

# Our Revolution Maryland

## Congressional District 7 Questionnaire

### 1. Why are you running for Congress?

My name is T. Dan Baker. I am a very concerned District 7 citizen regarding race relations, corporate influence in government, US foreign policy, and climate change.

- Son of a Baptist Minister and high school Math teacher.
- One of the first graduates of the Virginia Military Institute to join the Peace Corps.
- Huge fan of JFK's 'can do' vision supporting the 'moonshot' and 'civil rights'.
- A civilian veteran (US Foreign Service) of Afghanistan (2 tours), International Public Health professional, and recently returned Country Director of an infectious disease prevention and treatment program covering southern Turkey and northern Syria.

I've been fortunate over my career as an international health & development professional to have visited many countries of the world, and I have seen with my own eyes the changes which have befallen countries suffering from poor governance, corruption, and lack of leadership, especially in addressing climate change.

I am running because together we must fight to prevent this from happening to the United States!

Given all the changes that are coming our way – as a country and as a species – I am a strong candidate for the position because I've seen just how 'bad' things can get in such countries and have spent 20 plus years working from the national down to the local community level to prevent - or alternatively provide response - when such things occur.

Finally, the US Congress is in need of leaders who not only directly represent the will of their constituents but who also understand the global realities of what we ALL will be facing in the coming decades ... leaders who can make balanced, informed, and measured decisions for how best to respond to the Global Climate Crisis working on behalf of our Districts, our States, and our Country ... I am one such leader.

Please refer to my website <https://votetdanbaker.com/about/> for more information.

### 2. Do you support H.R.1384 - Medicare for All Act of 2019? Please explain your answer.

Please refer to my platform at <https://votetdanbaker.com/tdans-platform/> where I voice my support for:

- Universal Health Care (Plus Public Option): It is a Human Right! People should have the right to choose the kind of care they want.

The question is, "how will the country pay for H.R.1384, especially while expending +50% annually on 'defense' and in the face of needing to expend \$2.5 trillion over the next 10 years to combat climate change?"

The other question is how will the 11.8 million Americans presently covered under the Affordable Care Act be protected during the transition?

**3. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change we now have less than 11 years left to make sweeping social and structural changes to avert the worst of the climate crisis.**

**How will you address this emergency? Be specific and address the following**

**a. Do you support a Green New Deal as outlined in H.Res.109?**

Absolutely and this remains one of my top concerns and why I am running for Congress. Please refer to my website <https://votetdanbaker.com/reversing-climate-change-while-establishing-jobs-in-district-7/> where I introduce the “stretch goal” of Reversing Climate Change (while establishing jobs in District 7) by proposing to:

**• Establish the first all renewable energy municipality in the United States**

In establishing the first all renewable energy municipality in District 7, first and foremost what is required is citizen and distributor incentives to convert from fossil fuel based electric supply to renewables only supply. To be clear, several outside companies have attempted this in District 7 in the past, but households remain hesitant to switch their electricity supply for fear of a mishap in billing or getting stuck with an incorrect increase in cost. \*As a point of fact, renewable energy costs per kilowatt hour are typically 3 to 5 cents less than that of fossil fuel-based supply.

As Representative for District 7, I would work with local communities and all levels of Maryland state and local government: first, to identify the economic and environmental benefits of conversion to ‘renewables only’ for municipal electric supply; second, to move such popular initiatives forward while overcoming key roadblocks to making such a conversion successful; and third, to entreat and lobby the US Congress to provide support for this cutting edge, first of its kind, state and locally run, initiative.

**• Train District 7’s unemployed in solar and wind turbine manufacturing, grid conversion, and systems installation**

Developing a model for the “GREEN AMERICA” renewable energy employment initiative in District 7 will require integrated investment in both rural (solar array and wind turbine component manufacturing) and urban (grid conversion, electricity storage, and installation) development. To attract such investments will require incentives – for small and large businesses alike – in the form of favorable terms of land use and taxation so that existing and startup green manufacturing companies can in turn offer attractive and favorable terms to their employees.”

