their monthly payments by \$70 a month. To ensure program viability, I support extending the eligibility age by two years, from 62 to 64 for early retirement and from from 67 to 69 for the normal retirement age, over a ten year period.

**Kumar P. Barve** I will continue to stand up to the NRA and will work to bring together a broad coalition of activists, faith leaders and common sense gun owners to pass laws to reduce gun violence. We must enact comprehensive legislation that will include expanded background checks, ban military-style assault weapons and high capacity magazines, tighten regulation of gun dealers and close gun show loopholes.

**Ana Sol Gutierrez** My priorities reflect a commitment to social justice that my public record reflects: • Protect Women's Rights - A woman must be free to decide her reproductive choices for herself, without governmental or religious interference or pressure • Protect Social Security/Medicare/Affordable Care Act - Defend essential programs for Seniors, the disabled, & low-income families • Strengthen Gun Safe Law

**William Jawando** I became aware of the impact of public policy on our lives because at an early age I lost a friend to an act of gun violence. Reducing gun violence and criminal justice reform are two things that I'm very passionate about. We need universal background checks and to crack down on gun traffickers. These are commonsense polices that most Americans agree on and I'll stand up for this in Congress.

**Kathleen Matthews** Having covered too many gun fatalities as a TV news reporter, I know we need to get serious about gun safety. My 8-point plan includes a national registry for all gun and ammunition sales, universal and effective background checks for all gun and ammunition purchases accompanied by a 7-day waiting period, banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines, and implementing smart gun technology.

**Jamie Raskin** I am a passionate critic of our gun laws and the obscene violence engulfing us. Brian Frosh and I steered to passage one of the best gun safety laws in America. In Congress, I would use my knowledge of gun policy and the 2nd Amendment to ban assault weapons and impose universal background checks. I am a strong champion of small-donor campaign finance reform and a relentless foe of Citizens United.

**Joel Rubin** As a father of three young daughters, I will fight every day in Congress for women's health, protecting every woman's access to healthcare services and her right to choose, and for an economic agenda that provides equal pay for equal work and paid family leave. And as a former civil servant, I'll fight any Republican attempts to try to balance the budget on the backs of federal employees.

**David Trone** I want to double the National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget. It's a double win; it will create thousands of jobs in the district and give more funding to scientists who study diseases, including Alzheimer's, AIDS, and cancer. We need to make sure researchers continue to have access to the funds they need to keep pace with the diseases we need to treat and cure now.