

CD 18 Potential Nominee Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Robert Slater

If you currently hold or have previously held public office, please list and describe those positions here.

Are you currently a resident of the 18th Congressional District?

Yes

If you live in CD18, how long have you resided there?

9 years

If you are not currently a resident of CD18, which Congressional District do you reside, and how long have you lived there?

Background, Education, and Qualifications

High School attended and date of graduation

Clear Brook High School 2001

College attended, degree obtained, major, and year of graduation

Westin Texas College, AA Business Administration | Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Institute, (CEC), BA Culinary Management

Graduate or other degrees obtained and year of graduation

Any Board Certifications. If you are an attorney, please list the states in which you are admitted to the bar and years admitted.

What uniquely qualifies you to represent the constituents of CD18 as their Representative in Congress?

Life often throws us into challenging circumstances, and for many of us, those challenges can feel overwhelming. As a child of a single mother, I experienced firsthand the struggles of navigating a world that sometimes labels us as statistics. Growing up, I witnessed the harsh realities of the criminal justice system, faced the uncertainty of homelessness, and dealt with the weight of poverty. But rather than allowing these experiences to define me, I chose to rise above them.

I realized that my background could be a source of strength rather than shame. Each obstacle I faced became a stepping stone toward my dreams. I learned resilience, empathy, and the power of community. These lessons fueled my determination to succeed.

Today, as a successful businessman, I stand proud of my journey. I relate to the people in my community who are still grappling with similar challenges. I want to inspire them to see that their circumstances do not determine their future. It's possible to break free from the chains of adversity and create a life filled with purpose and success.

Together, we can uplift one another, share our stories, and pave the way for a brighter tomorrow. Remember, it's not where we start that matters, but how we choose to rise and overcome. Your story is your strength, and together we can transform our communities, one success at a time.

What is your best quality or attribute? What is your least favorable trait or working habit?

As a dedicated professional, I thrive in dynamic environments where my adaptability and problem-solving skills shine. My best quality is my ability to connect with others, fostering strong relationships and promoting collaboration within teams and creating efficient infrastructures that will succeed on getting the job done. I relate to what other are going through. True empathy.

The one one thing I can work on is to get more sleep..The mind and heart are always working on problem solving

What prior elective office have you run for and what was the result?

US Congressional district 18, 2024. Suspended my campaign to join forces with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, yet still garnered 3% of the vote.

Describe any community service you have been involved with over the past ten years.

2017-Present- Peacemeal Foundation: working with and mentoring young men 12-17 years old teaching them culinary fundamentals then provide scholarships for continued education. (310 recipients)

2020- Operation feed the Firemen: Lead culinary operation teams in northern California to set up camp and feed 2,150 firemen and women.

2018-Present-WorldPeace Group: Mobilize and organize young students between the ages of 17-21 to pass out food,clothes, water and other resources to our homeless constituency

Affiliations, Tributes, and Awards

Are you a member of or affiliated with any professional organizations? Please list here.

Have you held any leadership positions with those groups, and if so, what was your position?

Have you received any honors or recognitions that may be relevant to the positions of United States Representative? If so, please describe here.

Philosophy and Issues

Should you become the Representative for CD18, what do you hope to accomplish during your first term in office? Before the completion of your service as a member of Congress?

Ensuring that the George Floyd act sponsored by Congresswoman SJL bill gets passed.

I am the only candidate that has prepared three (3) bills to start on day one of getting sponsored and passed.

1- Women Workplace Protection: This bill pushes to elevate acts of sexual assault and abuse to a Federal Hate crime level. For had the act not had taken place if the victim had not been a woman, the likely-hood of the transgression would not have taken place. Such law would supersede the power of an NDA and civil settlement and make the act criminal in Federal law. We must attack the core environment that has far too long supported allowed and sustain the behavior of the powerful against our daughters and sisters.

2. Victory for Veterans:

3. Recidivism Act-

If you are elected to this position, on which committee(s) of Congress would you most like to serve and why?

Oversight- Project 2025 and the delusional MAGA have staked this committee as there ground zero. I will be a General rushing to the front line to hold the line. Accountability has alluded the justice system by way of this Supreme court and the only way to distribute it is by law.

In what way do you believe your individual philosophy may impact your service as a member of Congress?

Congress has gotten too comfortable with not putting the people first. Too many deals being brokered and special interest influence has taken our communities for granted. As a businessman, I understand the value of reaching across the aisle, negotiating, but more importantly I understand that I negotiate to win for the people, not settle.

Why do you want to be a member of Congress?

