

17th District Congressional Race Candidate Questionnaire

Chris Deluzio (D)	SUMMARY	Jeremy Shaffer (R)
Wrong Track	Is the country on the right track or wrong track?	Wrong Track
Yes or No Questions		
Yes	Should the country have an “all of the above” energy strategy?	Yes
Declined to answer “yes” or “no”	Should we expand gas and oil drilling on federal land?	Yes
Yes	Reform federal law to make it more difficult for opponents to challenge infrastructure projects?	Yes
No	Should the U.S. ban gas and diesel vehicles by 2035?	No
Yes	Should the country expand pipelines and infrastructure to export US natural gas?	Yes
Yes	Should Washington reform regulations to put apprenticeships on same footing as four-year college?	Yes
Yes	Should Washington cut federal taxes to spur job creation and investment?	Yes

Complete Questionnaire

In your opinion, what are the core responsibilities of the office you are seeking?

DELUZIO: PA-17's next Congressman must be an advocate for everyone in the district and should be proactive in addressing the economic needs of the district. They should prioritize investing in our infrastructure, protecting worker and union rights, and fighting to strengthen our region's manufacturing and job growth.

SHAFFER: The primary responsibility is to be an effective voice for the 765,000 residents in Congress. This means putting the country and our region's needs first above any political party or petty concerns. To do this I need to work with both parties to get things done. Some of the main areas that Congress should focus on include our country's finances, national defense, infrastructure, and social welfare needs. Congress also needs to work with State and Local governments to make sure all needs are handled at the proper level.

How are you uniquely qualified to meet those responsibilities?

DELUZIO: Service is foundational to my life. After 9/11, I joined the Navy and resolved to protect this country overseas. I've served at sea and in Iraq; now I protect our nation's elections at Pitt Cyber. Washington is broken and we need leaders willing to stand up to the corporate giants who are gouging us and against extremism that limits people's rights.

We have a system that is rigged against working families, from lousy trade deals and far-flung supply chains, to union-busting corporations and outsourcers making record profits being protected in Washington. I also think the fundamental rights I served to protect in the military are in jeopardy, and we must defend them against those who would attack our freedom.

Finally, I love western Pennsylvania. It's where I grew up, and it's where I learned the values that shaped who I am and that my own children are learning today. The hard-working people of this area deserve a representative who will fight for their values and interests – not party bosses, huge corporations, or special interests. In Congress, I'll always work for all of us.

Complete Questionnaire Continued

How are you uniquely qualified to meet those responsibilities? (Cont.)

SHAFFER: Whether it was on the Ross Board of Commissioners, running my small business, or even working with others to run our local library I have always worked to achieve consensus and agreement. As a Ross Township Commissioner, I was elected Board President on a bipartisan basis - when the other party had a 6-3 advantage. I have found that there is often much more agreement than people originally see. For example, if we can agree on our goals of having things such as good paying jobs, quality infrastructure, clean air and water, good financial management then we can discuss ideas to achieve those. I have always found there is overlap between the ideas to achieve a goal and that if we first implement the areas we agree on and avoid the most divisive areas we can make tangible progress and find more areas of agreement. I am someone in DC who will be part of the “Problem-Solvers Caucus”. I will not be someone on TV talk shows, but will be meeting with local community leaders (union/business/non-profits) to learn first hand their needs and going back to Congress to work with both parties to implement bipartisan solutions.

Would you say that things in the country are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

DELUZIO: Wrong Track

SHAFFER: Wrong Track

If you answered “right direction”, what policies would you focus on to continue the progress you see the country as making? If you answered “wrong track”, what would your focus in office be to put Pennsylvania back on the “right track”?

DELUZIO: Lousy politicians have let bad trade deals, anti-union laws, and outsourcing undercut our economy in western Pennsylvania; we can get back on track by investing in good-paying, union jobs here at home. Bringing more manufacturing back to PA-17 will empower workers, ease burdens on consumers who are paying the cost of far-flung supply chains, and give our domestic businesses a better shot to invest in American jobs. Additionally, we need regular and sustained federal investment in our infrastructure. We need a champion for American workers and American manufacturing to represent PA-17, and as someone who has worn the uniform and led Americans in harm’s way, I will always put this country first.

Complete Questionnaire Continued

If you answered “right direction”, what policies would you focus on to continue the progress you see the country as making? If you answered “wrong track”, what would your focus in office be to put Pennsylvania back on the “right track”? (Cont.)

SHAFFER: Our country is currently tearing itself apart from the inside out. We need to work together to be on “Team America”. Whether you are Democrat or Republican there are many commonsense items that we can together on to move America forward together instead of focusing on the most divisive issues.

Do you believe the country needs an “all of the above” energy strategy that includes nuclear power, natural gas, wind and solar?

DELUZIO: Yes

SHAFFER: Yes

What should the federal government do to ensure safe, reliable energy production across federal, state and municipal governments?

DELUZIO: I know that western Pennsylvania will continue to lead the way in securing America’s energy future. We have the best workers and are a hub of innovation, especially as we see growth in sources of energy like hydropower, wind, and solar and federal investments in carbon capture and storage and hydrogen technologies. Natural gas is a vital part of our energy mix, is a key source of jobs in our region, and will help us achieve our climate goals, alongside our strong nuclear sector and growing renewables. No matter what, I will always stand up for the workers of western Pennsylvania, our country’s energy security, and our critical task to act boldly to protect our environment.

SHAFFER: The Federal government needs to ensure that the permitting and approval process for projects is done in a consistent manner. Companies that are making major investments in our infrastructure need to know that permits for pipeline construction, drilling, plants, and other key infrastructure won’t languish in the approval process for years. We are facing critical underinvestment in energy production that will lead to dramatically higher energy costs if action is not taken. Western Pennsylvania offers the solution to make America not only energy independent but energy dominant.

Complete Questionnaire Continued

Do you support expanded gas and oil drilling on federal lands?

DELUZIO: Declined to choose the “yes” or “no” options offered and provided the following response...

Consistent with achieving our broader energy goals, we should keep open the possibility of some leasing for drilling consistent with the public interest.

SHAFFER: Yes

Do you support legislative changes to the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) to make it more difficult for opponents to challenge construction infrastructure projects such as pipelines, high-voltage electric transmission lines, and solar farms?

DELUZIO: Yes

SHAFFER: Yes

California has just acted to ban the sale of gas and diesel powered vehicles by 2035. Do you favor such a ban for the United States?

DELUZIO: No

SHAFFER: No

Do you support expanding drilling, pipeline construction, and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export facilities to export United States' natural gas to countries around the world?

DELUZIO: Yes

SHAFFER: Yes

Complete Questionnaire Continued

Do you support changes to federal rules and regulations to make union apprenticeships and industry approved technical training eligible for the same kind of public support, such as Pell grants, that are available for four-year college degrees?

DELUZIO: Yes

SHAFFER: Yes

Do you support cutting federal taxes to help spur job creation and investment?

DELUZIO: Yes, adding:

For working families especially. Billionaires and huge corporations should be required to pay their fair share.

SHAFFER: Yes