



April 9, 2026

APEC Questionnaire

U.S. House of Representatives - Currently filed for CD-9

To the APEC Board and Endorsement Committee:

I am running for Congress because I believe our system only works when the people actively participate in it. Too many Americans have stepped back while corruption and dysfunction have taken hold, and that does not change until people are willing to step forward and take responsibility for restoring it.

I am not a career politician, and I am not approaching this the way most candidates do. This campaign is rooted in the idea that representation should come from the people themselves, not from a system that has become disconnected from them.

The answers below reflect my positions as clearly and honestly as possible. They are not shaped by political convenience, but by what I believe is necessary to restore accountability and function in our government. If we expect real change, it must start with honesty about where we are and what it will take to move forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration for this endorsement.

Respectfully,

Marcus Carter

Candidate for Congress

1. Campaign Viability

Why are you running for office? List three of your key issues:

I recognized several years ago something that I just couldn't shake. Amid the corruption and dysfunction of our government, I realized it is not the fault of the corrupt for being corrupt. It is our fault for allowing it, and it only changes when we do something different. I never saw myself running for office until I realized that this is exactly what our nation needs from its people. Until regular, everyday Americans from across our country recognize that we, the People, are the solution to our problems, become more engaged in our self-governed society, and do the work necessary to place our elected positions into the hands of true stewards of service, nothing will get better in America. It will only get worse.

Now, getting elected and governing are two different things. Once elected, my top priorities will be mental health, the economy, and corruption. On mental health, I intend to introduce legislation that would declare a mental health emergency in America and form a special subcommittee to formally identify the causes of our mental health epidemic and develop solutions to address them.

On the economy, I believe the best place to start is the housing market. I will introduce a bill that bans investment companies from purchasing single-family homes, effectively protecting that market for whom it was intended, American families. Additionally, I support a nationwide home loan program that offers income-verified mortgage loans to any American at a reduced interest rate. I believe these two actions together would be the most cost-effective and efficient way to ensure a strong economy by restoring access to homeownership, allowing every American the opportunity to build the foundation of their own American Dream.

What is your path to victory and key voter demographics?

My path to victory requires constant direct voter outreach. Our campaign has proprietary software that allows us to pinpoint our target voters, currently active Republican primary voters. We knock on doors in our district daily, attend every community event we can, and visit different churches on Sundays.

Our preferred method of ballot access is candidate petitions, which forces us to engage directly with voters, helps us earn their confidence and trust, and is far more effective than mailers or commercials. We also rely exclusively on volunteers within the district and have built a team of more than 50 volunteers. Most of these volunteers I did not know prior to 2025, and many of them I met by knocking on their door.

It is the message that energizes people. We place the responsibility on the voter and challenge them to do what is necessary to return this country to the hands of the people.

As for demographics, this district is currently left-leaning Hispanic with a Puerto Rican Democrat incumbent; however, with redistricting, it is expected to shift to a right-leaning district. We have a number of Hispanic volunteers and always have translators available when needed. What we are finding is that Hispanic voters are not as inclined to vote based solely on identity, especially after years of underwhelming representation.

How much money will you need to raise?

The short answer is I don't know, but definitely not as much as people keep saying. A candidate following the traditional, career politician path might need \$2 million to win here. I believe it can be done with as little as \$300,000.

As for winning the primary, by taking a full-court-press approach and constantly engaging with what is actually a relatively small voting population, approximately 25,000 voters in 2024, I am confident we can reach the voters we need with as little as \$25,000.

We have our own in-house software, we do not hire consultants, and we have more than 50 volunteers ready to go whenever and wherever needed, often a dozen or more at a time. That makes up for a significant amount of the money traditional campaigns rely on. We are doing it differently.

Name your 3 top donors:

Bolivar Laporte - \$3,000. I knocked on his door, and he has since sent two checks for \$1,500 each.

Debbie Irish - \$1,100. I knocked on her door, and she has become one of our most active volunteers and donors, contributing multiple times in increments.

Jeanne Kline – \$600. I met Jeanne at a local conservative meeting. She signed up to volunteer and has contributed in increments throughout 2025.

What endorsements do you consider meaningful for your campaign?

I honestly haven't given endorsements much thought. I have always been focused on earning the endorsement of the voters in my district by reaching them directly. I have long viewed political endorsements as a method by which those in power stay in power, and an easy way for disengaged voters to rely on someone else's judgment, which contributes to a corrupt system.

That said, I am not opposed to endorsements. I understand the value they can bring, especially from organizations that conduct meaningful due diligence that most people do not have time to perform themselves. However, I would not accept every endorsement. I recently declined an AZAPAC endorsement, and I would also decline an AIPAC endorsement. I believe AIPAC is a harmful influence in our government, but replacing one form of influence with another does not solve the problem. Many single-issue PACs, regardless of intent, ultimately distort representation.

I would value an endorsement from Governor Ron DeSantis, and I feel confident that I am in a position to earn support from the FRA. Aside from that, my focus has remained on reaching voters face to face.

How will you differentiate yourself from other conservative candidates?

Focusing on mental health is a conservative-minded action that few are addressing, and that alone sets me apart.

Beyond that, the difference is authenticity and the lack of political posturing. I am not afraid to scrutinize President Trump, such as when it comes to decisions surrounding the war in Iran. My opponents have chosen to attack me simply for asking questions that should be asked before engaging in a war.

I support President Trump; however, I do not believe he is above scrutiny or immune from mistakes, something he demonstrated during COVID. I believe there is a misperception of what Trump represents. He exposed that the system is broken, but he alone cannot fix it. That responsibility belongs to the people.

My campaign reflects that belief by challenging voters to recognize their role, move beyond passive participation, and take responsibility for restoring the country to its intended foundation.

Are there any issues you consider “Bipartisan?”

Most issues are bipartisan if we had leaders dedicated to the interests of the people rather than themselves and their donors.

All three of my top issues should resonate in a bipartisan way. For example, banning investment companies from owning single-family homes may be labeled a liberal position; however, many markets in America are protected in similar ways, and conservatives support those protections when they serve a clear purpose.

What is your plan for fundraising, digital outreach, and grassroots mobilization?

Fundraising is my greatest obstacle. I am doing everything possible to avoid accepting money from corporations or special interests, staying true to the belief that if we want a government that represents the people, it must be funded by the people.

My goal is to help voters recognize that corporations and special interests are represented because they pay for it, while the people are not because they do not. With small contributions from many individuals, we can overcome this imbalance.

We are active on social media and have already generated millions of views. Our grassroots mobilization is currently a “fly by the seat of our pants” operation, but it is authentic and effective. Our volunteers are motivated and energized, and we are beginning to transition key members into more defined roles as we grow. There is no ego involved, only a shared understanding that this is something we must figure out together.

2. Core Ideology & Principles

Do you believe the 2020 election was stolen? Why?

It is clear that an effort was put in place to ensure Joe Biden won the election, primarily through fraudulent mail-in voting. There is ample evidence of drop box stuffing, arrests involving mail-in ballots, and other irregularities.

That said, what men intend for evil, God can use for good. In retrospect, it may be better for America that events unfolded the way they did rather than Trump serving two consecutive terms. I believe the time away was necessary for the American people to recognize what they should have been seeing all along.

Unfortunately, most voters do not follow politics in a way that keeps them informed, instead relying on what their preferred news outlets present. It is concerning that it took events such as indictments, trials, and even an assassination attempt to shift public sentiment. That reflects a broader failure on the part of the American people to remain actively engaged in maintaining their freedoms.

What is your interpretation of what happened on Jan 6? Did the J6ers deserve the punishment they got?

I am not focused on issues like this. It was clearly a setup, and it has been effective enough that it continues to dominate political discussion.

One of my strongest supporters spent a year in prison as a result of January 6, and it only strengthened that individual's resolve. There were certainly individuals who acted inappropriately, but the broader response was disproportionate.

If only those who engaged in clear misconduct had been held accountable, this would not remain a national issue. Instead, the situation was used to frame Trump supporters as a broader threat. This reflects political theatrics designed to serve the interests of career politicians whose positions were challenged.

Would you consider yourself America First, MAGA, Establishment Republican? Why?

I try not to apply labels to myself. I am a registered Republican after running as a conservative NPA in 2024, and I have been excluded from RPOF events, which makes it difficult to classify me as an establishment Republican.