**b. Do you support holding fossil fuel companies accountable?**

Yes, but the issue goes beyond fossil fuel companies. As Congress do we hold those responsible for climate change accountable? Considering that GHG emissions can last in the troposphere from 50 to 200 years, how far back do we go in assigning responsibility/accountability? And further, what kind of fossil fuel companies (i.e. )? And is it just the companies that extract the raw materials? Or those that refine the raw fossil fuels? Or those that distribute and / or burn the fuels?

To this last question, please see my website <https://votetdanbaker.com/less-interventionist-foreign-policy/> where I propose under my third platform position:

## “• A 21st Century National Security Bill – Tanks vs. Terrorists doesn’t work

The United States has been on an overall upward trajectory in military spending from the time following World War II until present day. Certainly there are dips and spikes in the spending over the years but still the direction continues upward with more and ever greater spending. The United States government spends +50% of each year’s budget, some +\$600,000,000,000 (\$600 Billion), on defense, with one result being that the DOD has become the single greatest consumer of fossil fuels in the United States as well as the single largest institutional emitter of Green House Gases in the entire world. (Brown University)

Further, the US DOD has upwards of 800 military bases around the world and likewise that 11 US Navy Aircraft Carrier Strike Groups – capable of imminent warfare anywhere on the planet – are now on around the clock patrol of the worlds’ oceans 24/7/365. (DOD) In effect, the United States has maintained a permanent war footing worldwide and a permanent war economy in support of this preparedness for more than 70 years.

With such an immense force, my questions are:

### **Who are we at war against? & What ever happened to post-war de-escalation?**

It is time to rationalize the spending of the DOD to align with the greatest national security threat that exists. The greatest threat is not terrorism nor cyber-attacks, which we cannot fight with tanks and aircraft carriers anyway. The greatest threat is climate change!

I fully support maintaining a force more than capable of defending the borders and shores of the United States but otherwise:

- It is time to begin eliminating force redundancy while reducing emissions at the DOD!
- It is time to retrofit and convert the DOD from the single largest institutional polluter on the planet, to the institution that is leading the charge to reverse climate change!

If elected I will propose a 21st Century National Security Bill where the DOD evolves into the flagship US institution leading the WAR TO REVERSE CLIMATE CHANGE.”

### **c. How will you provide for a just transition for fossil fuel workers?**

Please refer to #3a, second bullet above e.g. recruitment and training into renewable energy jobs.

### **d. Please discuss the importance of climate justice for frontline and vulnerable communities.**

We’re all going to end up on the frontline at some point if we continue our “business as usual” approach toward climate change. How soon and with “what kind of cushion” will individuals, households, and communities be affected raises the climate ethical justice issues of *timeline* and *level of wealth*. The less your wealth, the smaller your cushion, the shorter your impact timeline. Herein our work to Reverse Climate Change must include *Mitigation* – stopping what’s causing the change as well as *Adaptation* – changing ourselves and our communities in preparation for what is coming. Please refer to my website <https://votetdanbaker.com/reversing-climate-change-while-establishing-jobs-in-district-7/> where I propose the “stretch goal” of Reversing Climate Change (while establishing jobs in District 7) as a first step in the joint Climate Change Mitigation / Adaptation process.

**“• Establish the first all renewable energy municipality in the United States**

In establishing the first all renewable energy municipality in District 7, what is required first and foremost is citizen and distributor incentives to convert from fossil fuel based electric supply to renewables only supply. To be clear, several outside companies have attempted this in District 7 in the past, but households remain hesitant to switch their electricity supply for fear of a mishap in billing or getting stuck with an incorrect increase in cost. \*As a point of fact, renewable energy costs per kilowatt hour are typically 3 to 5 cents less than that of fossil fuel-based supply.

As Representative for District 7, I would work with local communities and all levels of Maryland state and local government: first, to identify the economic and environmental benefits of conversion to ‘renewables only’ for municipal electric supply; second, to move such popular initiatives forward while overcoming key roadblocks to making such a conversion successful; and third, to entreat and lobby the US Congress to provide support for this cutting edge, first of its kind, state and locally run, initiative.

