**Name: Javier Salas**

**District running for: IL 4th Congressional District**

**Political/civic background: Radio talk host, Advisor to former Governor Quinn**

**Occupation: Radio host, TV presenter, columnist**

**Education: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Truman College**

**Campaign website: www.javiersalasforcongress.info**

**Chicago Sun-Times Editorial Board questionnaire responses**

**Legislative priorities:**

Q) *What are your three top national legislative priorities for the country?*

A) National security, job creation and improving the economy for working class families,

and immigration reform.

Q: *What are the three most important issues in your district on which you believe the*

*federal government needs to act?*

A) Creating and improving jobs, supporting quality education and schools, and

substantive immigration reform.

Q) *What is your biggest fundamental difference with your opponent(s)?*

A) I am an honest, hardworking person who is passionate about serving my community. I

am planning to be a Congressman in constant contact with people in my district. I want to

work across the aisle to create fundamental change. Through my career in media and

government I have been and will continue being a transparent individual and advocate for

the voiceless.

**Transparency:**

Q) *Will you pledge to make public: a) your campaign schedule; b) your fundraiser*

*schedule and the names of all fundraiser hosts ; c) if elected, your daily schedule of*

*meetings? If not, why not?*

A) Yes, I pledge to make my campaign, fundraiser events, fundraiser hosts, and my daily

schedule of meetings public when I am your Congressman.

Q) *Please list all relatives on public or campaign payrolls and their jobs on those*

*payrolls.*

A) None.

**National security:**

Q) *What are the most important actions Congress can take to reduce the threat of ISIS*

*abroad and at home?*

A)

In

order

to

prevent

future

attacks

we

need

to

act

with

immediacy

at

home.

The

U.S.

government

needs

to

intensify

efforts

to

combat

terrorist

threats.

Using

San

Bernardino

as

an

example,

U.S.

authorities

believed

the

suspects

were

radicalized;

we

need

to

determine

how,

when

and

where.

I

support

President

Obama’s

call

to

Congress

to

pass

legislation

to

address

terrorist

threats

by

passing

a

bill

that

would

block

individuals

who

are

on

a

government

no--‐fly

list

from

purchasing

guns.

When

I

am

in

Congress

I

will

continue

to

support

this.

National

Security

should

be

a

bipartisan

issue.

We

need

to

reassure

the

American

people

that

we

are

doing

everything

possible

to

prevent

another

San

Bernardino

tragedy.

The

Federal

Bureau

of

Investigation

and

counterterrorism

officials

are

hunting

for

people

with

ties

to

the

Islamic

State

and

I

will

ensure

that

counterterrorism

efforts

are

properly

funded.

I

believe

we

need

to

identify,

monitor,

and

combat

people

in

the

U.S.

pledging

allegiance

to

the

Islamic

State.

Many

of

these

people

are

being

influenced

by

social--‐media

campaigns

and

impressive

videos

that

could

convince

someone

to

launch

a

domestic

attack.

American

agencies

also

need

better

funding

to

track

terrorist

activity

on

the

“dark

web”.

President

Obama

has

mostly

relied

on

airstrikes

in

Syria

and

Iraq

to

avoid

having

American

and

other

western

nations’

boots

on

the

ground

and

I

believe

that

is

the

right

strategy

for

the

time

being.

American

lives

should

be

protected

and

our

counterterrorism

work

needs

to

be

a

priority

for

Congress.

Q) *What bans, if any, do you support on Muslim admissions to the United States? Please*

*explain your position.*

A) I do not support any bans based on religion or ethnicity. The U.S. is a country based

on freedom, we cannot be held hostage to the political rhetoric of hatred. These ideas go

against the values of tolerance the United States promotes. I also believe it undermines

and jeopardizes U.S. troops and diplomats in Muslim countries by creating a more hostile

environment. This is as reprehensible as thinking that all Mexican migrants are criminals

once they arrive in the United States. This would go against the values that the

Constitution was founded on, especially the amendments that guarantee religious

freedom and due process.

Q) *Specifically, how would you have, or how did you, vote on the American Security*

*Against Foreign Enemies (SAFE) Act of 2015 and its efforts to make it harder for Syrian*

*and Iraqi refugees to enter the U.S.? Please explain your position.*

A) I would have voted no on the American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act or

SAFE. First of all there has not been a mass exodus from Syria, at the moment there have

only been 1,600 Syrian refugees admitted to the U.S. since 2011. The screening process

for refugees entering the U.S. is the most extensive vetting process of any visa. There are

several agencies involved in screening the refugees. We should be focusing the efforts of

SAFE to screen other types of visitors coming to the U.S. and counterterrorism efforts.