I support President Trump because I see him as the individual who exposed the reality that the system is broken and highlighted a path forward. However, that path requires participation from the people. With over 500,000 elected positions in the United States, meaningful change cannot come from one individual alone.

I am not hesitant to scrutinize President Trump, just as I believe all leaders should be scrutinized. The current political environment has conditioned many supporters to reject any criticism, which is not healthy for a functioning system.

I also do not strictly identify as “America First,” as my guiding principle is faith first. I believe that adhering to foundational principles such as those outlined in Matthew, to love God and love one’s neighbor, naturally leads to responsible governance.

How do you define “America-first”? MAGA? Establishment?

I believe my previous answer sufficiently addresses this question.

Name the “non-negotiable” conservative principles you could never compromise?

Abortion is murder. There are two genders. Immigration must be handled legally, ethically, and efficiently. The federal budget must be balanced.

How do you balance limited government with the need for effective public services?

It is important to first define what constitutes effective public services. What is clear is that current spending levels are unsustainable. The national debt is approaching \$40 trillion, with nearly \$1 trillion annually in interest payments alone.

I do not claim to have every solution immediately, but addressing waste, fraud, and abuse is a necessary starting point. Government contracts and programs are often exploited due to a lack of accountability.

At the same time, the United States provides more support than any nation in history to ensure the basic needs of its citizens are met. While I support that objective, these systems are also being misused. The same applies to our education system, which continues to increase in cost while producing declining outcomes, despite significant federal funding contributions.

What is your view on the proper role of the federal government versus states and localities?

The federal government exists to provide the “United” in the United States of America. It serves as the binding authority that holds independent states together.

Its primary responsibilities are limited to its enumerated powers, including national defense, maintaining free and fair markets, managing foreign relations, and ensuring that state laws do not conflict with the Constitution.

Outside of those responsibilities, authority should remain with the states and local governments, where decisions can be made closer to the people they affect. This represents the core role of the federal government, regardless of how much it has expanded beyond those boundaries.

Do you believe the RPOF (Republican Party of Florida) is conducting itself in a way that promotes conservative ideals and supports conservative candidates? Explain.

The RPOF is currently influenced by entrenched interests. The same systemic issues that were exposed at the national level continue to exist within the party structure.

This has been enabled in part by voter disengagement, which allows these systems to persist. However, there is still an opportunity for the people of Florida to reshape the party into one that serves voters rather than special interests. That is one of the reasons I joined the Republican Party, to be part of that effort.

Do you believe in 1st and 10th Amendment? Please explain your answer

The Bill of Rights represents one of the most complete foundations for a free society in human history. The order of the amendments reflects their importance.

The First Amendment is fundamental, as the ability to think freely and express ideas underpins all other rights. Without it, no other freedoms can truly exist.

The Tenth Amendment reinforces the principle of decentralized governance by reserving powers to the states and the people, ensuring that authority is distributed as close to the individual as possible

3. Due Diligence

Have you ever been the subject of a criminal investigation or ethics complaint?

No

Are there past public statements or social-media posts you believe need clarification?

Not that I am aware of.

Do you have any potential conflicts of interest?

None that I am aware of.

Have you ever been arrested? Explain

No

Have you ever failed to file taxes, debts, or public disclosure forms?

No

**Are there policy positions you held previously that differ from your positions today?
What changed?**

I hold virtually the same positions as I did in 2024 as an NPA candidate. I previously supported an immigration amnesty program; however, that was before the Biden Administration's open-door policies, which have made such an approach untenable.

4. Constitutional Interpretation

How do you interpret the Constitution—originalism, textualism, or another approach?

Originalism primarily, although in many ways that is not far removed from textualism.

Should the Constitution be a living breathing document open to interpretation?

The Constitution is a living, breathing document, not necessarily open to interpretation, but open to change, which is why we have 27 Amendments today instead of just the original 10.

I believe the biggest problem with our Constitution today is that we simply do not uphold it. Many federal programs and actions are unconstitutional, but if no one is willing to challenge them, there is nothing stopping them from continuing. This is a major problem in government today.

Can you explain the idea of separation of powers? Do you believe we have instances where the separation of powers is violated? If so, please explain.

