

350 Action 2019 Candidate Questionnaire

Jennifer Perelman

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About You

Your Name: Jennifer Perelman

What office are you running for, and as which party?: Democratic candidate running for Congress, FL-23

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 support a Green New Deal that transitions to 100% renewable energy as quickly as humanly possible because there is literally no alternative. Millions of people will die from climate-related catastrophes if we don't act on this emergency. Passing a Green New Deal is the last, best hope for the future.

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

One of the central components of a Green New Deal is the Water Act which would restore water pipelines and guarantee clean water as a human right for all people. America's level of lead contamination in our water is that of a third-world country disproportionately affecting people of color. We saw this play out in Flint, Michigan, and we continue to see it affect folks in Newark, New Jersey today.

As we transition to 100% clean energy, we need to prioritize the places of this country most harmed by fossil fuel companies polluting their air and water. This includes places like Cancer Alley in Louisiana, a historically black community living in the shadow of corporations that are literally killing them. We need to tax the polluters to have them pay for the damage they have done to these communities.

There are a number of challenges that Americans will face in the future do to the level of carbon in the atmosphere. We need new infrastructure to withstand the impact of floods, hurricanes, and wildfires. I support the creation of a climate resiliency fund that builds climate resilient infrastructure prioritizing communities that have been historically neglected.

Our transition to clean energy will create millions of jobs, but we cannot allow the new green economy to become the neoliberal economy. A Green New Deal must radically transform the power of workers in the economy to tackle income and wealth inequality. We need to make collective bargaining reality for every worker in the country by implementing a sectoral bargaining system and passing a set of rules protecting workers rights. This includes passing a national preemption law that criminalizes so called "right to work" laws, protecting the right to strike, mandating that all judicial nominees support overturning the Janus decision and philosophically believe in protecting workers rights. In order to guarantee that all corporate decisions are in the best interest of workers, I support worker

co-determination mandating every corporate board comprise at least 50% of democratically elected worker representatives.

There are many other ways we can empower workers and pass racially equitable policies, but we must also use this opportunity to address the gravest of historical grievances: slavery and genocide. In order to heal our nation and address the historic injustices upon which we were built, I support the creation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in which we deal with the generations of white supremacist policies that have fallen on people of color and indigenous communities. We need to reckon with our past and make reparations. I support H.R. 40 to create a commission to study reparations. The answer to how we repay the communities we've wronged should come from those communities. The Green New Deal is about saving the planet, but it's also about addressing institutional racism and creating a future in which everyone can live a good life.

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?

Yes, I do. I would support national legislation to stop the construction of fossil fuel infrastructure, but we can also pay farmers to keep carbon in the ground. Bringing our carbon footprint to zero will require all hands on deck, so we need a lot of tools in our tool-belt. To induce cooperation from states and municipalities, I support a carrots and sticks approach that offers additional TANF funding for participation and withholds transportation infrastructure funding for those who refuse to cooperate. The Green New Deal must be met with a bureaucracy that has teeth and will fight the construction of any new fossil fuel infrastructure.

Do you support the 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?

Investigations into these corporations at the state level are a great example for how we can move forward at the national level. Companies like Exxon knew exactly what they were doing to the environment decades ago. That they have willfully continued to destroy the planet knowing full well what they were doing is unconscionable. Frankly, some of these corporate executives should be tried for ecocide at the Hague. I support getting the US a party to the International Criminal Court and establishing ecocide as an official crime. I support taxing these companies heavily for the destruction they have caused, and I support an immediate ban on advertising for these companies that does not include a disclaimer about what they have done to this planet.

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?

Yes

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

We need to abolish ICE, and, frankly, we need to abolish DHS. These institutions have been built fundamentally on racism against brown people. I support a humane immigration policy. That means:

- Quadrupling the amount of judges at the border
- Passing historic humanitarian aid to the Northern Triangle nations we've destabilized with our support for right-wing coups
- Raising our refugee cap to 1 million a year to start
- Decriminalize migration by overturning Section 1325 of the federal immigration code
- Ending family detention
- Abolishing private prisons
- Passing a federal jobs guarantee so that refugees and migrants can find remunerative work to support their families.

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?

We need to prepare for this crisis by creating an official "Climate Refugee" category and commit to showing global leadership by admitting millions of refugees created by the climate crisis.

What are your plans for criminal justice reform?

We have a two-tiered "justice" system in this country. The likelihood that a person will be indicted, prosecuted, and sentenced too often depends on factors such as race, gender identity, and socio-economic status. Not one banker was prosecuted after Wall Street greed crashed our economy, while millions of black men have had their lives ruined over non-violent drug offenses. It is long past time that this country lives up to its motto, "and justice FOR ALL." America was built on the subjugation of people of color, and racial oppression still exists within every aspect of our society, especially in our criminal justice system. We must address the systemic racism and create a system of justice that doesn't favor the rich and criminalize poverty. I support:

- Abolishing for-profit prisons
- Ending the federal prohibition on marijuana
- Commuting sentences, expunging records, and releasing all people currently incarcerated, paroled, or on probation for nonviolent drug offenses.
- Reducing our incarcerated population by eliminating mandatory minimums and excessive sentences.
- Investing in treatment programs for people who are struggling with mental health, and substance abuse issues.
- Prohibiting the exploitation of prison labor by applying the federal minimum wage laws to incarcerated individuals.
- Prohibiting the use of predatory prison phone rates.
- “Banning the Box” that requires job applicants to disclose their criminal records for employment.
- Banning the prosecution of children (under 18) in adult courts.
- Mandating criminal liability for civil rights violations resulting from police misconduct.
- Demilitarizing municipal law enforcement agencies by ending federal programs that provide military equipment to local police forces.
- Restricting the use of deadly force.
- Renegotiating police contracts to establish responsible accountability and transparency measures.
- Supporting the establishment of local civilian oversight boards of law enforcement.

Do you support a worker's right to unionize?

Yes, and I support unions for all under a sectoral bargaining system.

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

Yes, but we need to start looking at a \$20 minimum wage in big cities.

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?

White supremacist violence is on the rise, and we need to act with moral courage to end the attacks on our neighbors and our communities. Rather than surveil Black Lives Matter activists, infiltrating mosques, and running sting operations with Natives protesting pipeline construction on their sacred land as Trump's FBI has admitted to doing, we need our federal law enforcement to target white supremacists. This includes collecting better data, prosecuting more hate crimes, disrupting international networks, and investing in early intervention programs in our schools.

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

If you need a license to drive a car, you should need a license to own a gun. I support license and registration, and I stand with groups like Moms Demand Action and March For Our Lives in their fight to end the gun violence epidemic. We need a comprehensive solution that includes background checks and gang intervention programs.

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?

Yes, see my earlier response.

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?

Yes.

Do you support Medicare for All?

Yes. No middle ground. We need a single-payer system that makes healthcare a right to all people.

Do you support a woman's right to choose?

Yes

Race:

White

Gender:

Female

If you'd like, tell us more about your identity in your own words: