



Candidate Questionnaire 2024 Cycle

General Information

Candidate Name: **Katie Porter**

Office Sought: **U.S. Senator from California**

Proposed Ballot Designation: **U.S. Representative**
(Or Occupation Listing)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Campaign Team*

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Elected Office

Do you currently, or have you ever held public office (elected or appointed)?

Yes.

If yes, which public office(s) have you held and when did you do so?

I've been honored and privileged to represent parts of Orange County, California, in Congress since 2019.

In 2011, I was appointed by then-California Attorney General Kamala Harris to serve as our state's independent monitor of the Big Banks during the foreclosure crisis. I was responsible for



holding the banks' feet to the fire on their promises to help Californians keep their homes and restore their livelihoods.

Personal and Political Background

Current Occupation:

U.S. Representative

Are you a registered Democrat?

Yes.

Have you ever been registered with another political party or selected "Decline to State" or "No Party Preference" for your voter registration party affiliation, and if so, for what period?

To the best of my knowledge, no.

In less than 250 words, briefly summarize your personal background (work experience, education, community involvement, etc.).

I am, first and foremost, a single mom to three school-aged kids: a sixth grader, a high school freshman, and a high school senior.

I ran for office in 2017 to stand up to giant corporate interests that are rigging our economy against workers and families. I've written several bills that have been signed into law, including legislation to stop Big Pharma's unfair price hikes, raise fees on polluters drilling on public lands, and hold Big Insurance accountable for cheating patients and taxpayers. I'm also proud that during the early days of the COVID pandemic, I used five minutes of questioning to secure a promise from a Trump Administration official that COVID testing would be free for all. These tests, mailed to all who requested them, were a vital tool that helped stop the spread of the virus and one that I secured as the last Congressman to question the official.

During the foreclosure crisis, I was appointed by then-California Attorney General Kamala Harris to oversee the Big Banks following the national mortgage settlement. I traveled across the state, meeting with and helping people in every part and pocket stand up to the Big Banks and keep their homes.

Before my election to Congress, I taught consumer law at several public colleges and universities, most recently the University of California, Irvine.

I earned my B.A. in American Studies from Yale University and my J.D. (magna cum laude) from Harvard Law School.



What endorsements have you received from organizations and prominent individuals? (You may either use the space below or attach a separate list.)

We've so far released endorsements from individuals including U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, CA Attorney General Rob Bonta, CA Congressman Robert Garcia, CA State Senator Josh Newman, CA State Senator Catherine Blakespear, CA State Senator Dave Min, CA Assemblymember Alex Lee, CA Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, CA Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, CA Assemblymember Chris Ward, and various state and local leaders from across California.

I'm also humbled to have the overwhelming support of National Union of Health Care (NUHW) members, having received their endorsement by a nearly 2-to-1 margin following a candidates forum with my top competitors and me in early October. I'm also proud to have the support of the Communications Workers of America (District 9), IBEW 441, IBEW 180, IBEW 569, and Adjunct Faculty United AFT Local 6106, as well as progressive groups, including the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, Vote Mama, Women in Leadership, and Women's Political Committee, Los Angeles, Democrats of Greater Irvine, and Lavender Dems OC.

How much have you raised?

More than \$11 million as of September 30, 2023

Why did you decide to run for this office

As a longtime consumer advocate, I've seen firsthand how giant corporations use their outsized influence in Washington, DC, to game our political system and rig the rules against everyday people. That's why I first ran for office six years ago – to shake up the status quo and get the federal government working for all Americans, not faceless multinational corporations. In that time, I'm proud to have gone toe-to-toe with some of the country's most powerful CEOs and government officials, demanding accountability for workers and communities and fighting to achieve real change for the Californians I represent. Now, I'm eager to take that same fight to the Senate.

Undoubtedly, Washington caters to the desires of billionaires and the most powerful corporations – leaving most Americans behind. And so much of that catering happens in the U.S. Senate. With this election, California has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to send one of its strongest warriors to Shake Up the Senate and challenge the status quo. I didn't go to Washington to play by the rules; I went to Washington to rewrite them. And that's precisely what I'll do in the United States Senate.