I stand before you not just as a candidate for Congress, but as a testament to resilience and transformation. I have lived the struggles that many face—growing up as the child of a single mother, experiencing homelessness, hunger, and even incarceration. These challenges once defined me as a statistic, but I chose to rise above them. I turned my life around, embracing leadership and achieving success against all odds. I chose to run for Congress because the Federal institutions were designed to protect us from State intrusions. As Texas, its Governor and Republican led legislature insist on attacking the freedoms of so many Texans, the relief must come from the flank of the Federal Government. The fight for democracy requires different resources and strategies that must be yielded by new voices.

Now, I am driven by a profound purpose: to represent those who feel overlooked and unheard. Our nation is at a pivotal crossroads, and we need leaders who not only understand our struggles but have lived them. I am committed to being that voice—a representative who knows the weight of hardship and the power of perseverance. Together, we can inspire a new generation and build a future where every individual has the opportunity to succeed. The time for change is now, and I am ready to lead the way.

In what ways do the principles of the Democratic Party inform or reflect your personal philosophy?

My personal philosophy centers on the values of inclusion and the belief in second chances. I am deeply inspired by the Democratic Party's commitment to social justice, equality, and community support. I believe that it truly takes a village to uplift those in need, and that as a united community, we can achieve more together. By prioritizing inclusiveness and providing opportunities for all, we can enhance the quality of life for everyone. The Democratic Party's focus on empowering individuals and fostering a sense of belonging resonates with my conviction that every person deserves a chance to thrive and contribute to our collective well-being.

What are the three most important issues Congress must deal with and what is your proposal for doing so?

Women Rights
Voter Protection
Social Security

How can Congress (with Presidential support) better and more humanely control illegal immigration across the Southern Border or elsewhere?

To effectively and humanely address the complexities of illegal immigration, Congress, in collaboration with the President, must prioritize comprehensive immigration reform that balances security with compassion. This can be achieved by creating pathways to legal status for undocumented immigrants who contribute to our communities, enhancing support for asylum seekers, and implementing fair and efficient processing systems. By investing in border security that respects human rights and working to address the root causes of migration, we can foster a system that not only protects our borders but also honors our values as a nation built on diversity and opportunity. Together, Congress and the President can ensure that our immigration policies reflect our commitment to justice, dignity, and the fundamental belief that every individual deserves respect and a chance for a better life.

What, if anything, should Congress do to restore and protect abortion rights and rights of reproductive autonomy?

The right to make decisions about one's own body, including the choice to access safe and legal abortion services, is a fundamental aspect of personal autonomy and healthcare. In light of recent challenges to reproductive rights, it is imperative that Congress take decisive action to restore and protect these rights for all individuals across the nation.

Key Actions:

1. Legislation to Codify Roe v. Wade:
2. Funding for Reproductive Health Services:
3. Protection Against State-Level Restrictions:
4. Support for Telehealth Services:
5. Education and Awareness Campaigns:
6. Strengthening Protections for Healthcare Providers:

What do you plan to do to protect and expand voting rights and protect the basic tenets of democracy?

The right to vote is the cornerstone of democracy and essential for ensuring that every citizen has a voice in shaping their government. In recent years, threats to voting rights have emerged, undermining the principles of equality and representation.

We must

*Enact Comprehensive Voting Rights Legislation:

- Introduce and pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. These bills aim to establish national standards for voting access, ensure the integrity of elections, and restore protections against discriminatory voting practices.

*Expand Access to Voting:

*Implement Automatic and Online Voter Registration:

*Combat Voter Suppression:

*Enhance Transparency in Campaign Financing:

What policies and initiatives will you advocate to reduce student debt? What would be your approach to making higher education more affordable and accessible?

*Implement Income-Driven Repayment Plans:

- Expand and simplify income-driven repayment plans that cap monthly payments based on income and family size. Offer forgiveness of remaining debt after a set number of years of qualifying payments (e.g., 20 years) to alleviate long-term financial burdens.

*Increase Funding for Pell Grants:

- Significantly increase the maximum Pell Grant award to cover a larger portion of college tuition and fees, particularly for low- and middle-income students. This will help reduce reliance on loans and make college more accessible.

*Introduce Tuition-Free Community College:

- Establish a federal program that provides tuition-free community college for all eligible students. This initiative will enable individuals to gain valuable skills and credentials without incurring debt.

*Support Public Universities and Colleges:

- Increase federal funding for public colleges and universities to help them reduce tuition rates. Encourage states to maintain or increase their funding for higher education to ensure affordability and accessibility.

