



# CTC Questionnaire

## PROGRESS

For the first time, the Courage to Change PAC is issuing a distinction to candidates seeking local, state and federal office who successfully complete our national questionnaire. The Courage to Change Distinction seeks to identify those candidates who are truly committed to social, economic and racial justice - rather than those candidates who would superficially claim the progressive mantle.

The questionnaire asks candidates to commit to policy pledges across eleven different areas. Ultimately, a Courage to Change candidate: believes in ending the influence of special interest and corporations in campaign finance; expanding union power everywhere; increasing investments for infrastructure projects that emphasize sustainability, equity and access for everyone; adopting the Green New Deal, and its principles of **jobs, justice, and decarbonization**; increasing public safety through education, jobs, healthcare, and community-based programs; making housing permanently affordable, inclusive, and widely available; passing Medicare for All; making public colleges and universities tuition-free while cancelling all student debt; treating all immigrants with dignity and respect while creating a pathway to citizenship; and expanding voting rights to protect our democracy.

**The Courage to Change Policy Pledge Distinction should not be considered an endorsement from Rep. Ocasio-Cortez when awarded.**

Courage to Change Policy Pledge Distinctions will be announced on a rolling basis. You may submit your completed Candidate questionnaire today, and all Candidate questionnaires must be submitted to CTC on or before **April 1, 2022.**



## PART I. Candidates Picked by the People

Our current issues are too large and complex for any one person, organization or agency to address; it is going to take the collective will of movement leaders across the board to uplift the most vulnerable in our society during some of the toughest years in our history. This moment calls for inclusivity, collaboration, vision, and compassionate leadership.

Please provide a list of endorsements received so far (movement groups and local organizations should go first)

Please describe your vision and goals for your term in office. (max 100 words). [responses to this question may be displayed publicly]

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## PART II. Eliminate Corporate and Special Interests in Campaign Finance

The corrupting role of big money in politics is one of the largest threats we have to achieving truly people-driven government and policy. We see this when executives and board members of private companies, including the real estate and fossil fuel industries, attempt to gain access to elected officials through large personal and bundled contributions. As a result of being courted and financed by special-interest groups, politicians end up spending more time with their big dollar donors rather than with their communities, where they can refine the policies that will make this country a better place for everyone.

Is your campaign rejecting contributions from PACs that represent, or were created by, a for-profit company?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Is your campaign rejecting contributions from real estate PACs or any executives or Board Members of a real estate company?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Is your campaign rejecting contributions from executives or Board Members of fossil fuel companies?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Is your campaign rejecting contributions from law enforcement associations or PACs?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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## PART III. Expanding Union Power and Labor Rights

The United States is home to millions of innovative, creative, and tenacious people who hustle every day to provide for their families, save for their future, and simply get by. These are the people we must amplify and uplift with strong labor rights. But our labor rights are under attack by corporate interests who advocate for private control of the social structures that regulate the relationship between humans and production. We need progressive champions to protect and expand labor rights because labor rights lead to increasing wages and benefits; protect workers from fraudulent and deceptive practices; and ensure that employees work in safe conditions.

***If running for a legislative position do you pledge to vote for the following; alternatively, if running for an executive position or a position that does not vote on such matters, do you pledge to publicly support and work towards the following:***

I will oppose all so-called 'right to work' policies.

☐ Yes

☐ No

The [PRO Act](#) which eliminates local laws that encourage workers to bypass union enrollment and makes it harder for union members to enjoy full benefits at the workplace.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Legislation to identify and remedy systematic wage discrimination, like the Paycheck Fairness Act.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Legislation to strengthen retirement income security by increasing Social Security benefits for all beneficiaries.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Legislation that provides a minimum 12 weeks paid leave to all workers.

☐ Yes

☐ No

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## PART IV. Invest in Green, Public Infrastructure

It is time to build a society that works for all of us. This means investing in improvements to public transit so every person can access a safe and reliable ride to work; quality broadband internet services for everyone; and public school retrofits to provide our children with a safe place to learn. Our communities are interconnected through housing, transit, schools, and more — bold infrastructure investments are a key part to building a prosperous future for everyone.

