

Progressive Democrats of Genesee Valley
2008 Endorsement Questionnaire
U. S. House of Representative

Return to:
Progressive Democrats of Genesee Valley
P.O. Box 10115
Rochester, NY 14610

Please fill out this form if you are interested in pursuing an endorsement by Progressive Democrats of Genesee Valley. We are part of Progressive Democrats of America a nation- wide grassroots organization of 100,000 members that works inside the Democratic Party and outside in movements for peace and justice.

Please return this questionnaire by the deadline: May 12, 2007.

Altering or deleting the questions on this form may lead to disqualification.

Please note that your answers on this questionnaire may be made public. If you need additional space to answer questions, please attach additional pages to the questionnaire. If you have any questions regarding this questionnaire, please contact Robin Wilt at (585) 309-2638.

Candidate and Campaign Information:

Candidate Name: Eric Massa

Address: 170 Delevan Ave

City, State, Zip: Corning, NY 14830

E-mail Address: emassa@massaforcongress.com

Office for which you are running: Congress, NY-29

Date of Election: 11/4/08

Registered Political Party: Democratic

Campaign Manager: Dave Marion Phone: 585-944-7746 Fax: 607-936-1490

Campaign Consultant: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Campaign Address: 139 Turk Hill Road, Victor, NY 14564 (Northern HQ)

79 W. Market St, Corning, NY 14830 (Southern HQ)

List endorsements from organizations and/or individuals:

AFL-CIO, Dozens of Unions, Major General John Batiste, the Democratic Party (Red to Blue Candidate)

How would you describe yourself politically (i.e. progressive; moderate democrat, etc.)?

I am a fiscally conservative and socially progressive Democrat.

List elective or political party offices you have held, including committee appointments:

None

What is your primary occupation?

I am a retired Navy Commander

Why are you running for Congress? (100 word limit)

I am running for Congress to bring a higher standard of leadership from Western New York to Washington. It's clear that too many Washington insiders have been bought off by the highest bidder and they do not represent working Americans. We must ensure that George Bush's legacy ends with his term, and that means replacing his failed rubber stamps this November. We can create a better world, but it begins with standing up and demanding a better future for America and the world.

Issues Specific to Office:

What experiences have prepared you to run for Congress?

As a career Navy Officer, I have the experience to never send our troops into harms way unless it is the absolutely necessary. As a cancer survivor, I learned about American health care from the sharp end of a chemotherapy needle, not a textbook or political briefing, and I will reject the Congressional health care plan until every American has access to the same quality care that Congress has already given themselves. I believe that my life's experiences put me in a unique position to help change America

If you receive the endorsement of Progressive Democrats of America, how do you intend to use it?

I'll put it on my website and announce it as I do with all of our endorsements.

Please list the top three issues on which you will take leadership if elected:

Ending the war in Iraq, creating a Single-Payer health care system, and replacing our failed Free Trade deals with Fair Trade.

Do you agree with Congress' decision to reauthorize the Patriot Act?
Why or why not?

No, I believe the Patriot Act grossly oversteps it's implied purpose, acting as a tool to limit civil liberties and granting Government agencies unconstitutional authority.

If elected, which committee(s) would you prefer to serve on and why?

Agriculture, because it's the most important economic activity in district, Armed Services, because it is where I can have the biggest say to get us out of Iraq, and the Veterans Administration, so I can help fund services for our returning troops.

Federal Issues:

1) Iraq:

PDA supports an immediate start to a rapid and complete withdrawal from Iraq of all troops and military contractors, and has championed legislation that would withhold funding for any other military purpose there. In addition, PDA believes that the U.S. must revise its strategy for the region by removing these forces from the Mideast entirely, rather than just "redeploying" them within the region. PDA advocates a shift in U.S. foreign policy from reckless unilateralism toward cooperation and diplomacy--so that people of other countries know us more by our helping hand than our slugging arm. Furthermore, PDA supports the redirecting of resources allocated for military spending to human needs.

Will you pledge to support such immediate and total withdrawal from Iraq of the military forces, including supporting legislation towards this goal?

Yes - The withdrawal will take between 6 and 18 months as it's simply not physically possible to be instantly gone, but I will support legislation that gets us out as soon as possible.