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**4. What steps do you propose to reduce the power and influence of large corporations and wealthy people over every aspect of life in America?**

Please see my answer to question #15 below and please refer to my website <https://votetdanbaker.com/reduced-corporate-influence-in-government-via/> where I propose the following:

**“• Term Limits – 16 years total time in Congress**

The idea of rotating representation in government finds its roots in ancient Greece and Rome where it was recognized that forces outside the will of the people – could more easily gain foothold and influence the will of government – through representatives who repeatedly sought reelection. The wisdom of just such a policy was supported by numbers of the founding fathers to include Thomas Jefferson and George Mason. And in fact up to the adoption and ratification of The US Constitution in 1789, the practice of term limits and rotating representation in Congress was the accepted practice. In 1808, Thomas Jefferson refused a third term as President of the United States establishing precedent of an unofficial two term limit for this office. And not until FDR in 1940 was this tradition broken leading the way to the 22nd Amendment ratified in 1951 restricting Presidents to two terms in office.

Though attempts have been made over the years at the State and Federal level to prevent “homesteading” or the practice of being in Congress for life, these attempts were made prior to the US Supreme Court Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission resulting in the pervasive influence of corporations and industries in our government or what some today have termed our US “corporatocracy”.

If elected, please join me as I seek to establish a combined, maximum 16 years total time in Congress further preventing outside, large corporate interests from influencing Congressional members who are “homesteading” ... ultimately returning us to a government, “of the people, by the people, for the people!”

**5. What are the three biggest challenges facing your district and how do you realistically believe that we can address each one successfully?**

Many politicians will tell you that they already know all District 7’s concerns and thus what the district needs. I have lived in District 7 for 15 years, and while ‘I think’ most people of the district want: *their income to stretch a little further; to feel safe and secure from violence; and to have equal access to health care, good education, and adequate food*, ‘I also think’ that the approach, championed by many of my opponents, lacks flexibility, open mindedness, team work approach, as well as a level of humility that most voters of District 7 – and throughout the United States – would prefer in their representative.

What I present in my campaign website <https://votetdanbaker.com/about/> is ‘Who I am’ and then ‘What I believe’ in order to give District 7 voters a quick glance opportunity to know me and my thoughts. However, when it comes to ‘District 7’s Concerns?’, I’m asking that all perspective voters visiting the site take 2 minutes to complete a brief poll to identify those issues, which are of greatest importance to them.

In the days prior to computers, high speed internet and smart phones, a district voted for a ‘representative’ who alone went away to Washington, D.C. to speak ‘for’ their district. The present-day approach I will take is to go a step further and to work directly ‘with’ District 7 voters to identify the majority (or at least plurality) position for how constituents want me to vote on any and all major legislation. My hope (and pledge) then is to vote ‘with’ – not just ‘for’ – District 7 100% of the time!

It’s an issue of ‘what do you really want done?’ and ‘what can we do together?’ Without community engagement and buy in, very little is possible. However, with community buy in and ownership, anything is!

**6. How would you address racial justice? Be specific and address the following:**

**a. Criminal justice reform, including justice for people currently or previously incarcerated as a result of the war on drugs**

Please refer to my platform at <https://votetdanbaker.com/tdans-platform/> where I voice my support for:

- Drug use Decriminalization & Clemency: For non-violent offenders
- Legalization of marijuana: And new research into medical use

If a majority (or plurality) of the District 7 community wants to investigate the misuse of mandatory sentencing and / or misapplication of Maryland’s Habitual Offender laws for example resulting in hard time for non-violent minor possession, I will work directly with the community to represent these issues in Congress.

**b. The racial wealth gap**

Please refer to my website [https://votetdanbaker.com/what-im-for\\_trashed/improved-race-relations-via/](https://votetdanbaker.com/what-im-for_trashed/improved-race-relations-via/) where I address the racial wealth gap starting with :

## “• **Universal Basic Income / Reparations – For Native, African, & Japanese Americans**

Show me a US citizen who’s not from an immigrant family and I’ll introduce you to the first of three US citizen groups long owed UBI/Reparations, Native Americans. The US government is guilty of domestic genocide going back to the time of President Andrew Jackson who was a staunch supporter and leading advocate in support of relocating Native American tribes – such as the Cherokee of North Carolina – from the South-Eastern US to West of the Mississippi River e.g. “Indian Territory”. This forced migration codified under the 1830 Indian Removal Act was known as the *Trail of Tears* during which no less than 60,000 Native American citizens were forcibly relocated with some 4,000 dying during the journey West. As a result of this flagrant abuse of universal human rights and the repeat taking of life, liberty, and property on the part of the US government, I propose from now into perpetuity that upon reaching adulthood all US Native American Citizens (=> 1/8th Native American) receive a UBI of \$2,000 / month.