***If running for a legislative position do you pledge to vote for the following; alternatively, if running for an executive position or a position that does not vote on such matters, do you pledge to publicly support and work towards the following:***

Efforts to build a transportation system that emphasizes equity, access, and sustainability, including by increasing investments in multi-modal transportation and walkable communities, and ensuring all public transportation is ADA compliant and accessible.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Increase funding for mass transit with the goal of reaching parity between funding for mass transit and surface transportation.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Increase funding for infrastructure projects to rehabilitate and retrofit all existing public buildings, including, removing lead pipes and installing onsite renewable energy generation and storage.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Set up publicly owned and democratically controlled internet networks.

☐ Yes

☐ No

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## PART V. Secure a Green New Deal

The original Green New Deal resolution introduced in 2019 emphasizes the urgent need to create and pass laws that are centered on the following three things: jobs, justice, and decarbonization. The Green New Deal Resolution has inspired the introduction and adoption of similar Green New Deal resolutions into municipalities and States across the country.

Securing a Green New Deal means fighting for environmental justice on behalf of communities that suffer the worst effects of climate change, supporting a just transition for fossil-fuel workers and communities affected by the closure of fossil fuel industries, and holding corporate polluters responsible for the costs of climate change.

***If running for a legislative position do you pledge to vote for the following; alternatively, if running for an executive position or a position that does not vote on such matters, do you pledge to publicly support and work towards the following:***

The Green New Deal?

☐ Yes

☐ No

A Green New Deal centered law?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Legislation to create a Polluters Pay Climate Fund whereby fossil fuel companies pay their fair share of the full cost of the carbon pollution they are emitting in order to fund the government response to the climate crisis they helped cause?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Legislation that requires the government to obtain the free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous peoples for all decisions that affect indigenous peoples and their traditional territories, honoring all treaties and agreements with indigenous peoples, and protecting and enforcing the sovereignty and land rights of indigenous peoples?

☐ Yes

☐ No

'Just Transition' legislation, specifically, a law that aids in the development of a transition plan to assist workers and communities who may be affected by fossil-fuel plant retirements to ensure that sites are redeveloped and new job opportunities are created while we transition to cleaner, sustainable, and more affordable energy sources?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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## PART VI. Public Safety through Community Investments and Restorative Justice

In order to provide real public safety and undo our unjust system of mass incarceration and over-policing, we must invest in education, housing, jobs, healthcare, and community-based programs.

***If running for a legislative position do you pledge to vote for the following; alternatively, if running for an executive position or a position that does not vote on such matters, do you pledge to publicly support and work towards the following:***

A public safety strategy to reduce the annual budget for law enforcement and defense spending, and shift those funds towards community resources and programs, including: victim support and compensation funds; community schools; rehabilitation and re-entry programs for incarcerated persons?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Legislation that would prohibit the transfer of military-grade weapons from the U.S. Department of Defense to local law enforcement agencies?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Increase funds for comprehensive mental health and crisis response services, including community-based treatment programs and community-based first responders?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Laws that end Qualified Immunity?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Laws that end Civil Asset Forfeiture?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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## PART VII. Make Housing Affordable and Available for All

When we carry out the work to preserve public housing, to protect tenants and to usher in social housing for all, we will realize the true impact of progress by providing enough for everyone.

***If running for a legislative position do you pledge to vote for the following; alternatively, if running for an executive position or a position that does not vote on such matters, do you pledge to publicly support and work towards the following:***

Efforts to end exclusionary zoning including, rezoning communities that only allow single family homes to allow multi-family housing; rezoning local communities to reduce the minimum lot size for developments; and zoning changes to include mixed-income housing developments in an affluent neighborhood, even if the local official representing that neighborhood was opposed?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Efforts to strengthen tenant organizing and reduce evictions, including support for good cause eviction legislation, and support for a tenants' right to counsel in eviction court?

☐ Yes

☐ No

The Faircloth Amendment, which currently restricts the ability of local governments to create net new public housing?

