

MARA CANDELARIA REARDON in her own words ...

Climate Change

Climate Change is an existential threat to life as we know it, and it is imperative that we use the framework of the Green New Deal to transition to a green economy that addresses this threat. As we transition to a green economy, we must ensure that unions are given the capacity to lead the evolution of our manufacturing processes. Climate change is also recognized as a major national security threat, and it can be mitigated best through a swift adoption of renewable energy systems and the phase out of fossil fuels.

Gun Law Reform

In my 12 years as an Indiana state representative, I have proudly earned an F- grade from the NRA, thanks to my support of common sense gun reform. As a congresswoman, I will push for and support bills that seek to take military weapons off our streets and protect our communities through actions that include but are not limited to: 1. preventing gun sales to people with a history of domestic abuse, 2. universal background checks and closing loophole laws, 3. red flag laws, 4. repealing protections for the gun industry

Healthcare

Healthcare is a human right, and that's why I support building on Obamacare by adding a Medicare-for-all-who-want-it public option that sets us on a clear path toward universal coverage. It's also why, in the state house, I was proud to help extend healthcare coverage to 400,000 more Hoosiers through the Healthy Indiana Plan. But there is certainly more work to be done, and in Washington, I'll work hard to address further reforms that help hardworking families, such as lowering prescription drug costs and ending surprise billing.

Immigration

As a second-generation immigrant I can tell you personally about how important immigrants are to the United States. As a state representative, I have fought for the right of undocumented immigrants to have access to drivers licenses and the economic freedom that transportation provides. Above all, we need to start by implementing a more humane and efficient path to citizenship.

Reproductive Rights

I have a 100% pro-choice voting record, and would continue to vote pro-choice as a congresswoman. We must repeal the Hyde Amendment and Domestic Gag Rules to ensure that all women, no matter their financial situation, have access to the healthcare that they need.

Economy/Taxation/Structural Change

The days of corporations paying less in taxes than hardworking American families need to end. In 2011, I jeopardized my re-election chances by walking out of the legislature to prevent the passage of malicious right-to-work laws. I have proven that I will be a champion for economic reform, and as a congresswoman I will fight to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15/hour, institute universal child care, and enforce equal pay laws.

College Tuition/Student Loan Forgiveness/Public Education

As the daughter of a former teacher's union president, I made properly funding public education and standing up for public education employees a priority in the legislature. As a congresswoman, I will combat the massive student loan debt (including \$27.5 billion from students in Indiana alone) through policies such as the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Plan, be a check Betsy DeVos at the Trump Department of Education, and push for universal pre-K and early childhood education.

Criminal Justice Reform/Racial Justice/Legalization

My goals for reforming the shortcomings of our criminal justice system include: 1. The failed War on Drugs: We must deschedule and legalize cannabis federally, and expunge records of non-violent drug offenders. 2. Prison Reform: We must abolish private prisons, end cash bail, and stop solitary confinement. 3. Law Enforcement: We need to leverage every resource, such as body cams, to protect civilians and police, as we work to deliver restorative justice over punitive justice.

Corporate PAC Money?

Until we implement campaign finance reform that reduces the need for good people to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for their elections, corporate PACs are a necessary evil to compete with Republicans and their endless networks of "dark money." However, politicians should not, under any circumstances, be promising policy favors in exchange for money. A great first step in reducing corporate lobby influence would be overturning Citizens United.

Statehood for DC and Puerto Rico?

Yes and Yes. I spent every summer of my childhood with my relatives in Puerto Rico, and I support empowering Puerto Ricans with the democratic rights that come from statehood, especially after the Trump Administration's disastrous response to 2017's Hurricane Maria.

Republicans have long avoided giving statehood to D.C. because they know it will empower progressive voices in federal elections. It is clear that the population of D.C. wants statehood, and it's time to provide them that right. Even the license plates in D.C. put it best: No Taxation Without Representation.

Are you now or have you ever been a lobbyist?

No.

Should lobbyists be allowed to run for public office?

Running for public office to represent your community is a constitutionally guaranteed right, just like voting. Not to mention, a great deal of lobbyists don't belong to malicious corporations — many work for public good advocacy groups like EveryTown for Gun Violence Prevention or the National Resource Defence Council. Instead of banning individuals from running for public office, we need to close the revolving door of corporate lobbyists and politicians by setting a minimum span of time that a former lobbyist must wait before running for office.