And when we talk about most US citizens being from immigrant families, we must acknowledge that many of us – some 40,000,000 (40 million) US citizens – come from families of unwilling immigrants brought to the Colonies and later The United States completely against their will. Such kidnapping, imprisonment without cause *en masse*, and enslavement of some 600,000 forced immigrants from Africa brought – to what eventually became the USA as “free labor” – today is unconscionable. Such activities being condoned by the US Government, has never effectively been answered for nor restitution ever provided. As a result of this flagrant abuse of universal human rights and the repeat taking of life, liberty, and property, I propose from now into perpetuity that upon reaching adulthood all US African American Citizens (descended from slaves) receive a UBI of \$2,000 / month.

The travesty of Japanese American internment during World War II has also proved one of the darkest periods of US citizen race relations. Such activities being directed by the US Government upon its own citizens, has never effectively been answered for, nor restitution ever provided. As a result of this flagrant abuse of universal human rights and the repeat taking of liberty, livelihood, and property, I propose from now into perpetuity that upon reaching adulthood all US Japanese American Citizens (whose families were interned during WWII) receive a UBI of \$1,000 / month.”

Please refer to my platform at <https://votetdanbaker.com/tdans-platform/> where I voice my support for:

- Equal Pay: Same salary for same job
- Minimum Wage = A living wage!

### **c. Systemic inequities such as education, healthcare or housing**

Allow me to acknowledge that these are both massive and very clear issues that in fact exist. In seeking to raise awareness of these in the US Congress, I’d like to first discuss the details of each issue with my constituents to better understand what they really want done and what we can do together. With community buy in and ownership, I believe anything is possible!

Please see my answer to #5.

#### **d. Voter suppression**

Allow me to acknowledge that this as well is a super important and very clear issue that does exist. In seeking to raise awareness of these in the US Congress, I'd like to first discuss the details of each issue with my constituents to better understand what they really want done and what we can do together. With community buy in and ownership, I believe anything is possible!

Please see my answer to #5.

#### **7. What are some policies you would support to improve gender equity, including for trans and non-binary people?**

Please refer to TDan's platform at <https://votetdanbaker.com/tdans-platform/> where I voice my support for:

- Equal Pay: Same salary for same job
- Female Reproductive Rights: It is a woman's right to choose and have access to health care services!
- Universal Health Care (Plus Public Option) : It is a Human Right! People should have the right to choose the kind of care they want.
- Gay marriage & adoption: We all need love & loving parents!

#### **8. What is the most progressive legislation that you have sponsored or worked actively for, either as an elected official or as an activist?**

- Gun Control: License and registration to own.
- Legalization of marijuana: And new research into medical use
- Gay marriage & adoption: We all need love & loving parents!

#### **9. What legislation will you support or introduce to prevent and treat opioid abuse, as well as punish irresponsible pharmaceutical purveyors of opioid and other addictive painkillers?**

The United States has been here before going back to our country's addiction to early medical "pain killers" which included laudanum, opium, heroin, cocaine, as well as other opiates and narcotics. During this era (post-Civil War) the federal government recognized that the downside risks of doctors prescribing such opioids outweighed their palliative benefit at the patient and community / public health level. The same should be applied to Oxycodone and Fentanyl today making them illegal and taking them off the market. With District 7 support, I would welcome introducing such legislation while further supporting medical cannabis as a viable alternative. Finally, I support the ongoing legal action against irresponsible pharmaceutical purveyors who clearly have put greed and profit ahead of the safety and well-being of their fellow citizens.