☐ Yes

☐ No



## PART VIII. Pass Medicare for All and Expand Reproductive Rights

Every person should receive the healthcare that is available in a country like the United States. However, our current healthcare system costs over \$4 trillion per year and does not cover the needs of every person. At the same time, a woman's right to choose is under attack, leaving black women and working-class women most vulnerable to the risks associated with reproduction. We need courageous leaders in office right now to empower healthcare for all.

***If running for a legislative position do you pledge to vote for the following; alternatively, if running for an executive position or a position that does not vote on such matters, do you pledge to publicly support and work towards the following:***

Single-payer healthcare legislation that covers all people with universal healthcare, including Medicare for All?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Opposition to all ongoing attempts to privatize the Department of Veterans' Affairs health care?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Policies to expand access to contraception by requiring insurance companies to cover all federally-approved contraceptive methods without a co-pay, and regardless of an employer's religious or moral beliefs?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Legislation that addresses structural racism and the social determinants of health in order to reduce maternal mortality, including: growth and diversity in the perinatal workforce; a prohibition on the use of restraints on incarcerated pregnant individuals; and increased investments in nutrition and transportation barriers that pregnant and postpartum women face in obtaining maternal health care?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Public funding for abortion care and repeal of the Hyde Amendment?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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## PART IX. Cancel Student Debt, and Create Free Public Pre-K through College System

A better world is possible when we reinforce our commitment to public education, increase our investments in public schools from pre-k through college, and cancel student debt.

***If running for a legislative position do you pledge to vote for the following; alternatively, if running for an executive position or a position that does not vote on such matters, do you pledge to publicly support and work towards the following:***

Cancelling all federal student loan debt?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Make undergraduate programs at public colleges and universities tuition-free?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Free, full-day, high quality early education for every three-year-old and four-year-old?

☐ Yes

☐ No

A plan to fully fund public schools while enacting a moratorium on new charter schools?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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## PART X. Create a Pathway to Citizenship for All Immigrants

Undocumented immigrants are members of our society. They are dreamers who came to the U.S. as infants and young children, small business owners who have lived in the United States for many years, parents and loved ones of U.S. citizens, essential workers and one-third of our childcare workforce. Our country simply couldn't run without them. The just, necessary thing to do is to provide a pathway to citizenship for all immigrants.

***If running for a legislative position do you pledge to vote for the following; alternatively, if running for an executive position or a position that does not vote on such matters, do you pledge to publicly support and work towards the following:***

Efforts to abolish ICE and demilitarize our immigration system, including by reducing federal spending for armed border patrol agents and military-grade equipment?

☐ Yes

☐ No

A path to citizenship for all immigrants currently living in the United States, including making all undocumented immigrants eligible for immediate legalization and a five-year path toward naturalization?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Policies to settle refugees in your community and allow safe passage to those seeking asylum?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Legislation that ends all contracts between the private sector and government agencies involved in immigration enforcement?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Legislation that eliminates the deputizing of state and local law enforcement officers to perform functions of federal immigration authorities?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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## PART XI. Protect and Expand our Democracy

Today, as in the years leading up to passage of the Voting Rights Act, there is an urgent need for dedicated and courageous leadership. The recent court-packing by Republicans has given us an illegitimate 6-3 conservative supermajority in the Supreme Court that is already threatening to rollback rights on abortion, gun safety, and combating climate change. If we are going to solve the problems ahead and make social, racial, and economic justice a reality, this leadership must be willing to confront attacks on democracy for everyone.

***If running for a legislative position do you pledge to vote for the following; alternatively, if running for an executive position or a position that does not vote on such matters, do you pledge to publicly support and work towards the following:***

Legislation to automatically register all eligible people to vote?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Legislation that automatically restores the right to vote to all formerly incarcerated individuals?

☐ Yes

☐ No



Legislation that automatically restores the right to vote to all currently incarcerated individuals?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Legislation to make early, in-person voting available to voters for at least two weeks prior to Election Day?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Increase the number of Justices that serve on the United States Supreme Court?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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