

Massachusetts 2018 Congressional Primary
Candidate Questionnaire
Massachusetts Peace Action

Candidate Name: Ayanna Pressley

Print full name of person completing this form: Luisa Peña Lyons

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Role in campaign (candidate, campaign manager, etc.): Political Director

Nuclear Weapons

1. Do you support a law to prevent the President from launching a nuclear first strike unless Congress has declared war? (HR.669/S.200) Y / N

2. Do you support the Administration's program to build new generations of nuclear warheads, submarines, missiles, strategic bombers, cruise missiles, and bomb production facilities? Y / N

Additional Comments:

Korea

3. Do you support a diplomatic solution to tensions with North Korea, in which the United States would give security guarantees and make peace with the North, in cooperation with President Moon and the South Korean government? Y / N

4. Do you support a law to prevent the President from launching a military strike on North Korea unless Congress has declared war? (H. 4837 / S. 2016) Y / N

Additional Comments:

Middle East

5. Do you support congressional legislation similar to S.J. Res. 54, halting the unconstitutional involvement of the US in the Saudi intervention in Yemen? Y / N

6. Do you support legislation to prevent U.S. military intervention in Syria, stationing military forces there, and providing assistance and training to insurgents? Y / N (see below)

7. Will you vote to terminate the U.S. military intervention in Afghanistan? Y / N (see below)

8. Do you support the Iran nuclear deal, and continued dialogue with Iran to resolve other areas of tension between our nations? Y / N

Additional Comments:

My approach is to always exhaust all diplomatic and non-military options before committing U.S. forces in any capacity to any conflict. With respect to the ongoing conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan, the United States has a responsibility to provide leadership – in concert with the international community – that brings about an expeditious end to the conflicts and creates stability in the region – it would be irresponsible to foreclose any potential avenues to achieving that goal.

Israel/Palestine

9. Do you pledge to "Skip the Trip" -- to refuse the all-expenses-paid tour of Israel that's offered to all freshmen in Congress by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, AIPAC? Y / N (see below)

10. Do you support the "Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act", introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum (HR. 4319)? **Y** / N

11. Do you oppose "anti-BDS" legislation that seeks to undermine our First Amendment freedom to boycott (HR. 1697 / S.720)? Y / N (see below)

Additional Comments:

I have dedicated my life to reducing violence and trauma, and it is that experience that informs my approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Far too many Israelis and Palestinians have been, and continue to be, victimized by the ongoing conflict, and it is incumbent on the Israeli and Palestinian leadership, the United States, and the international community to work towards a resolution that ends the suffering, violence, and hostility. While there is no perfect plan to solve this enormously complex conflict and address the many legitimate historic and moral claims of both Israelis and Palestinians, a two-state solution is the only resolution that recognizes the right of all people to self-determination and ensures a peaceful future where Israelis and Palestinians can live side by side with mutual dignity, respect, and recognition. My priority will remain supporting those courageous individuals and organizations, among both Israelis and Palestinians, committed to bringing peaceful coexistence to the region.

Ultimately, it is up to the Israeli and Palestinian people to determine their collective future. In Congress, I will demand that any American policy recognizes the basic human rights of both Israelis and Palestinians and promotes greater engagement between the two sides. Building empathy and understanding through intentional diplomatic efforts and grassroots engagement is essential to reaching a sustainable, long-term solution to the conflict. As I have always said, those closest to the pain should be closest to the power, and my focus will continue to be on elevating the voices of Israeli and Palestinian change makers who are working to build bonds between their communities and are laying the groundwork for a peaceful future.

Military Budget

12. Will you join the Congressional Progressive Caucus and vote for its People's Budget ? **Y** / N

13. Do you support significantly reshaping the Pentagon budget? **Y** / N

14. If so, what types of programs would you identify for potential reduction or elimination?

I understand the importance of protecting national security, but believe our defense budget is fundamentally misaligned and constrains critical resources for priorities like education, health care, infrastructure, and economic development. I believe we should look for opportunities to make our defense budget more efficient, but not investing in outdated, expensive programs and increasing investment in foreign aid and diplomacy that will hold down defense expenditures in the long term.

Additional Comments:

15. If MAPA were to pledge its support, how would you prefer we help your campaign? (select all that apply)

- a. Endorsement
- b. PAC contribution for general, primary, or both
- c. Online bundling
- d. Fundraising conference call
- e. Hosting fundraising events
- f. Local and/or national press release on endorsement
- g. Quotes for your press release and other communications
- h. Messaging guidance and talking points
- i. In-kind donation of a professional organizer(s)
- j. Email list exchange (ours is about 6k)
- k. Recruiting of volunteers inside and/or outside of district
- l. Voter outreach phone banking
- m. Social media support
- n. Issue briefing with experts
- o. Op-eds, LTEs, and other media in support; district or state

Signature: _____

Date: _____ 7/15/2018 _____