

# 350 Action 2019 Candidate Questionnaire

## Morgan Harper

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1/07/2020

### About You

**Your Name:** Morgan Harper (US Congress, OH-3)

**What office are you running for, and as which party?:** *Democratic candidate for Congress, OH-03*

### 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.**

Yes. Right now the Green New Deal is a resolution that would require Congress to focus on developing a package of policies to deliver better job opportunities, reduce pollution, and provide cleaner air and water. We have to acknowledge that climate change and other environmental risks are having destructive effects on our daily lives--from dirty water and polluted air to increasingly frequent and deadly disasters. And we have a limited window now to tackle those issues head on while also creating high-paying jobs that will benefit working people, including communities of color. The United States must lead the world in tackling climate change if we are to make certain that this planet is habitable for our children and grandchildren. We must transform our energy system away from polluting fossil fuels, and towards renewable energy sources.

To minimize the adverse impacts of climate change, we must aggressively and immediately cut our greenhouse gas emissions. The 'market' will not accomplish this, as existing incentives would not allow for it. Laws must be passed and enforced to produce the right behavior by the private sector.

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

Climate change is literally a threat to our very existence. It is the lens through which we must view all policy going forward. As we engage on this journey, we must ensure we provide sufficient job training and re-skilling so workers affected by the shift to renewable energy and away from meat production are not left behind. Further, from a climate justice perspective we must remember that those populations currently most vulnerable stand to be disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change, and ensure they are provided the necessary resources to make a living in this new world. I also think we should ensure training programs include returning citizens.

**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 would support the elimination of all federal oil and gas industry subsidies, and reallocate those funds to ensuring a smooth transition for workers in the coal, oil, and gas industries to careers in green energy. I would support significant funding for the research and development of clean (i.e. doesn't emit greenhouse gases) energy sources, such as wind and solar. I would support legislation mandating fuel standards that make it prohibitively expensive for the continued manufacture of gasoline vehicles. I would support heavy investment in electric-powered public transportation. I would support legislation threatening to withdraw significant federal funding if states do not pass and enforce clean energy standards that move towards the eventual elimination of non-clean sources of energy. I would support shifting a significant portion of the existing Department of Defense budget to building national infrastructure, including public transportation, that can both slow and mitigate the effects of climate change. I would support the elimination of subsidies to large agricultural companies, and reallocate those funds to helping local farmers shift away from livestock and towards greener food production (both in terms of lower greenhouse gas-emitting and less water-intensive).

If all of this is not sufficient, then I will support legislation that eventually makes it illegal to burn fossil fuels.

**Do you support 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?**

Yes. Those companies must be held financially accountable, and the executives who were aware and did nothing or aided in the cover up must be held criminally responsible. Between the fines they must incur, and the future cost of doing business in the dirty energy industry, we must make it financially impossible for the fossil fuel industry to continue to exist.

My plan for achieving this (in addition to the initiatives listed above) would be to hold congressional hearings and to call on the Department of Justice to open criminal inquiries. This effort will require the participation of all three branches of government, and state governments, which is why it is critical we continue to elect progressive candidates to all elected positions.

**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 on addressing the refugees and other migrants at the US borders?**

We must open our borders to refugees and migrants. Not only is it the right thing to do, but much of the world's current suffering is a direct result of historical (and current) US foreign policy. It is our responsibility to help clean up the mess we created. But we must also focus on the root causes that have led to forced migration and fleeing, whether they be a direct or indirect product of US policy or not. We must not only stop engaging in activity (e.g. supporting Saudi Arabia and other repressive regimes) that creates or worsens these problems, but also work with the global community to help solve the existing problems. Resource scarcity and economic insecurity creates the environment for oppressive regimes to come to power. Establishing a fair and just and welcoming society requires investing in communities and countries and regions such that the social contract may be strong and there is no room for tyrants and demagogues to ever reach positions of power that then lead to oppressive societies.

**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?**

Climate change produces literal destruction such as making former living spaces inhabitable, and indirect destruction, which ultimately leads to the destabilization of economies, governments, and societies. Combined, these effects contribute to mass migration. To address this, we must not only fight climate change (per my responses above) but also deal with the existing refugee and migration crises (per my responses above).

**What are your plans for criminal justice reform?**

African-Americans and Latinos are twice as likely to be arrested and almost four times as likely to experience the use of force during encounters with the police. They also comprise well over half of all prisoners, even though African-Americans and Latinos make up approximately one quarter of the total US population. We must change this by demilitarizing our police forces/retrain police, ban for-profit prisons, turn back from the War on Drugs, eliminate mandatory minimums, and increase investment in programs that help individuals recover from substance abuse and mental health problems. We must combat the racism woven into the fabric of this country, as that is the true source of this issue.

Policies to protect vulnerable communities from the prison-industrial complex:

Ban private prisons

Focus on restorative justice

Civilian oversight committees for police forces and prison workers

Remove barriers to prosecuting police officers and prison workers

Cultural and educational training for police and prison workers

Eliminate solitary confinement

End police violence

Legalize marijuana across the board, release all those currently imprisoned by marijuana offenses, expunge their records, and prioritize providing them with licenses to sell marijuana legally

Decriminalize truancy

Ban the box on job applications

Provide robust mental and physical health services; housing; and job training to people getting out of jail and re-entering the workforce

**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 respond to white nationalist terrorist acts with the same intensity and fervor as we have responded to foreign acts of terrorism.

From a structural perspective, we must work to remove the structural variables that cause people to feel marginalized and ostracized and hopeless, which is likely what leads most people to commit such acts of terror.

Further, we must work tirelessly to promote a society of racial tolerance and equality. Racial equality means that we have a country and communities with people of different skin colors, nationalities, ethnicities, and cultural markers, but no particular group experiences privilege as a result of being from any one racial background over another. Racial equality means that people from all groups can obtain quality education, housing, food, medical care, safety, transportation, and environments. It also requires that all people are treated equally before the law within the criminal justice system.

Achieving such equality will require a massive investment in the underlying infrastructure underpinning all aspects of our society. We have to wage an unending campaign to expose all people to and educate them about different cultures. We also must vigorously protect and enforce everyone's voting rights.

We also must address the deep, institutional and ingrained inequality existing in this country, created through 400 years of repression and suppression of black and brown people living in and forcibly brought to the United States that continues to have financial and societal implications.

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

N/A

**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?**

-Make guns, including military-style guns, illegal (except for rare cases where they are required for hunting food for survival); there is nothing recreational about shooting things, and it is no longer 1776 or the Wild West; we live in a modern society driven by the rule of law, not gunfire → when there are no guns, there is no gun violence

-End the 'war on drugs'

-Treat drug addiction as a disease and not a crime

-Make economic opportunity for ALL PEOPLE a top priority; remove the reason for violence

-Invest in other countries' economies so there is opportunity there aside from the drug industry

-Legalize and regulate drugs; you don't see much violence from the production and sale of alcohol and tobacco

**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.

**Do you support a woman's right to choose?**

Yes

**Race:**

Black

**Gender:**

Female

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

I was born to a black mother and a white father, but given up for adoption at birth and raised by a black family in a black neighborhood. My adopted mother emigrated to the U.S. from Trinidad and comes from a multiracial background. I've attended mostly white schools for almost my entire life. Though I have been in many different types of environments, I identify strongly as a black woman and care deeply about the black community and the needs of the working class. I bring this background to bear in how I approach public policy and this campaign.