Presidents have long used executive authority to carry out military actions abroad in ways that bypass Congress and undermine legislative authority. Judges also attempt to obstruct executive authority at times, sometimes successfully, even if only temporarily.

The concept of separation of powers is straightforward. The Legislative Branch makes the laws, the Executive Branch enforces them, and the Judicial Branch interprets them. If each branch were fully committed to its constitutional role, the system would function effectively.

However, when those branches become compromised, they stop acting as checks on one another and instead begin operating in alignment with shared interests that are not necessarily aligned with the public.

What limits (if any) should exist on executive power?

The Executive Branch was designed to execute the law. Laws are created by Congress, and it is the President's responsibility to ensure they are carried out.

The President does not have the authority to create laws, nor to unilaterally determine the constitutionality of a law. That responsibility lies with the Judicial Branch. While a President can challenge a law's constitutionality through the courts, they do not have the authority to declare it themselves.

There are clear constitutional limits on executive power, and those limits are essential to maintaining a free society.

What is your view on the 2nd Amendment and gun-rights policy?

Anytime the Second Amendment is brought up, there is only one thing for me to focus on: mental health. The gun debate has become a disingenuous smokescreen that both Republicans and Democrats rely on, because it keeps the focus away from the real problem. While we argue about guns, Big Pharma and the healthcare industry continue profiting from a growing mental health crisis in this country.

The framers made the right to bear arms the Second Amendment for a reason. It is fundamental to preserving a free society, and that is not up for debate.

What should be up for debate is why we are seeing so much violence, and the answer points directly to the mental health crisis. Instead of addressing that, politicians keep the conversation centered on guns because it benefits them politically and financially.

I will not engage in a Second Amendment debate that ignores the root cause. Doing so only distracts from the real issue that needs to be addressed.

Are you for or against Florida's Red Flag Laws? Explain why.

As currently structured, these laws create the potential for firearms to be confiscated without sufficient due process.

I do support the idea that individuals experiencing severe mental health crises should be identified and prevented from causing harm, including with firearms. However, that must be done in a way that does not violate constitutional rights.

Under the current framework, there is too much room for abuse, including situations where accusations alone could result in the removal of someone's rights without adequate safeguards.

What reforms, if any, do you support in the judicial system?

I do not believe the primary issue is a lack of available reforms, but rather a lack of willingness to use the mechanisms that already exist.

Congress has the authority to hold judges accountable, including through impeachment. The problem is that this authority is rarely used, even in cases where judicial behavior appears politically motivated.

What is needed is a shift in leadership at the legislative level, with individuals willing to enforce accountability rather than defer to political or donor-driven interests.

5. Fiscal & Economic Policy

How do you feel about changing zoning bypassing local governments for more development?

Our government at all levels has been infiltrated and compromised by money, plain and simple. That is especially evident in Florida at the local level when it comes to urban development across the state.

What specific policies would you support to reduce government spending?

Balancing the budget must be a top priority moving forward. A significant amount of fraud, waste, and abuse exists within government spending, and addressing that will be a major step.

At the same time, tough decisions will need to be made. We cannot continue spending at current levels, and it is time to take a firm stance that meaningful cuts are necessary.

What is your stance on state debt and deficits? What concrete steps would you take?

I believe my previous answers address this.

Should entitlement programs (DCF, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid) be reformed? If so, how?

I have a specific proposal for Social Security that I believe is the appropriate place to begin a serious discussion on reform. The current debate tends to frame the issue as either saving Social Security or ending it, but attempting to do either in isolation risks significant economic consequences.

If we instead take a combined approach, we can begin to resolve the long-term challenges. By removing the income cap on Social Security taxes, we can generate the revenue needed to sustain benefits. At the same time, establishing a long-term sunset timeline, such as 30 to 40 years, would allow the program to phase out in a way that does not disrupt those currently relying on it.

6. Social & Cultural Issues

What is your position on parental rights in education?

Public education is in serious decline, and parents should not be obstructed in any way when deciding what is best for their children. Parents, not institutions, are ultimately responsible for their children's upbringing, and they should have full visibility and authority over what is being taught in the classroom.