*Expand Loan Forgiveness Programs:

- Enhance existing loan forgiveness programs for public service workers, educators, and other essential professions. Streamline the application process and ensure that eligible borrowers are informed about available options.

*Encourage Alternative Education Pathways:

- Invest in and promote alternative education pathways, such as vocational training, apprenticeships, and certificate programs. This will provide students with diverse options for affordable education that leads to stable careers.

*Implement Financial Literacy Programs:

- Mandate financial literacy education in high schools and colleges to help students make informed decisions about borrowing, budgeting, and repayment. This will empower them to navigate their financial futures more effectively.

*Create a National Student Loan Refinancing Program:

- Establish a federal program that allows borrowers to refinance their student loans at lower interest rates, making it more manageable for them to pay off their debt.

What policies will you advocate to reduce poverty in our district? What are your strategies for economic development to lift individuals and families out of poverty?

Congressional District 18 faces significant challenges related to poverty, which impact the well-being of families and the overall economic health of the community. This strategy outlines key initiatives to reduce poverty and stimulate economic development, creating pathways for families to achieve financial stability.

1. Enhance Access to Quality Education: Invest in public education by increasing funding for K-12 schools and expanding access to early childhood education programs. Support initiatives that provide after-school tutoring and mentorship programs to improve educational outcomes for students in low-income families.

2. Expand Workforce Development Programs: Establish partnerships with local businesses and community colleges to create job training and apprenticeship programs tailored to the needs of the local economy. Focus on industries with high demand for skilled workers, such as healthcare, technology, and manufacturing.

3. Support Small Business Development: Provide grants and low-interest loans to support small businesses and entrepreneurs in the district, particularly those owned by women and minorities. Offer business development training and resources to help them thrive and create local jobs.

4. Improve Access to Affordable Housing: Increase funding for affordable housing initiatives and support the development of mixed-income housing projects. Work with local organizations to provide resources for families facing housing instability, including rent assistance and homebuyer education programs.

5. Strengthen Social Safety Nets: Expand access to essential services such as food assistance, healthcare, and childcare support. Ensure that families can access benefits without barriers, and promote outreach programs that inform residents about available resources.

6. Invest in Infrastructure Development: Advocate for infrastructure improvements that enhance transportation, internet access, and public services in underserved areas. Improved infrastructure can attract businesses and make it easier for residents to access jobs and services.

7. Promote Financial Literacy and Asset Building: Implement community programs that focus on financial literacy, budgeting, and savings. Create opportunities for families to build assets through matched savings programs and financial education workshops.

What can be done to lower the price of basic necessities such as food, shelter, healthcare, and other costs of living?

The rising cost of basic necessities like food, shelter, and healthcare has placed a significant burden on families and individuals, particularly those in low- and middle-income brackets. My plan aims to implement strategic measures to reduce these costs and enhance the overall quality of life:

1. Strengthen Food Assistance Programs:

- Increase funding for programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to ensure that families have access to nutritious food. Implement initiatives to reduce food waste and improve food distribution systems, ensuring that surplus food reaches those in need.

2. Support Local Agriculture and Farmers:

- Promote local agriculture by providing grants and resources for small and sustainable farming initiatives. Encourage community-supported agriculture (CSA) programs and farmers' markets, which can lower food costs while supporting local economies.

3. Implement Rent Control and Stabilization Measures:

- Advocate for policies that implement rent control or stabilization measures to prevent excessive rent increases. Encourage the development of affordable housing through incentives for developers to include low-income units in new projects.

4. Expand Housing Assistance Programs:

- Increase funding for housing vouchers and assistance programs that help low-income families afford housing. Streamline the application process to make it easier for families to access these resources.

5. Promote Public Transportation and Infrastructure Improvements:

- Invest in public transportation systems to provide affordable and reliable transportation options for residents. Improving access to transportation can reduce commuting costs, making it easier for individuals to reach jobs and services.

7. Regulate Pharmaceutical Prices:

- Advocate for policies that allow for the negotiation of drug prices and the importation of safe medications from other countries. This can help reduce healthcare costs and make essential medications more affordable.

8. Enhance Minimum Wage and Living Wage Policies:

- Support efforts to raise the minimum wage to a living wage that reflects the cost of living in the area. This increase will help families afford basic necessities without relying on assistance programs.

9. Promote Financial Education and Literacy:

- Implement community programs that focus on financial literacy, budgeting, and money management. Empowering individuals with knowledge can help them make informed decisions about their spending and savings.

