

350 Action 2019 Candidate Questionnaire

Ilhan Omar

12/06/2019

About You

Your Name: Ilhan Omar (MN-05)

What office are you running for, and as which party?: *Democrat running for reelection to Congress, MN-05.*

Policy Positions

Do you support a Green New Deal that ends fossil fuels and provides an immediate and just transition to 100% renewable energy? Explain what that means to you.

I fully support a Green New Deal. We must transform our political and economic systems to combat climate change, and a Green New Deal is the bold action we need to get there. A major step in immediately and justly transitioning to 100% renewable energy is investing in clean energy sources and energy efficiency programs.

Carrying out a Green New Deal means investing in clean energy systems and providing millions of jobs to workers currently in the fossil fuel economy, as well as workers currently shut out of the economy.

We must stop fossil fuel and energy companies from dictating how we treat our planet by divesting from the fossil fuel industry and completely cutting off these corporations' tax subsidies.

I've introduced and co-sponsored legislation that I see as key parts of a Green New Deal, including:

The Zero Waste Act, which will invest in solutions that address the waste epidemic plaguing our country, allowing cities to build recycling infrastructure or create partnerships with local businesses aimed at reducing waste in their operations;

The Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability Act, which will invest in a water trust fund to support improvements to water infrastructure across the country, providing all families with clean, reliable, and affordable drinking water.

The Federal Jobs Guarantee Development Act, which will pilot a guaranteed jobs program in 15 communities facing high unemployment. Every interested adult residing in a pilot community will get a job with a prevailing wage, paid family and sick leave, and comprehensive healthcare coverage. This type of program will lay the groundwork for guaranteed renewable energy jobs.

How will you center racial, economic and social justice in your climate policies?

We must take an equitable approach by prioritizing access to renewable energy for these communities and ensuring that renewable energy is affordable for all. It's also crucial to work with localities to prevent the building of new oil pipelines and other infrastructure harmful to communities and Indigenous lands.

Do you support a moratorium on all new fossil fuel infrastructure, including pipelines, fracked gas and oil, compressor stations and coal power plants? Please tell us with specifics what you'd do, if elected to stop the expansion of the fossil fuel industry and keep fossil fuels in the ground?

I completely support a moratorium on all new fossil fuel infrastructure. In addition to supporting full divestment from the fossil fuel industry, I will continue advocating for the prohibition of new extraction of fossil fuels sitting below federal lands and water. I will support policies like the Keep It In The Ground Act, which will end new leases for the extraction of fossil fuels on all federal lands. It will also stop new leases for offshore drilling in the Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico and prohibit offshore drilling in the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans.

Do you support an investigation of the fossil fuel industry's role in causing climate change, blocking climate action, and misleading the public? If so, do you have plans for a process to hold the industry financially accountable for that role and related harms?

I support comprehensive investigations of the fossil fuel industry and full accountability for the harm it has caused. One way I plan to hold the industry and other corrupt corporate interests accountable is through the Protect Democracy from Criminal Corporations Act. After these corporations are justly convicted for their crimes, this bill will bar them from political spending for a decade.

When BP was arguing in court over the billions of fines it owed in Clean Water Act violations, the corporation was still allowed to spend \$5 million on lobbying and campaign corporations the same year. To permit this is unacceptable. Companies that break the law shouldn't be allowed to poison our democracy with dirty money.

Do you pledge to reject any contributions from the fossil fuel industry, as defined by the "No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge"?

Yes

Do you support plans to create an immigration policy that allows a path to citizenship for undocumented people?

I fully support creating a fair and accessible pathway to legal status and citizenship for DREAMERS, TPS recipients, and all undocumented people living in our country.

What are your specific plans on addressing the refugees and other migrants at the US borders?

We must overthrow our current cruel immigration abuses by abolishing ICE, ending all inhumane deportation and detention programs, and stopping border militarization and criminalization of people crossing our border.

With the number of people fleeing violence, persecution, and poor living conditions at a historic high, it's essential that the U.S. expands the number of refugees and asylum-seekers admitted. Instead of detaining people seeking a better life in the U.S., I believe in adopting community-based alternatives to detention. I am also co-sponsoring the No BAN Act, which will repeal the Muslim ban and ensure no one is blocked from our country based on religion again.

How do you see climate change impacting mass migrations and what are your plans to address the increase in refugees as a result of the climate crisis?

As climate change causes more natural disasters and devastates lands, more and more people are being displaced, including in my home country of Somalia. Climate refugees must be included in the 1951 Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. We must expand funding to support all refugees and asylum-seekers, not excluding those who are fleeing their homes as a result of climate change.

What are your plans for criminal justice reform?

Our criminal justice system is designed to criminalize people of color and Indigenous people, disproportionately sending them to prison for minor offenses and entrapping them in a vicious cycle of incarceration.

In order to dismantle this institutional racism, we must radically transform our approach to criminal justice and invest in restorative justice practices. It's vital that we ban private prisons and end cruel practices like solitary confinement. We need to move funding to preventative and diversionary programs and restore felon voting rights. It's also important to support those released from prison as they transition back to society and ensure they have access to mental healthcare.

I'm a proud co-sponsor of the Marijuana Justice Act, which will play an important role in ending the War on Drugs by legalizing marijuana on the federal level, expunging records of marijuana-related offenses, and reinvesting in communities devastated by the War on Drugs.

Do you support a worker's right to unionize?

Yes

Do you support a \$15/hour minimum wage?

Yes

How do you plan to address the resurgence of white supremacy in the public discourse? Please tell us your plan to respond to white nationalist terrorist acts in this country?

We must continue investigating the root causes of domestic terrorism, including in cases clearly rooted in white supremacy. It's essential to pass gun reform laws and improve oversight systems like the National Instant Criminal Background Check System to prevent white supremacists from accessing these weapons in the first place.

It's also not enough to condemn acts of white supremacy. We must affirmatively confront Trump's racist policies, including his caging of immigrant children at the border and the Muslim ban, and work to repeal and dismantle these harmful policies.

What is your plan to reduce gun violence and mass shootings?

The House has passed legislation expanding background checks, which I co-sponsored. I will keep advocating for the Senate to pass this legislation. In addition to requiring universal background checks, we must ban the sale of assault weapons, prevent convicted domestic and animal abusers from accessing guns, and approve federal funding to research the impact of gun violence in our communities.

Do you support the payment of reparations and/or related structural adjustment to remunerate the descendants of enslaved African Americans to addressing America's history of codified and systemic racism?

I believe it is past time to give reparations to the descendants of enslaved African Americans. I am co-sponsoring a bill that will create a commission to study slavery and racism in the United States and develop reparations proposals.

Do you support the return of unceded lands and territory or related royalties to Indigenous Populations as a form of redress for America's history of codified and systemic racism?

I stand behind returning unceded lands and territory to Indigenous populations. I will also continue to support Indigenous communities' fight to ensure harmful infrastructure like pipelines is not built on their sacred land.

Do you support Medicare for All?

Yes

Do you support a woman's right to choose?

Yes

Race:

Black

Gender:

Female