



## 2026 Candidate Questionnaire

**Candidate Name:** Dan Schwatz

**Position:** Member of the House of Representatives

**District:** 1

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### **What drives you to seek this position and what strengths do you have that make you uniquely qualified?**

Three things drive me. The first one is my kids ages 3 and 6 who know that we shouldn't be governed by bullies. The second is my wife, Megan who is a family nurse practitioner who has to clean up Congressman Harris' mess in the healthcare space everyday. After she spends long days caring for her patients in a healthcare desert, she comes home and has to do battle with health insurance companies who routinely deny coverage for necessary care. The third is my career in consumer protection and seeing this administration kill consumer protection at the federal level.

I know how the government should work and I know how to navigate all aspects of the policy making process—legislative, regulatory, and enforcement. It was my job to get state financial regulators from all 50 states to agree on policy issues and enforcement actions. So I know what it takes to get every state from Maryland to Mississippi to agree. For 15 years I fought for regular people, and have experience standing up to billionaires—like CZ, CEO of Binance—and holding them accountable when they break the law.

### **Policymakers face difficult decisions that at times present conflicts between their personal values, constituents' competing concerns, and their chances to stay in power: what would you do in such situations?**

Every situation is different but it is my job to represent all people in my district, not just the ones who may have voted for me. But no matter how I vote, I will not hide from my constituents. Meanwhile Congressman Harris hides from the people of MD1, having held only two in person town halls in 6 years. I will hold monthly in-person town halls and always be ready to explain my decisions to the people of MD1. I think voters want honesty and transparency in how elected officials serve them.

### **As a member of the Democratic Party representing constituents in Congress, what would you do to address the impact of Project 2025 policies? Please include your plans regarding the gutting of lawfully allocated funds to programs and agencies through presidential recission and the firing of unionized federal employees without due process.**

I would fully support repealing the Big Beautiful Bill. I would also support restoring the CFPB and Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department. Congress must step up and do its job as a co-equal branch of the government and stand up to the President when he illegally impounds allocated funds. The courts cannot operate fast enough to stop the illegal dismantling of agencies created by Congress so flipping the House is essential to putting up a more effective guardrail.



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### **What is your position on support for Ukraine?**

Ukraine is a sovereign country trying to defend itself. We must continue providing aid to them. Any peace deal must directly involve Ukraine and cannot be forced on them.

### **What legislation would you champion to address immigration reform? What do you think is wrong (or not) with the current way immigration is being handled? Which specific civil rights of immigrants need to be protected?**

Masked men with guns tearing families apart is not the way to go about immigration enforcement. Due process must be protected. We need to actually prioritize the deportation of violent criminals. If an illegal immigrant is accused of a crime, they should first go through our legal system and if found guilty, then punished within our justice system. Deporting people before that runs the risk of denying justice to victims. And if we fail to provide due process, we risk punishing people who haven't committed crimes and getting US citizens wrapped up in immigration enforcement.

Free speech must be protected as well. Protests on college campuses are not threats to national security and revoking visas because the administration doesn't like what a college kid is saying is a slippery slope for the rights of US citizens.

We need a pathway to citizenship for long-term undocumented immigrants who pass background checks and demonstrate ties to work, education or US families. But they should pay some sort of fine or commit to community service. A more streamlined process for immigration that takes into account the needs of the US economy should be created. Instead of building a costly and ineffective wall, the border should be secured through modern means. Much of the increased ICE funding should be reallocated. We should not be spending more on them than the Marine Corps. Nor should we be giving \$50,000 signing bonuses to ICE hires while teachers and nurses drown in debt.

### **How would you address threats from the federal government to cut funds to rebuild the Key Bridge?**

I would keep the focus on the bipartisan funding that Congress has already allocated for the Key Bridge reconstruction. This funding earned bipartisan support because of the bridge's importance to the economy of the country, not just the region. I would also team up with members of Congress with ports and other key logistical hubs in or near their districts to provide strong oversight ensuring that funds for vital infrastructure projects are properly made. That coalition in Congress would include red states such as Texas and Florida but also blue states like California and New York. Issues with infrastructure at or near any port in the country have ripple effects across the entire country.