



JIM HARPER in his own words ...

Climate Change I support the Green New Deal which will enable America to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 by transforming our economy and providing high-quality jobs to every American. Not only is a mass mobilization to transform our economy necessary for the future of the planet, it will also put America at a strategic advantage to be the leader fighting against climate change.

Gun Law Reform I believe that the gun violence epidemic in America must come to an end. I support universal background checks, closing the boyfriend loophole, closing the Charleston loophole, a permanent assault weapons ban, a national Extreme Risk Protection Order law, national safe storage laws and I oppose LEOSA.

Healthcare I support H.R. 1384, the gold standard Medicare for All Act. This will provide universal, high-quality healthcare to every American without copays, premiums, or deductibles. This will also benefit unions because every union member will automatically have full benefits without compromising pay in contract negotiations.

Immigration I believe that all people should be treated with dignity and respect and that immigrants are integral to American society. I support the American Dream and Promise Act, which builds on the ideals of the DREAM Act in constructing a progressive comprehensive immigration reform plan. I support banning the use of cruel practices that have been used by the Trump administration such as the “Public Charge Rule” and replacing them with policies of empathy. Instead of putting kids in cages as this administration has done, I will reform our immigration and refugee system coming from Latin America to ease the burden on immigrants.

Reproductive Rights I believe in every woman’s autonomy over her own body. I recently volunteered with escorts at Planned Parenthood to see firsthand the experiences of visiting a clinic. I support legislation to protect the Roe v. Wade SCOTUS decision, repeal the Hyde amendment, return federal reimbursement for Planned Parenthood services. No one should legislate the rights of a woman over her own body.

Economy/Taxation/Structural Change I believe that the economy and taxation system must change in America. In addition to the economic reform in the Green New Deal, I strongly support unions, advocate for campaign finance reform, and will fight for a progressive tax structure. The very wealthy should begin paying their fair share by repealing the Trump tax cuts, removing the cap on Social Security, reforming capital gains taxes, cracking down on offshore tax hideouts, and more. The very wealthy want access to our economy and they should, but they must pay their fair share like everybody else.

College Tuition/Student Loan Forgiveness/Public Education I believe that college and technical education should be affordable, accessible, and debt free for everyone. I believe that there should be large amounts of student debt forgiven up to the full amount borrowed. I also believe that public education is

fundamental to our society and that the federal government must do more to support our schools financially, raise teacher pay, focus on teachers and students instead of testing, and create an even playing field between public schools and charters. I oppose voucher systems and support creating high-quality public school systems in every community.

Criminal Justice Reform/Racial Justice/Legalization As a public defender, I know that our criminal justice system is deeply broken and racially biased. I support massive reform of the mandatory minimum sentencing system, ending cash bail, abolishing the death penalty, fully legalizing marijuana, banning private prisons, and federally supporting public defenders.

Equality I believe that women, women of color, and LGBTQ Americans have faced inequality for far too long. I support policies to close the paycheck gap, add the ERA to the Constitution now, and protect the LGBTQ community from discrimination.

Corporate PAC Money? From the very beginning of this campaign, I have taken a pledge to not accept corporate PAC money. If they send me a check, I will send it back. Campaign finance is a massive problem in our country that attacks the very foundation of our democracy. I also believe it is important that we amend the Constitution to overturn the Citizens United SCOTUS decision that has allowed unlimited corporate money into our politics. I also will work to ban lobbyists from participating in political fundraising to end this route of legal bribery and corruption.

Statehood for DC and Puerto Rico? I support immediately admitting the District of Columbia into the Union as a state with full representation in the U.S. House and Senate. I am also supportive of statehood for territories such as Puerto Rico although the process should be more cautious. The United States has a checkered history with many of these people, and they should have the opportunity to democratically express their desires in regards to statehood through a resolution guaranteeing that their voices are heard and respected.

Are you now or have you ever been a lobbyist? I have never been a lobbyist or worked in fields that serve as legal cover for lobbyists such as government affairs, public affairs, or legislative affairs.

Should lobbyists be allowed to run for public office? I believe that we must close the revolving door between lobbying and public service. Public service is a privilege that must be respected. Members of Congress should not be allowed to leave office and become a lobbyist and lobbyists should not be allowed to become a member of Congress. This revolving door of politicians and lobbyists leads to a system rife with legal and illegal corruption and bribery that works well for the very wealthy and powerful and does not work for working and middle-class Americans.