

MARIA'S LIST

Maria Jobin-Leeds
DEMOCRACY & EDUCATION

Candidates Spotlight April 2019

[Congresswoman Deb Haaland, \(NM-1\)](#)
[Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley \(MA-7\)](#)
[Congresswoman Lucy McBath \(GA-6\)](#)

[Congresswoman Lauren Underwood \(IL-14\)](#)
[Congresswoman Debbie Murcasel-Powell, \(FL-26\)](#)

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Deb Haaland
NM-1 ELECTED!

Deb Haaland became the first [Native American](#) (recent NY Times feature) elected to Congress. Raised in the military, both her parents served, and she continues their public service. She is a progressive activist, turned strategist helping Democrats get elected at all levels, and now she is a Congresswoman for New Mexico. As a single mother and tribal leader, she spent her life advocating for progressive causes and the marginalized - a commitment rooted through her parents.

On the Issues:

1. **Jobs and the Economy for All of Us** - level the playing field so that corporations, millionaires, and billionaires pay their fair share of taxes, whether that is investing in clean energy, the state film industry, supporting rural farm workers by investing and public school nutrition, the legalization and regulation of marijuana, the production of hemp in New Mexico and throughout the U.S, increasing the minimum wage to \$15 and deepening New Mexico's commitment to renewable energy. She also believes that for the economic to work for all New Mexicans, dignity must also drive our economy, whether that is expanding social security, ensuring access to SNAP, building a strong social safety net, women's equal pay, fighting for LGBTQ non-discrimination policies, expanding DACA/DAPA, protecting the sovereignty of Indian Tribes, expanding access to public land, and Medicare for All.
2. **Climate Change** — a complete divestment from the fossil fuel economy and related infrastructure. New Mexico must lead with a fight for 100% renewable energy, which can lead to thousands of new jobs while spearheading a more just transition of our economy, especially for the state indigenous communities across the country. Addressing climate change means building systems of shared prosperity, whether that means fighting to stop tax subsidies to the fossil fuel industry, direct defense spending to clean energy infrastructure, as well as ending fracking, offshore drilling, and methane pollution to protect New Mexico and U.S. air and drinking water.

3. **Quality Education** — decades of neglect have left New Mexicans at the bottom of all rankings for jobs, economic growth, and child hunger. Public schools are essential to economic and social mobility, to turn the tide on the past, **Deb** wants to make large wholesale investment for debt free college education, early childcare and education, protect Head Start, lead on career and technical education, comprehensive sex education, living wages for school support staff, reduce class size, stop standardized testing and build community schools. Most importantly, she also believes that we need to stop subsidies to private vouchers, push for a moratorium on charter school expansion, and end the school to prison pipeline.

Haaland's Campaign: Haaland launched an aggressive grassroots field and fundraising campaign led by former Hillary State Director and New Mexico Equality Director (NM was one of few bright spots in 2016). She earned the [endorsement](#) of the state party delegates and other key grassroots community leaders and the most support of local elected officials while ranked second in fundraising. She overcame her biggest challenge: she no deep donor networks that the other candidates had.

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Ayanna Pressley

MA- 07 ELECTED!

Ayanna Pressley is an advocate, a policy-maker, an activist, and survivor. Raised in Chicago, as the only child of an activist mother who instilled the value of civic participation, **Ayanna** understands the role that government should play in helping to lift up communities that are in need of the most help. Her focus as a City Councilor - stabilizing families and communities, reducing and preventing violence and trauma, combating poverty, and addressing issues that disproportionately impact women and girls - is a reflection of her 25 years in public service.

On the Issues

1. **Economic Growth and Opportunity for All** - despite a growing economy across the region, income inequality is a persistent problem that is pushing out longtime residents. **Councilor Pressley** wants to focus on creating fair economic policies that give tax relief to lower and middle-income workers, not the wealthy and big corporations. She supports expanding the earned income tax credit, social security, improving infrastructure, reforming Wall Street, supporting small business and aspiring entrepreneurs, empowering women to succeed, seeking fair and comprehensive immigration policies or fighting for family paid leave and LGBTQ right. She also wants to create good-paying jobs, that's why she supports increasing the minimum wage to \$15, major investments in workforce training, including apprenticeships and vocational education in advanced manufacturing and technology to help young people find careers.
2. **Education** — to build a more inclusive and sustainable 21st century economy, **Councilor Pressley** will prioritize improving public schools by

guaranteeing universal pre-kindergarten, debt free college, investing in school buildings, school food programs and in life-oriented education program. She believes that if we're going to arm our teachers it's with well-rounded support staff, students who are ready to learn, an environment that enables focus, the tools to teach and the salary that honors their craft.

3. **Health Care and Public Safety** — protecting the Affordable Care Act and push further by-passing Medicare for all. **Councilor Pressley** will continue her fight for women's reproductive justice health, lead on ending the addiction crisis, and enabling health systems to succeed whether through addressing the mental health component of gun violence or streamlining patient data for better treatment. Unlike her opponent, she will go further on public safety by demanding gun control, improving local law enforcement, and eliminating human trafficking.