We cannot let political fear mongering be used to justify and deny a refugee’s entrance to

our country. This country was founded and is made up of immigrants just like myself. I

wanted a better opportunity and so do the refugees. There are several examples of people

who came to this country as refugees and are becoming hard working Americans.

Keeping our country safe will be a priority. I will make sure to reinforce the process of

scrutiny to anyone who wants to enter our country, but I will not support legislation that

would ultimately shut the doors to people who only seek to save their lives and their

families.

Q) *Do you support a Syrian no-fly zone or the U.S. enforcement of Syrian humanitarian*

*safe zones? Why or why not?*

A).

I believe the presence of Russian forces in Syria has further complicated the situation

in the area. In addition to engaging in air strikes against rebel forces, who oppose Assad,

Russia is also reportedly supplying anti-aircraft missile systems to Syria. A no-fly zone

requires UN Security Council resolution, which would probably be blocked by Russia

and China. A no-fly zone can negatively impact Syrian civilians in that area and block

any humanitarian aid that may come in.

Q) *Regarding the House Benghazi Select Committee, should its investigation remain*

*open-ended, or should the panel be given a deadline to complete its work? Please*

*explain.*

A) I believe that there should be a deadline to complete this work. America faces

dangerous situations abroad on a regular basis. With the findings of this committee we

can use that information to prevent any future attacks on Americans abroad. The U.S.

needs to make sure that the right resources are available to those Americans in other

countries. This committee should also have a deadline in order to use taxpayer dollars as

efficiently as possible. The resources being used on this committee could be allocated

elsewhere once the committee’s findings have been completed by the given date.

Q) *What measures, if any, do you support to give U.S. authorities access to encrypted or*

*“dark web” communications about potential terrorist plots? Please explain.*

A) As a matter of national security the U.S. authorities must have access to the “dark

web” and communications that happen within. Technology is rapidly evolving but the

laws in Washington have become stale and need to pick up the pace. This is a time when

a united Congress needs to step up and create laws that protect Americans from terrorists’

plots. This division of the FBI’s technology divisions’ funding has been stretched thin.

Our authorities need the proper funding and resources. As a nation we need to be able to

prevent terrorist attacks and not mourn them. However the privacy of our citizens must

not discounted.

Q) *Do you support transferring the detention of terrorism suspects from Guantanamo*

*Bay to the United States? Why or why not?*

A) Yes, I agree with transferring the detained terrorism suspects from Guantanamo Bay

to the United States. There are currently about 115 detainees at Guantanamo. Since the

Pentagon is considering bringing the remaining inmates to facilities in Colorado, Kansas,

and South Carolina as possible options, I see no harm in any of those. I remember that

Illinois was formerly candidate for these inmates. It is has been contemplated that the

prison would be under the administration of the Department of Defense. This relocation

plan would bring money and would create new jobs to the selected state. We must not let

politicians sow fear in our community.

**Gun violence:**

Q) *What is the single most important action Congress can take to reduce U.S. gun*

*violence?*

A) The most important thing that Congress can do is to make this a bipartisan issue. By

working together realistic change can be made. Congress needs to pass a bill to have

comprehensive background checks and have thorough gun safety training, as well as

finding ways to combat illegal gun trafficking and working with local law enforcement to

get those weapons off of the street. Over 90% of Americans believe in these types of

background checks. I respect the constitution and the second amendment but it is

imperative that American families feel safe in their communities. No one knows that

better than the people in my district.

Q) *Do you support or oppose the ‘‘Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous*

*Terrorists Act?” Please explain your position.*

A) I support this act and believe it is a step in the right direction. As a country we cannot

have weapons in the hands of anyone who would want to harm American lives. However,

in order to do that there needs to be extensive measures laid out in these types of bills.

There should be a uniform data system that works between states and the federal

government to prevent information from falling through the cracks when it comes to

identifying terrorists.

**Climate change:**

Q) *Do you believe there is scientific evidence of climate change, and is it caused by*

*human activity? What is your position on the Paris climate change agreement?*

A) I believe that human activity is the primary contributor to climate change. In recent

years pollution in the air has increased, water temperature is rising, and overall global

temperature has increased by more than 1 degree over the last century. There have been

no significant signs of improvement and our government needs to intervene. When in

Congress, I will support legislation that promotes green energy and encourages the uses

of cleaner sources in my district and throughout the country. I believe that the Paris

climate change agreement is a step in the right direction. It is great to see countries come

together to fight climate change. More than 190 nations agreed to try to keep the warming

level below 2 degrees Celsius and countries should begin to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions. It is also important that developing nations use green energy as they continue

to progress and use more technology. It is an ambitious agreement but I am optimistic

that this will lead to a sustainable future for generations to come.