Schools exist to support families, not override them. Any system that limits transparency or excludes parents from decisions about their children's education is fundamentally flawed.

What values should schools be required—or prohibited—from teaching?

Our education system needs to be overhauled to reflect the needs of the 21st century. The priority should be removing content that is used to indoctrinate rather than educate.

If anything is to be emphasized, it should be foundational principles such as the Constitution, civic responsibility, and critical thinking. Students should leave school with a clear understanding of how their country operates and what is expected of them as citizens.

Education should focus on preparing students for real-world success, not advancing ideological agendas.

How do you view religious liberty protections in the public sphere?

Religious liberty is a fundamental right, and every individual should be free to practice their faith without interference. In a functioning society, people of all religions should feel secure in their ability to worship as they choose.

At the same time, I believe the moral foundation of this country is rooted in Christian principles, and there should be no hesitation in acknowledging that. A society grounded in those values creates the conditions where true religious freedom can exist for everyone.

What is your position on abortion at state levels?

Abortion is murder, plain and simple. Government has a responsibility to protect the most vulnerable, and there is no group more vulnerable than unborn children.

While I recognize the legal debate around state versus federal authority, I would support a federal abortion ban because protecting life should not depend on geography.

How should immigration policy reflect conservative principles (border security, legal pathways, enforcement)?

The fact that this is even debated reflects how far policy has drifted from common sense. We need a complete overhaul of our immigration system.

That starts with securing the border and enforcing existing laws. At the same time, legal immigration should be structured in a way that is efficient, transparent, and serves the national interest.

We cannot sustain a system where millions enter the country illegally without consequence. A functioning immigration policy requires both enforcement and a legal process that actually works.

How do you feel about foreign influence in Florida schools?

Foreign influence in our education system should not be allowed.

Curriculum, funding, and institutional direction should be controlled domestically and aligned with the interests of American students and families. Allowing outside influence introduces risks that are unnecessary and avoidable.

7. Energy, Environment & Infrastructure

How do you feel about energy relying solely on green energy?

It is illogical. We are currently an oil-based global civilization, and that reality cannot be changed overnight. Any meaningful transition will come through innovation, not mandates that ignore the current structure of our economy.

Should NGO's and non-profits be subject to oversight by the public?

This is one of the primary avenues through which taxpayer dollars are wasted and redirected back into the hands of entrenched interests. If tax dollars are funding any project, it should be subject to public scrutiny, with very limited exceptions for classified matters that still require oversight by elected officials.

How do you feel about foreign interest buying Florida land?

I am generally opposed. While there are situations where foreign investment can contribute to economic development, government-controlled or adversarial foreign entities owning land in the United States presents a clear national security concern.

How should environmental regulation balance economic growth and conservation?

There is a common-sense balance that can be achieved without adopting extreme positions. Floridians have a strong interest in protecting their environment, and economic growth does not have to come at the expense of conservation.

However, much of the current failure comes from political corruption, where regulatory decisions are influenced by donors rather than the public interest. Addressing that issue is key to achieving a responsible balance between development and environmental protection.

What infrastructure investments should Florida government prioritize?

In my district, one of the most consistent concerns is traffic caused by overdevelopment without the supporting infrastructure. There is growing support for expanded rail systems to help address congestion.

While I am open to that, I believe the immediate priority must be addressing deficiencies in our road systems. We need to reach a baseline level where traffic is manageable before expanding into additional solutions.

At the federal level, I will advocate for the funding necessary to address infrastructure gaps created by years of underdevelopment. Going forward, any new development must be paired with the infrastructure required to support it.

What is your stance on climate-related policy and climate agreements?

The climate changes, and it always has. While that is not in dispute, the current political framing often exaggerates or misrepresents the issue.

Instead of focusing on narratives that drive policy without clear results, we should prioritize tangible environmental concerns such as clean water, soil quality, food safety, and public health. These are immediate issues that directly impact Americans and deserve greater attention.

What is your approach to U.S. energy policy (oil, gas, nuclear, renewables)?

We should prioritize expanding domestic energy production, including oil and gas, while continuing to develop nuclear and renewable technologies where they are practical and efficient.

Energy independence should be the goal, achieved through a balanced approach rather than reliance on any single source.