In addition, will you forswear any preemptive military attacks upon any nation?

Yes

Will you commit to fully support investigations into the White House's false claims justifying the invasion of Iraq, and would you support impeachment of Bush, Cheney and other administration officials for these and other high crimes?

This will be up to the Justice Department and I will not be in office concurrently with the Bush/Cheney administration.

Have you participated in or spoken at any events, demonstrations, meetings or teach-ins opposing the Iraq war and occupation?

Yes

Have you organized any such events?

Our organizational efforts have been focused on our campaign, though we often share venues with groups opposing the Iraq war.

2) Health Care:

There are over 46 million uninsured people living in America, the majority of which are working Americans. Every year, nearly 18,000 people die unnecessarily as a direct result of their lack of health insurance. Millions, with health insurance, maintain inadequate, overly expensive coverage and face the peril of denials of claims or termination of benefits if a family member becomes seriously ill--one of the leading causes of bankruptcy in the U.S. While spending twice as much on health care as any other industrialized country, our system performs poorly, spending more money for less coverage, maximizing profits by finding ways to deny care. The private insurance bureaucracy expends one-third of health care money on waste, administrative paperwork, advertising and corporate profits. The current Medicare program for senior citizens spends under 4% of its budget for its overhead costs. Meanwhile, poor health, escalating health insurance premiums and spiraling health care costs impair our economy and job creation in the U.S.

PDA has endorsed HR 676, the National Health Insurance/"Expanded and Improved Medicare-for-All" Act. To guarantee comprehensive health care for all, PDA supports the replacement of the current profit-driven system, publicly financed, privately provided health care program. This "Medicare for All" national plan would save more than \$350 billion per year, enough new money to provide guaranteed comprehensive health care for all. This system would insure portable and uniform benefits regardless of income. With no deductibles or co-pays, this plan would encourage preventive care and restore a doctor and patient controlled health care system affording choice of providers and fair, publicly negotiated payment for both treatment and medication.

What is your approach to the health care crisis?

I have been very publicly on record supporting Single-Payer health care.

What is your view of Guaranteed Health Care through an Expanded and Improved Medicare-for-All system?

I'm in favor of it.

If elected, would you support a publicly financed, privately provided national health care program, which insures access to comprehensive health care for all in the U.S.?

Yes

Would you support a not-for-profit, doctor-patient controlled system which would eliminate the private health insurance industry (with protection for eliminated workers) as the intermediary determining access and the level of care?

I'm in favor of all necessary steps to provide universal health care for all Americans.

Would you support the government's ability to negotiate fair prices for treatment as well as drugs, as it does for those covered by the Veteran's Administration's plan?

Yes

3) Economic Justice:

The current generation has seen unprecedented levels of economic disparity, both among individuals (the richest 1% of Americans own almost 35% of all wealth; the bottom half, only 2.5%) and in the ratio of CEO pay to employee wages. Thirty-seven million people (equal to the population of California) are living in poverty in the U.S. These immoral levels of poverty, which disproportionate impact communities of color and women, can be significantly reduced through concerned legislative effort - including a living wage for all workers, expanded earned income tax credits, childcare assistance and housing vouchers. Specifically, the federal government must fulfill its promise of resources to Hurricane Katrina survivors so they can return to rebuild their communities in the Gulf Coast.

Tax burdens on the middle class can be eased if the wealthy pay their share. In addition to working to roll back Bush's tax breaks for the wealthy, PDA endorses the Equity in Income Act, limiting the amount of CEO compensation afforded federal corporate tax deductions. In emphatically supporting the workers' right to organize, we also endorse the Employee Free Choice Act, which establishes unions in any workplace where a majority of workers sign union cards to join. In the global arena, PDA supports anti-sweatshop legislation and fair trade agreements which protect workers' rights as well as the environment, while opposing wage-reducing "free trade" agreements that protect only corporate rights to exploit unprotected labor. PDA also advocates for humane and comprehensive immigration reform, which insures a fair, attainable path to citizenship and the rights of undocumented workers in the workplace, affirming the dignity and integrity of immigrant families.

What is your position on "Fair Trade" versus "Free Trade" agreements?