Please refer to TDan's platform at <https://votetdanbaker.com/tdans-platform/> where I voice my support for:

- Legalization of marijuana: And new research into medical use

**10. What legislation or other policy changes do you support in order to make college and graduate school affordable for poor, working-class, and middle-class Americans and to alleviate the crushing loan debt that many students and alumni are facing**

As there needs to be a rationalizing of USG budget expenditure to align with high priority domestic considerations as well as defense, I will support revision or repeal of the legislation which allows for schools – likewise pharmaceutical & health care companies - to get away with charging exorbitant costs for study, for medicine, and for health care. I support the position that certain higher education should be tuition free for academically qualified students while at the same time vocational and cottage industry training needs a boost in support of the Green New Deal.

Along with rationalizing the costs of higher education, I support partial (or complete) school loan debt forgiveness commensurate to what a student has already paid relative to what the future rationalized cost of that education is determined to be. For example if I owed \$100,000 total for my Master's degree of which I have already paid \$40,000 - with a updated rationalized total cost for the degree of say \$50,000 - my school loan debt would become \$10,000 owed as opposed to \$60,000.

**11. What is your position on guaranteeing the right to unionize for all workers, starting with important "card check" legislation?**

Please refer to my response to question #5, in the days prior to computers, high speed internet and smart phones, a district voted for a 'representative' who alone went away to Washington, D.C. to speak 'for' their district. The present-day approach I will take is to go a step further and to work directly 'with' District 7 voters to identify the majority (or at least plurality) position for how constituents want me to vote on any and all major legislation. My hope (and pledge) then is to vote 'with' – not just 'for' – District 7 100% of the time!

It's an issue of 'what do you really want done?' and 'what can we do together?'" If a majority (or plurality) of District 7 wants to guarantee "the right to unionize for all workers, starting with important "card check" legislation, I will support this.

**12. Will you continue the push to pass \$15-an-hour minimum wage?**

Yes, and potentially more depending on 2020-2022 calculations of what constitutes a "living wage" relative to increases in yearly cost of living and inflation.

**13. Identify changes to our foreign policy that you would support in Congress. Include your thoughts on (A) America's recent and continuing military actions in the Middle East, (B) the number and size of American military bases in foreign countries, (C) international trade deals, (D) providing humanitarian and development aid versus nation-building.**

**Re. A & B:** Please see below from my website <https://votetdanbaker.com/less-interventionist-foreign-policy/> and likewise my answer to question #3b above.

## “• End Regime Change Wars – Apparently IKE was right

The United States is a country born from war and war has been an integral part of who we are as a culture and as a people since our beginning. Nonetheless, during my graduate training years ago, I was shocked to learn the United States has invaded 40 plus countries over the course of its history – many of which multiple times – with as many invasions since World War II as since declaring independence.

While I believe that wars fought in defense of a nation or an ally are justifiable, wars fought in the name of ‘prevention’ and/or under the obscure rubric of ‘protecting US national interests’, are typically wars of opportunity. These types of wars have repeatedly gotten the US into trouble over its history. A recent example of this is how following 9/11 – after routing the Taliban in 2001 from Afghanistan – US forces were received as liberators by the Afghan people. However, the very next year then Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld and his Deputy Paul Wolfowitz, diverted the almost \$1,000,000,000 (\$1 Billion) in US aid – meant to help Afghanistan rebuild – to instead prosecute a war of opportunity falsely presented to the American people as ‘protecting US national security interests’ in Iraq.

In 2011 during my 2nd year in Afghanistan as a US Foreign Service (Health) Officer, I began to question the strategy of the United States Government (and our coalition partners). At that time after almost 10 years into the war, the United States was expending some \$1,300,000,000 (\$1.3 Billion) EACH MONTH in support of the 100,000+ troops and 1,000+ civilians on the ground in Afghanistan. Fast forwarding to present day, Iraq remains more unstable and dangerous than ever and alas we are still at war in Afghanistan and with little to nothing to show in return. Or do we? Certainly the American, Iraqi, and Afghan people have little to nothing to show for the near \$2,500,000,000,000 (\$2.5 Trillion) (CBO) spent in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. However, for large DOD supplier and contractor corporations – lobbyist for whom carry immense influence in Congress – business is booming!

Suffice to say, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, retired 5 Star General and former Supreme Allied Commander in World War II, warned the American people in his 1961 Farewell Address of the following:

“Our military organization today bears little relation to that known by any of my predecessors .... We annually spend on military security more than the net income of all United States corporations. This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience.... In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the **military industrial complex**.... We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes....”