I am known in Congress for calling out corruption and passing legislation to hold corporate cheaters accountable. I'm also just one of 11 members to reject federal lobbyist money and one of the few members who has never taken a cent from corporate PACs. In fact, I'm the only top



candidate in this race who has never taken corporate PAC money and the only one who refuses donations from federal lobbyists and corporate executives from Big Oil, Big Pharma, or the Big Banks. We need more leaders in the U.S. Senate who will do things differently and get the government working for people – not corporations.

If you are elected what are your top 3 goals?

The top three issues I would focus on while representing California in the U.S. Senate are:

1. Stand up to corporate special interests and fight corruption in Washington.
2. Lower housing costs to keep people in their homes and connected to their communities.
3. Take bold action on our climate crisis, including through continued investments in clean energy and by holding polluters accountable.

For too long, Washington has catered to the desires of giant corporations and political insiders instead of the needs of everyday families. As a member of Congress, I've pushed for legislation to crack down on corruption in DC, including by banning top officials from trading stocks, instituting stricter disclosure rules for top officials (including disclosure of any federal grants, loans, and contracts received by lawmakers and their senior staff and families), getting dark money out of politics, and enacting a code of ethics for our Supreme Court. By cleaning up Washington, we can unrig the rules so the needs of everyday families – like lower prices for food, energy, housing, health care, and other needs; better protections for workers; and safer communities for all – finally come before the profits of big corporations.

My other main priority is housing. I'm constantly hearing from working families that they're worried about the skyrocketing costs of housing in California. That's why I've said since Day 1 of this campaign that housing affordability must be top of mind for California's next U.S. Senator. During my time in Congress, I've strongly advocated for making meaningful federal investments in housing – something we haven't done in roughly 80 years. It's past time we invest in building and incentivizing millions more units of workforce and affordable housing while also funding project-based vouchers to accompany those units. We must also fully fund Section 8 at the federal level and expand the availability of the Low Income Tax Credit. Additionally, I'm interested in innovative housing finance models that attempt to find a middle ground between renting lease-to-lease and a thirty-year fixed-rate mortgage.

Finally, I'm keenly focused on spearheading legislation to combat the climate crisis, which threatens the lives, livelihoods, and communities of all Californians. Over the last several years, I've introduced legislation to reduce carbon emissions in the transportation sector sharply, make our communities more resilient to extreme weather events, and end unfair tax breaks and giveaways to the oil industry. I'm also pushing for more significant investments in clean energy. I strongly believe that whoever dominates the clean energy space today will have the most robust



economy tomorrow. Clean energy has the potential to unlock thousands of well-paid union jobs in construction, manufacturing, research, education, and more in communities across the state. I also support efforts to empower workers so that no one gets left behind as we push boldly toward a renewable energy economy.

Previously held positions:

In the 2022-2024 cycle have you:

<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Have you affirmed to any other organization to boycott or not take trips to Israel from any particular sponsor to learn about Israel or Palestine?
<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Have you affirmed to any other organization that you will oppose police exchange programs for Israel?
<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Have you affirmed to any other organization that you support groups like Students for Justice in Palestine (which has urged defunding of mainstream Jewish groups that do not focus on Israel such as Hillel and the JCRC).
<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Have you affirmed to any other organization that you support urging banks, municipal councils, churches, pension funds and universities to withdraw investing in Israel and Israeli companies that “sustain Israeli Apartheid?” Note: the Biden Administration and U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders have both made clear that Israel is not an Apartheid state.
<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Have you endorsed, supported or opposed any bills as a result of your position, would reduce, withhold or condition aid to Israel?

In the past five years, have you:

<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	belonged to an organization that has taken action or formally expressed a viewpoint on Israel or related issues?
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	participated in an organized activity, including a forum, on Israel or related issues; or
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	while holding office, introduced or co-sponsored legislation (other than purely ceremonial, supportive measures) on Israel or related issues or the Jewish community?