What is your view about the necessity (or lack thereof) for gun safety legislation and what proposals would you support (and which, if any, of them would you oppose)?

Plain and simple. The right to bear arms is constitutional, however the what defines "arms" are not constitutional. Weapons designed for warfare should not be in civilian hands. Gun shows and trade-shows should not be legal and treated just as tobacco and alcohol products are.

The U.S. has used foreign policy to fight inhumane practices abroad and also to further our security and economic interests. What goals should the U.S. be furthering through foreign policy, if any? What tools should the U.S. use in accomplishing those goals (i.e., economic sanctions, military intervention, etc.)?

How, specifically, do you plan to help the people of CD18?

To mobilize and streamline effective results and communications directly to the people in real time. Utilizing the culture commission where we create a council consisting of the district precinct chairs, the super neighborhood presidents and community leaders. This will be the "Team" that I will directly brief monthly and consult with creating synergy with all levels of community to drive goals and results. I will

make a pact with the district where a report card process will be used to determine my effectiveness and if so I shall fail, then I will resign and allow a change. That is how you put people of politics

What do you plan to make your signature issue as a member of Congress and how do you plan to address it?

In Congress, my signature issue will be to tackle the challenges of recidivism and provide meaningful opportunities for individuals with criminal records to reintegrate into society successfully. Recognizing that formerly incarcerated individuals often face significant barriers to employment and housing, I propose the establishment of a national insurance program designed to mitigate the risks associated with hiring and housing these individuals.

My steps are:

1. Recidivism Reduction Insurance Program:

- This program would allow individuals with criminal records to pay a monthly premium, which would create a safety net for employers and housing providers willing to take a chance on them. By participating in the program, these individuals can demonstrate their commitment to rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

2. Risk Mitigation for Employers and Landlords:

- In the event of damages or issues arising from the actions of individuals covered by this insurance, employers and landlords could file claims to receive compensation. This framework would alleviate concerns about potential liabilities and encourage more businesses and housing providers to give second chances.

3.Reducing Recidivism Rates:

- By increasing access to employment opportunities and stable housing, this initiative aims to reduce recidivism rates. Individuals who feel supported and valued are more likely to succeed and contribute positively to their communities.

Campaign Plans

How will you convince voters of CD18 to support you before November 5, 2024?

Simply by being authentic, vulnerable and relatable. The fight is too great and too soon to be focusing on "selling" a politician to the people. I am HIM.

How will you support down-ballot Democratic candidates?

My plan is a 90 day comprehensive strategy that will benefit EVERY democrat in Texas this November.

How much money do you expect to raise for your campaign?

\$2million

How do you plan to raise the amount of money you have indicated in the previous question?

By mobilizing untapped demographics that exist, but have been discarded due to the party not being able to figure out how to reach them. I will create a coalition of young millennial's ,Gen-z, business sector, worker and trade unions and social justice focus groups. I will also bring in Republicans that wants to see the MAGA movement eradicated.

Democratic Credentials, Experience

When and why did you become a Democrat?

Which Democrat in your lifetime has most impressed you and why?

Barack Obama: He was Hope personified. Against all odds he offered the people a choice when the coronation of Hillary Clinton was taking place. Nobody took his campaign serious, he kept course. His run for presidency show us that when you bet on Hope, you get once in a lifetime results.

What involvement have you had in grassroots Democratic activities?

Have you ever been a Republican or voted in a Republican primary? If so, when and why did you become a Democrat?

No

Is there anything else about your background, experience, philosophy, leadership qualities, or skills as a campaigner which you would like to bring to the attention of the Democratic precinct chairs of the 18th Congressional District of Texas?

The deficit to turn Texas blue is small enough to overcome. The votes are here in Harris counties. There is enough votes in CD 18 alone that can flip the State. Who is going to be the candidate that inspires hope, inspiration and relate-ability that will set the excitement on fire? This nomination can effect the outcome of the Presidential race when we drive the vote up. I am ready to get to work and inspire. Join Me!

Is there any other question which we have not asked you but which, in the interests of understanding why you would be the best person to succeed Sheila Jackson Lee, you would like to address?

I was the last man standing holding her hand and ensuring she gets to the finished line in the political side of things. I am the only candidate that has an "active" plan in motion from the congresswoman that should be completed. By nominating me as the candidate shows that we as a party has heard the voices of the people and the national cries for change, new faces, new ideas and we are putting REAL candidates that has LIFE experience to the front lines to fight for them. That we are fighting back. That trust can be restored and the Party can lead, fight and WIN at the same time