Considering that the yearly discretionary spending of the United States on defense is now more than 50% of the entire national budget – while programs of the people e.g. healthcare, education, social security, veterans affairs, and the environment all combined are barely 25%. And considering the absence of transparent accountability re. the expenditure of nearly \$2.5 Trillion over the last two decades in Afghanistan and Iraq, I say it is time we heed the prescient advice of one of our greatest leaders Pres. Eisenhower (nickname of IKE).

As such, join me in calling for an immediate curbing of the unwarranted financial influence of the DOD on Congress starting with a full accounting and reporting to the American people of the \$2.5 Trillion expended in Afghanistan and Iraq since 2001. \*FYI: \$2.5 Trillion is the estimated 10 year cost to begin reversing climate change under the Green New Deal!

Further, I ask that you join me in calling for a rationalizing of future DOD spending – presently greater than the defense budgets of the next seven countries combined – to more appropriately align with the greatest national security threats that exist to the United States today, climate change.”

**Re. C):** During the course of my career I have developed two international small businesses from concept to successful implementation both operating under then existing international trade deals. The first of these was an Environmental Engineering Firm based in Monterrey, Mexico started in 1995-1996, which was built on the precept that under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Mexico would have to raise its national Environmental Protection Standards to match those of the US and other industrialized countries.

In theory the idea was that American businesses could build factories in special industrial or ‘maquiladora’ zones bringing much needed jobs to Mexico and in exchange taking advantage of cheaper labor across the border thus making US companies and products more competitive globally. Though on paper and even at the outset the theory looked to be a WIN-WIN for both countries, given 1) the poor governance, corruption, and lack of leadership amongst the partner countries, the risks soon began to outweigh the benefits and 2) as NAFTA proved to be problematic, the Clinton Administration opened the door to similar type trade deals in other countries resulting in the tremendous outflow of formerly US factory labor jobs to China and greater Asia.

For future international trade deals, as these materialize in the face of climate change response, there needs to be a ‘DO NO HARM’ policy and a thorough in-depth long term forecast and assessment supporting do no harm on all sides. To sum up my point with an example, it’s time to close the US shoe manufacturer and clothing sweat shops in Bangladesh and elsewhere and start making these products again at home.

**Re. D):** Let me just say outright that “nation building” does not work and that Einstein’s definition of insanity comes to mind “doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results.” And if it does not work, one has to ask the question, why then does the US continue to attempt to ‘nation build’? ... to which I would respond with, please see my answers to #3b and #13A.

And having spent the majority of the last 30 years since Peace Corps working in international development overall statistics do not support the global development experiment as having been successful in helping less fortunate countries develop.

As for humanitarian assistance (i.e. disaster response), as long as District 7 constituents are in support – particularly with the ever increasing international disasters caused by climate change – I will support it with the caveat that the receiving country’s governance, level of corruption, and leadership does not result in the US pouring money ‘down the drain’ - or inadvertently funding the same terrorists we are supposedly fighting - as happened in Iraq, Afghanistan, and now Syria!

**14. Over 11 million undocumented people live in the United States; many live-in daily fear of deportation, of being separated from family members who are US citizens. Meanwhile, Immigrants pay billions of dollars in taxes, yet many are unable to access the public services that they help fund. What will you do to end the impasse on immigration reform?**

**Specifically:**

- a. What ideas do you have for facilitating legal status and ways to approach citizenship for undocumented persons already living in the US?**
- b. What policies would you put in place to support migrant workers and the US businesses who need seasonal workers?**
- c. Do you think ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) should be dismantled? Why or why not?**

From my Peace Corps Paraguay days in the early 90s onward, I have lived, worked, and traveled throughout most of Latin America. Having lived both sides of the border in northern Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and in Tucson, Arizona – where I taught and coached undocumented immigrant students - I’ve seen the realities of what’s “pushing” people to leave their homes and countries and likewise what it’s like to be an “illegal” in the US.

Much of this has to do with so many people in the Global South suffering under poor governance, governmental corruption, and a lack of leadership. However, taking a little deeper look as I did during my graduate program at Ohio University (MA International Affairs / Latin American Studies), geopolitical and global market forces have both had a large hand in why these individuals are willing to risk life and limb to make the trek to El Norte.