Pressley's Campaign: Pressley launched a bold and aggressive multi-ethnic communications, grassroots, and fundraising program led by leading local and DC strategists, who raised \$100,000 one week after the campaign's launch and a total of \$364,000 by the end of first quarter. Following a tough primary, Congresswoman **Pressley** defeated the incumbent, then won the general uncontested.

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Lucy McBath

GA-06 ELECTED!

Lucy McBath is a two-time breast cancer survivor, career flight attendant, who became a social justice and [gun violence prevention advocate](#) for [Everytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America](#). Her national advocacy is inspired by the violent gun violence death of her son [Jordan](#). Locally, she created an [education foundation](#), in her home of Cobb County, tries to close the opportunity gap by providing charitable and educational assistance to graduating high school students attending traditional as well as technical and training colleges and universities. Now as a candidate to Congress, she is ran to move the wheel on gun reform and prevention, transform our public education system, and real affordable health care for all.

On the Issues

1. While her Republican opponent had a A+ rating from the NRA, **Lucy** advocated for background checks for all firearm purchases, raising the minimum age to purchase a gun to 21 years of age, and work to defeat conceal carry reciprocity measures and work to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers and other criminals.
2. Increasing funding to K-12 education, expanding early college and career technical pathways for young adults and adult learners as well as increasing federal funding for college scholarship programs.
3. As the daughter of a registered nurse and a two-time breast cancer survivor, **Lucy** will fight to make healthcare affordable for all Georgians.

McBath's Campaign: **Lucy** was endorsed by [Emily's List](#), had about \$52k in cash on hand and hired a Finance Director and General Consultant. Compared to her opponents, her cash on hand had **Lucy** way behind but given the deep democracy opportunities identified Maria's List recommends making an investment in this race and in organizations focused on increasing voter turnout of the Rising American electorate.

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Lauren Underwood
IL-14 ELECTED!

Lauren Underwood was a first time candidate, born and raised in Naperville, a registered nurse and former White House advisor and special assistant on public health emergencies and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). **Lauren**, who was born with a pre-existing heart condition, ran against four-term Republican Randy Hultgren when he voted to repeal pre-existing condition from the ACA in 2017. She [successfully defeated](#) six Democrats in an early March primary, including an incumbent Mayor, receiving almost 60% of the primary vote, out raising all of her primary opponents and her opponent the last three quarters. As the elected congresswoman, **Lauren** wants to create high quality jobs, expand access to health care, and increase the economic security of all district residents.

On the Issues

- **Investing in social-emotional, economic well-being, and safety of all families** is **Lauren's** top priority. This includes fighting for paid family leave, expanding child care programs, funding for public education, and open space.
- **Creating 21st century jobs** is while we protect incumbent workers, invest in small business, and looking forward by investing in local public infrastructure.
- Bringing her relevant and practical health care experience to **expanding access to healthcare** by protecting markets created by ACA, reducing prescription drug prices, investing in mental health care, and tackling the local opioid crisis.

Campaign Status: **Underwood's** campaign has earned the [endorsement of key progressive organizations, local and national leaders](#), as well as key editorial boards like the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) and the [Daily Herald](#) [both of whom endorsed Hultgren in the past]. **Lauren** was the lone Black woman on the DSCC's Red to Blue program for most of the cycle, and still managed to be the victor in the end.

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Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
FL-26 ELECTED!

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell is an Ecuadorian immigrant, first-generation American, mother, and a seasoned problem solver. For the last two decades, she has dedicated her professional and personal life to improving the quality of life and health care access for Miami's Dade low income residents. She successfully established and expanded a neighborhood health insurance program while working at the College of Health at Florida International University and at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. **Debbie**, a [first time Congresswoman](#), ran to restore the American social contract that benefited her family and has now disappeared for too many.

On the Issues

1. Making healthcare affordable and accessible is **Debbie's** top priority. She will fight for a bipartisan solution to fixing the Affordable Care Act and protecting Medicare while continuing her lifetime commitment to improving health access
2. Making college affordable and accessible by fully funding k-12 public education, expanding financial aid programs, lowering interest rates for all federal student loans while working on a plan to provide free community college for families
3. [Debbie lost her father to a tragic gun violence](#) and understand intimately the impact this has on families and communities. She sees gun violence as an epidemic and will fight for universal background checks, prevent those with a history of domestic violence or terrorism from purchasing a gun, and prevent firearms from falling in the hands of the mentally ill.

Mucarsel-Powell's Campaign: The campaign built an aggressive grassroots campaign that resulted in turning this red seat blue and resulted in both local and national attention with [key mainstream endorsements](#) from progressive mainstream organizations like [Emily's List](#) as well local/national elected officials like [former Vice President Joe Biden](#). **Debbie** benefitted from deep democracy opportunities in Florida such as the [Voter's Right Restoration ballot question](#), the 2018 gubernatorial, state senate races, and integrated voter engagement efforts, which drove turnout among Democratic base voters. Her team built [one of the best Democratic campaigns to win last November](#) and succeeded in taking out the GOP incumbent.