

350 Action 2019 Candidate Questionnaire

Robert Emmons Jr

1/07/2020

About You

Your Name: Robert Emmons Jr. (IL-01)

What office are you running for, and as which party?: *Democratic candidate for US Congress (IL-01)*

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, I unequivocally support the Green New Deal unlike the incumbent that I'm facing, Bobby Rush. I support the GND for both its goals to bring our carbon emission down to net zero, and it's ability to bring economic justice to those that will disproportionately be impacted by climate change.

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

The effects of climate change are already here for vulnerable communities--especially communities of color. 87% of flood claims came from POC in 2018. 100 year floods are happening every year. We have to achieve a GND because of its emphasis on racial justice.

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.

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?

Yes. Oil and Gas executives who have lied/mislead the public must be held accountable. Lives are being lost because of the greed of the industry.

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. No one courageous enough to leave their homes in pursuit of a better life should be met with unwelcoming spirits. If we are the land of the free and home of the brave, it's about time that we start acting like it.

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

Path towards citizenship and abolishing ICE.

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 is an existential crisis facing the world. As water, food, and housing security becomes more scarce, folks all over the world will be forced to migrate. That is part of the reason why we need a path towards citizenship that makes it easier for families to migrate to nations like the US that have disproportionately contributed to the speed and intensity of climate change. We have a responsibility.

What are your plans for criminal justice reform?

Our current criminal justice system is grossly flawed. From mistreatment of the incarcerated (trans, POCS, and mentally ill) to poor living conditions, we have tons of work to do in our justice system. We want to end cash bail, ban the box, invest in education and jobs training, decriminalize drug addiction and sex work, ban private prisons of all forms.

Do you support a worker's right to unionize?

Absolutely. The unions gave us the modern day workday, fair wages, healthcare, and safe workplaces.

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

\$22.00 in most major 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?

I am a firm believer that we must protect our First Amendment rights, but those rights do come with responsibilities. For example, we have the freedom to say whatever we'd like, but in court, we have a legal obligation to tell the truth, because if not, those words can be harmful. As a nation we must hold hateful speech as a tool that must not be used within our country. We must regulate the hateful, bigoted, racist speech of sects like the ALT-right, the FOP, and the KKK. White supremacy is not on the rise. What's on the rise is spirit that is making white supremacist comfortable. I will work to upgrade and update what classifies as a hate crime against racial groups.

As a community leader I have always sought to build bridges with those that may think differently than I. I will bring that same orientation to Congress. I believe that we have to end the unprogressive polarization that exist in our government. Only then can we begin the healing process in our nation.

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

We are a campaign that has made the goal of ending gun violence our number one target. We need to reverse the Dickey Amendment to allow the CDC to study gun violence as a public health epidemic. We need to allocate Federal resources to go directly to Community Based Organizations doing evidence-based works to reduce/end gun violence. We need a comprehensive and wrap-around approach towards gun violence: Healthcare, environmental justice, education reform, living wage, universal Pre-k, Universal housing and public transportation, and lastly taking dirty money out of politics to end corruption and influence (NRA).

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.

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:

Male

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