Policy Questions

Please describe your positions on the following issues. Please limit your responses to 250 words for each response. If you wish, one response may include up to 500 words.

EXPERIENCE AND RELATIONSHIPS

1. Please describe your last trip to Israel and the Middle East, including the year of the trip and any group that arranged or sponsored the trip. If you have not yet been to Israel, when and to where do you plan on going in Israel, and the region generally, for your trip?

I made an official visit to Israel this past February to see and hear their challenges and successes firsthand. Throughout my visit, I witnessed the Israeli people's innovation, creativity, and resilience. I met with high-ranking elected leaders, learned from Israeli experts, and visited the World Holocaust Remembrance Center Yad Vashem. I also pushed for a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to reaffirm the special relationship between the U.S. and Israel and to emphasize our country's shared values of democracy and human rights.

2. Who do you speak with to develop your positions and views on Israel and the Middle East, including people overseas and local leaders in California?

I've met with various advocacy organizations committed to protecting the special bond between the U.S. and Israel, including both J-Street and AIPAC, as well as top Israeli officials such as Labor Party Leader Merav Michaeli and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. I'm also deeply involved with local Jewish congregations and regularly work with University Synagogue in Irvine, CA.

3. Please describe your relationship, if any, with the Israeli-American and Jewish community in your community.

Orange County is fortunate to be home to a vibrant and thriving Israeli-American and Jewish community. I've worked closely with and regularly engage local synagogues, including through town hall meetings at University Synagogue in Irvine.

I've been adamant about condemning local incidents of hate against Jews, in addition to incidents that take place outside our community. Moreover, following the recent barbaric and shameful terrorist attack on Israel at the hands of Hamas, I recorded a video for



Orange County's Jewish community to make clear my unwavering support for Israel's right to exist and defend itself.

I've made it a priority to educate our community about the shameful legacy of genocide against Jewish people worldwide. For example, I successfully pushed to bring the Holocaust Museum's traveling exhibit to Orange County. The exhibition's stated goal was to "challenge people to not only ask 'what would I have done?' but also, 'what will I do?'" I thought that was an important question for our community to reflect on—particularly as hate crimes continue to rise in our state, including against the Jewish community.

GOALS AND POLICY

4. If elected, what committees and organizations would you try to be active in, and what policy areas would you try to affect that are relevant to Israel and the Middle East?

I've worked with various pro-Israel advocacy groups throughout my time in Congress, including both J-Street and AIPAC.

I believe we must protect the special bond between the U.S. and Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East. A strong U.S.-Israel relationship is essential to regional stability and global security, and such stability and security keeps Americans safe at home. The U.S. should center peace and stability in the Middle East as it makes foreign policy decisions, with the goal of all parties ultimately reaching a negotiated two-state solution that both 1) ensures Israel's future as a Jewish and democratic state, and 2) upholds the rights of Palestinians to live freely in their own secure state.

We must also stand firm against the Iranian regime, which is backing anti-Israel terrorist organizations like Hamas and Hezbollah. I've worked with both Democrats and Republicans to urge stricter sanctions against Iran, and I'm leading efforts in Congress to boost transparency of U.S. policy towards Iran.

5. Over the past decade, there has been a small but growing movement around the country to divest from Israel. These groups often use anti-Semitic language in their efforts, some target Jewish students on campuses and instead of discussing how to engage the democratic-process to challenge Israeli policies that may be objectionable, they try to delegitimize Israel or question its right to exist. In short, these are frequently attempts to influence state and local governments and their universities and pension



boards not to invest in Israeli companies or companies that do business anywhere in Israel.

What is your view on the Israel boycott and divestment movement and what policy steps would you take to address this, if any?

These ideological battles sow division among Jews and detract from the need for urgent action on the most violent and deadly threats to the Jewish community. I have consistently opposed anti-semitism and BDS, and I've consistently backed legislation that condemns both BDS and any attempts to undermine the existence of Israel.

