

# AIDS United 2018 Midterm Election Candidate Questionnaire

Q23. Right now, we are closer to ending the HIV epidemic in the United States than at any time in almost four decades. To better understand how Congressional candidates will work to build on the progress we have made and ultimately end the HIV epidemic, AIDS United has created this questionnaire. We ask that your campaign review and complete this survey by close of business on September 24th. This will allow us ample time to compile and release the results well in advance of the general election in November. We will publish the responses without edits. Thank you very much for your participation in this questionnaire.

Q1. Candidate First Name

Joe

Q20. Candidate Last Name

Walton

Q2. State Where Candidate is Running

Virginia

Q21. Congressional Chamber in Race

- Senate  
 House

Q22. Candidate District

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Q3. Party Affiliation

- Democrat  
 Republican  
 Independent  
 Other

Q4. Name of Party Being Represented

Libertarian

Q5. What are your views on the federal government's role in funding or supporting HIV research into potential treatment advances, prevention efforts, and attempts to identify a vaccine and a cure? What, if any, changes to the current HIV prevention and research agenda or funding levels would you propose?

It is absolutely critical that research on diseases like this be researched and cured. I am not aware of any needs (although more money is always needed) that could be solved with improved policy but would be open to hearing the issues.

Q6. What is your position on the use of federal funds to implement evidence-based substance abuse prevention and treatment strategies to help address opioid addiction? For example, what is your position on the use of medication to combat overdoses (i.e. naloxone) or medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to treat opioid disorders? Syringe services programs and safer injection facilities?

This likely should be best done by states through block grants. There are too many variables for a one-size-fits-all legislation at the federal level.

Q7. The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides HIV-related services in the United States for those who are uninsured or underinsured and has demonstrated its success at linking and retaining people in care, improving both individual health outcomes for enrollees, and a reduction in new HIV transmissions. What is your view of the current funding levels allocated to the Ryan White Program? What changes, if any, would you make to the program and its funding?

It sounds like it should be rolled into coverage by insurance programs.

Q8. What is your view of the Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) program, which provides funding for housing assistance and related supportive services for low-income people living with HIV and their families. What changes, if any, would you make to the HOPWA program?

I have not done extensive research on that and would like to see the evidence of results and understand where the federal government rather than the states would be the best place to solve it.

Q9. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has provided previously uninsured individuals with public and private health insurance. Please state your position on the ACA and outline your views on the best ways to expand coverage for people who cannot afford it or were denied coverage for some other reason (be it immigration status, pre-existing condition, etc).

I support the Murray/Alexander Bipartisan bill and other future changes that improve outcomes and lower costs.

Q10. What is your position on work requirements for Medicaid enrollees? What changes, if any, would you make to the Medicaid program?

None of which I am aware at this time.

Q11. Americans living with HIV are subject to outdated and stigmatizing criminal laws. Will you co-sponsor legislation in Congress calling for the review of all HIV criminal laws? What other steps, if any, would you take to help reduce HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination in the United States?

I am not aware this is a problem but support federal legislation to eliminate discrimination of all sorts (sex, gender, orientation, creed, color, ethnicity, religious preferences, medical status).

Q12. Do you support the 340B Drug Pricing program? What changes, if any, would you make to the program?

None of which I am aware at this time.

Q13. What is your position on the criminalization of sex work?

De-criminalize it for consenting adults.

Q14. More than 1 in 4 transgender women in the United States are living with HIV, and violence against transgender individuals is higher in 2018 than it ever has been. What do you think should be done to protect the rights and lives of transgender people living in this country?

Destigmatize and root out bias and discrimination about this and any other issue between free-thinking people of good conscience.

Q15. Are you familiar with Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), the preventative use of antiretroviral medication for people who do not have HIV, but are at a high risk of infection? Would you be supportive of expanding access to PrEP?

I am not familiar and so would want to research it.

Q16. Similarly, are you aware of the recent scientific consensus around U = U, which stands for Undetectable = Untransmittable, that shows that a person living with HIV who is on antiretroviral medication & has an undetectable viral load cannot pass the virus to their partner? If enough people were able to achieve an undetectable viral load, the United States could begin to end the HIV epidemic in this country. Do you support expanding services to find and link as many people living with HIV as possible to treatment and to help people achieve an undetectable viral load through assistance with medication adherence programs?

I am not deeply read in enough on these topics and would want to research it.

Q17. Do you support efforts to protect and provide substantial federal funding for family planning services? What is your position on the proposed rule change that would prohibit Title X funding recipients from providing their clients with a full range of medical options concerning their pregnancy, including abortion care, and increasing institutional capacity for HIV prevention services?

Yes, I support Planned Parenthood and am pro-choice.

Q18. Many documented and undocumented immigrants living with and affected by HIV are refraining from seeking out HIV and general medical care due to fear of deportation or denial of citizenship. Do you believe that health care providers should be safe spaces for immigrants living with and affected by HIV to seek care?

Yes, and I support vastly improved and modernized immigration laws.

Q19. What are your views on potential changes to the “public charge” rule that would make any use of a very wide range of benefits (including healthcare programs such as the Affordable Care Act marketplace subsidies, Children’s Health Insurance Program and potentially some Medicaid benefits detrimental to an immigrant’s chances at becoming a U.S. citizen?

I don't support that. I support a vastly improved and modernized immigration system.