What these undocumented immigrants want is much of the same that most people in District 7 want, “their income to stretch a little further; to feel safe and secure from violence; and to have equal access to health care, good education, and adequate food.”

Of the 11.1 million estimated undocumented immigrants living in the US (PEW Research) some 800,000 are “Dreamers” or DACA recipients. As 86% of Americans support the right of DACA recipients to attain residency in the United States, the government should as well. If elected, I would fully support this.

Regarding the remaining 10 million undocumented immigrants living in the US, I would support a pathway to legal residency (and over time citizenship) for those with NO criminal record who are seeking to stay in the country, especially our agricultural workers. Of course this group would have to feel 100% safe to come forward to register which gets to the issue of needing to modify immigration policy to have less of a law enforcement approach – phasing out ICE which was established in the Homeland Security Act of 2002 following 9/11 – and looking instead to bring immigration control policy into a new Department of Domestic Race Relations & Cultural Affairs established under a new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Civil Rights Bill as per below from my website [https://votetdanbaker.com/what-im-for\\_trashed/improved-race-relations-via/](https://votetdanbaker.com/what-im-for_trashed/improved-race-relations-via/).

## **“ A 21st Century Civil Rights Bill – Covering all races**

Regardless of race what I believe most Americans want is to improve their month to month, have their children, and raise their families in safety while still enjoying their respective cultures, customs, and even different languages.

While nine Civil Rights Acts were passed by Congress (between 1866 to 1991), given the ever changing demographic makeup of the United States and the ever increasing outing of xenophobic and racist acts – largely due to modern communication technology – the time has come to take a modern day, multi-racial look at both inter & intra race relations and racial inequality in the United States. Within the ongoing US experiment – of an ever-expanding multi-racial population – are we as a country aspiring to have an ever more egalitarian and harmonious society or one which falls victim to its baser fears?

In line with the former, I propose opening a fresh, innovative, multi-racial, bipartisan dialogue regarding a 21st Century Civil Rights Bill addressing, existing and future, potential inter & intra racial priority concerns as well as the development of a new, dedicated, Department of Domestic Race Relations & Cultural Affairs at the federal level.”

**15. Will you cosponsor and support H.J.Res.48, to propose a constitutional amendment providing that the rights protected by the Constitution are the rights of natural persons only, and require federal, state, and local government to regulate, limit, or prohibit election contributions and expenditures?**

Absolutely! And this remains one of my top considerations in running for Congress!

Please refer to my website <https://votetdanbaker.com/reduced-corporate-influence-in-government-via/> where I address:

## **“• Repeal of Citizens United Ruling – End government for hire**

In thinking about the idea of three coequal branches of government, most of us want to believe that the government and its branches are independent of outside forces. Or as stated by President Abraham Lincoln, “democracy is direct self-government, over all the people, for all the people, by all the people.” Such leadership in words and deeds has provided most Americans the sense that we as US citizens are and should always remain the only influencers of government in these United States. This right of the people was first codified by the words of James Madison in The First Amendment of The US Constitution which states, “Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

No where in the Bill of Rights or elsewhere in The Constitution is there language expressing, “that government of the people, by the people, for the people” is the norm EXCEPT when large corporations and industrial lobbies gain greater power and influence – in the three coequal branches of government – than the people.

Nevertheless, the United States has come to a place in its history where in fact the Presidency, the Supreme Court and yes, the Congress are no longer independent of outside forces with each now a victim to the insidious and pervasive influence of large corporate lobbies and the dictates of the uber wealthy. There is no greater example of this outside influence than that codified by the US Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (558 US 310 – 2010), which held that the freedom of speech conveyed upon the citizens of the United States in The Bill of Rights equally protects corporations, unions, and other associations. However, unlike the **American people** who have “inalienable rights”, corporations, unions, and other associations only have those rights which are conferred upon them by the people.

Nowhere in the Constitution does it state that corporations are the same as people. As such please join me as I propose to enter the fight to overturn Citizens United removing outside, large corporate interests from government ... returning the government to the people of the United States!”