6. The FBI's Uniform Crime Report for 2014 showed that there were more than 609 anti-Jewish hate crimes in the United States that year and even today, Jews were the most persecuted and targeted religious group in the country.

What steps would you take (for example, in the education and law enforcement arenas) to help prevent current and future anti-Jewish hatred and anti-Semitic activity in your jurisdiction?

Hate has no place in our communities, and it's on all of us to work to combat it. I consistently and publicly denounce incidents of hate against the Jewish community, and I was an early backer of the Biden Administration's first-ever national strategy to counter anti-Semitism. I've also fought for and delivered more federal funding for community-based approaches to combat hate crimes in last year's budget bill. And during the pandemic, I hosted a virtual town hall with the Anti-Defamation League on how kids, parents, and teens can curb online hate and identity disinformation.

I've also worked to educate communities about anti-semitism and the shameful legacy of genocide against Jewish people worldwide. I pushed to bring the Holocaust Museum's traveling exhibit to Orange County, and I helped organize a bipartisan visit to the Holocaust Museum during my first year in office for other freshmen lawmakers.

7. As a Democrat, what steps can we take to help fight anti-Semitism on both the left and the right?

It's incumbent on all American officials, regardless of political affiliation, to stand firm against anti-Semitism. I will continue using my voice to publicly condemn hate and bigotry against the Jewish people, while also pushing for more federal resources to actively combat anti-Semitism in our communities. I will work with anyone – Democrat, Republican, or Independent – to better protect Jewish people from hate. And as I have demonstrated, I am willing to call out members of Congress, regardless of Party, for anti-Semitic rhetoric.



8. (answer a or b as applicable to the office you are running for)

a. If a candidate for Federal Office, what limits or conditions do you think should be on aid to Israel?

I am horrified by the recent attack against Israel by Hamas and have since repeatedly reiterated my long-held position that Israel has the right to defend itself. As a global leader, the U.S. must work with our allies to help deliver justice through continued assistance to Israel, while also doing what we can to protect innocent civilians, both Israeli and Palestinian.

I've consistently voted to fund the Iron Dome and I'm backing legislation to authorize more funds for joint research projects and cooperative security programs between our two nations. I also staunchly support the Memorandum of Understanding negotiated between the Obama Administration and the Israeli government and expect that Congress will continue to provide the annual security assistance it outlines.

b. If a candidate to any state office, what are your views on implementing guidelines against antisemitism including recognizing the International Holocaust Remembrance Association (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

9. (answer a or b as applicable to the office you are running for)

a. If a candidate for Federal Office, we have seen a rise of antisemitism on college campuses and communities, which view targeting Jewish institutions such as Hillel, or the local Jewish Federations as acceptable because they nominally interact with Israel and the Israeli community. What are your views on these tactics and is this acceptable free speech or discrimination?

I soundly and unequivocally condemn anti-Semitism, regardless of circumstance.

b. If a candidate for state office, DFI-CA supports the state's ethnic studies guidelines which contain clear antisemitism guardrails, however some local school boards have chosen to adopt a highly politicized "Liberated Ethnic Studies" version that paints all Jews as white or colonizers (actually over half of Israel's Jews and 33% of US Jews are from the Middle East, Iran, North Africa or Ethiopia). What is your position on supporting or opposing Liberated Ethnic Studies programs?



10. What other issues do you think are unique or important to the Jewish and pro-Israel community, and how do you propose to make a difference with these issues and keep in touch with the community?

In addition to supporting Israel, I'm an outspoken advocate for holding the Iranian regime accountable for backing terrorist organizations like Hamas and Hezbollah. I've led efforts to boost the transparency of U.S. policy towards Iran, and I have called for tougher sanctions against the regime.

I'm committed to listening to and learning from the Jewish community. I regularly meet with pro-Israel advocates and will continue to do so as California's next U.S. Senator.