I support Fair Trade

Will you have pledge to reverse the tax cuts on the wealthiest Americans?

I would vote to end the Bush tax cuts

Do you support the right of workers to organize, in any situation?

Yes

What is your relationship to labor nationally and in your district?

I have a great relationship with Labor locally and nationally.

Do you have union endorsements and supporters in your district?

I have been endorsed by AFL-CIO early and dozens of other Unions already. I am a labor candidate and have stood with them consistently.

What is your approach to bringing communities "out of poverty"?

We need to create more good jobs with benefits

Would you support the legislation of the "out of poverty" caucus?

I would have to research this further before committing.

What efforts would you support to provide meaningful resources to Katrina survivors?

We need to offer tax incentives to rebuild New Orleans and the Gulf Coast area and provide fair payments to compensate those that have lost their homes. It's time to fund the rebuilding of America, not Iraq.

Do you support comprehensive and humane immigration reform as outlined above?

Yes

Have you reached out to immigrant communities and advocates in your district?

Yes

4) Clean, Fair, Transparent Elections:

The U.S. election system is in crisis. Not only are the usual corrupting factors of money and corporate lobbying as rampant as perhaps at any time in U.S. history, but the new millennium – along with the fallout from the contested 2000 election - have ushered in a qualitative change in the conduct of our elections: Centuries of tradition in which citizens, government officials and Party representatives oversaw physical evidence of voter intent have fallen to the rise of the machines. This sea change, from paper to ephemeral electrons, brings much more than the implicit demand to trust the invisible: the

move to computers means that 85% of America has ceded control of its elections to third-party vendors, whose legal claims regarding proprietary software bring corporate control of the entire voting process. PDA thus supports federal legislation that would ban the use of touch-screen (“DRE”) voting machines.

Will you pledge, if elected, to support only voting methods in which ballots are cast on paper?

Yes

Do you pledge to support “Clean Money” public financing of public elections?

Yes

Would you accept public financing for your current campaign?

Yes if my opponent could be held to the same standard

Do you support the restoration of voting rights to past felony offenders?

Yes

Do you support same-day voting registration?

Yes

Would you oppose the onerous requirement of official photo identification before affording citizens access to the polls?

Yes

5) Environment/ Global Warming:

No issue reveals more clearly the flaws of the U.S. political-economic system than global warming - the dominance of greed and corporate power over the public good, and the near-sighted focus on the short-term over the welfare of future generations. It is known that the U.S. has the natural resources to power the entire country solely from clean, “alternative” sources of power- whether with solar cells that would require a miniscule fraction of the California desert, or from wind turbines on the Great Plains and in the Great Lakes. It has also often been said that we need a new Apollo Program for clean energy (if not Manhattan Project), in which science, industry and government would cooperate on a crash course to produce novel results in a limited period. Immediate action would include raising the auto fuel economy and impose mandatory caps on carbon pollution while investing in public transportation, energy conservation technologies and alternative energy development--in the process, creating new jobs which pay well. .

PDA calls on the Democratic majority in Congress to lead boldly in reducing our country's oil dependence and use of fossil fuels.

Will you pledge to take an uncompromising leadership role on legislation to enact the enormous changes and sacrifices that will be required to stem Global Warming?

Yes

Will you pledge to enact an Apollo Program for clean energy?

Yes

What kind of personal vehicle do you currently drive? Is it rated ZEV, or PZEV?

This would require some research, but the next car I purchase will be a hybrid or better

Local questions:

Do you consider the promotion and use of corn-based ethanol sound energy policy?

I believe we should start growing and using switchgrass-based ethanol. It is far more efficient than corn and can be grown right here in Western New York

What are your plans with regard to Great Lakes conservation?

The protection and conservation of resources—the lakes included—are part and parcel to my position on the environment.

Finance:

Please estimate your campaign costs:

Primary Election: \$0 General Election: \$2.5 Million

How much money have you raised to date? \$875,979 (as of April 2008 FEC Filing)

Please list independent expenditures that may impact your race:

There is no way for me to know who will get in, but I would not be surprised to see DCCC, MoveOn, SEIU, AFL-CIO, and Freedom's Watch