**Economy:**

Q) *What changes, if any, to the U.S. tax code do you support and why?*

A)

The

U.S.

tax

code

has

become

increasingly

more

complicated.

As

a

nation

we

need

to

take

measures

to

simplify

it.

I will support legislation to change the tax code and to

simplify and eliminate exemptions that favor only the wealthiest while reducing tax rates

to the middle and lower class. This change would bring greater transparency to the tax

system. Americans are calling for tax reform. It is a concern for the people of the 4th

district and constituents have asked me to make it an important issue in my policy

platform. Congress needs to update the tax code to relieve some of the burden on the

American middle class.

Q) *What are the most important actions Congress can take to ensure the solvency of*

*Social Security?*

A) I believe that Social Security is a very important benefit and protecting that benefit

should be a top priority. I do not believe that reducing benefits will solve the problem. I

think that we should look to increase the payroll cap on contributions for those making

significantly more than the average wage earner. Also, by getting more lower and middle

class workers on the payroll, we will be able to fund those already in retirement and on

disability. I think that immigration reform will also help to address some of the funding

issues by allowing more immigrant workers to enter the country and start contributing.

Q) *Do you support a “risk fee” on big banks? Why or why not?*

A) I do support some type of risk fee on big banks to provide a deterrent to risky financial

behavior and to protect the American people from having to bail out these financial

institutions with their hard earned tax dollars.

**Health care:**

Q) *Should Obamacare be overturned, left intact, or changed — and if so how?*

A) The Affordable Care Act (ACA) should be improved, specifically the major tenets to

expand accessibility and affordable coverage for American families. Some areas that can

be built upon include lowering the out-of-pocket costs associated with health insurance

such as deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments, as well as reducing the cost of

prescription drugs. I was a member of Governor Pat Quinn’s team that implemented the

ACA in Illinois, providing thousands of people the opportunity to enroll in health care

plans and gain coverage for the first time. I will work against Republican attempts to

repeal the ACA while continuing to support and defend it, as well as increasing

affordable options and financial assistance for those who are still unable to purchase

coverage on the health insurance marketplace. Ultimately, it is important to continue to

ensure that we are working to decrease cost, increase access, and improve quality and

efficiency of health care.

Q) *Do you favor stripping federal funds from Planned Parenthood? Why or why not?*

A) I do not favor stripping federal funds from Planned Parenthood. Services provided by

Planned Parenthood range from delivering reproductive health care and information, to

providing preventive services such as breast and cervical cancer screenings to millions of

women each year that otherwise could not afford care. I will continue to defend Planned

Parenthood and work against those who hope to slash critical funding for these social and

health services that save the lives of American women.

**Immigration:**

Q) *President Obama used his executive powers to prevent the deportation of*

*"DREAMers—youths who came to the U.S. illegally as children with their parents. Would*

*you support legislation to prevent DREAMer deportations? Do you support putting*

*DREAMers on a path to citizenship?*

A) Yes to both Dreamers questions.

I am glad to hear that the Supreme Court recently

announced that it will decide the fate of President Barack Obama's immigration actions in

this term. The actions are aimed at allowing millions of undocumented immigrants

known as Dreamers (DACA program) and their parents (DAPA program) to apply for

programs that could make them eligible for work authorization and associated benefits

for at least 5 years. However, I would like to take this news cautiously. Let’s remember

that this is an election year and that many things could happen. We do not know who will

win the presidency in November and that outcome will be a major factor that will

influence our goal of achieving an immigration law that benefits the majority of

immigrant families. This is a temporary action that benefits only a fraction of eligible

immigrants. We need comprehensive immigration reform. We need to keep fighting in

Washington and create a new strategy with a new approach. My goal is to turn these

executive actions into actual legislation.

**Education:**

Q) *What congressional reforms do you favor to address America’s student loan crisis?*

A) The goal of any student loan program should be to support anyone who wants and is

able to go to college. We can help that by making the student loan process more

equitable and easier to understand. I also think that the federal government should not try

to make money off of students who borrow money to go to college. I would support an

income based repayment system for borrowers that would cap at a reasonable rate. I also

support the option for college graduates to refinance their federal loans to take advantage

of current market rates and would support a cap on interest rates for federal student loans

taken going forward. I also think we should eliminate the practice of interest

capitalization on student loans. I support tax breaks for interest on student loans and

childcare costs for people who need it to go to college.