



PEOPLE FIRST

We hold each of these issues to be critically important, regardless of their position on this list.

- We must protect Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. The GOP wants to cut these programs saying these “entitlements” are bankrupting our country. Instead, we should buttress Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, and there are several fair ways to do that.
- We need access to affordable healthcare for all and we need a public option. We must reduce the cost of prescription drugs. There is an intelligent way forward on healthcare.
- We need better jobs in parts of the 5th district; we need to improve job training; we must invest in public education and the federal government has an important function to fulfill.
- We must recognize the indispensable role of teachers. We need to expand the discharge of student debt for those who teach our children (and for other roles).
- We need sensible gun laws under the 2nd Amendment; we need to fix the Charleston gun loophole; we must make our schools safe.
- We need a fair tax code. Right now it disproportionately advantages big corporations and explodes the deficit, putting the burden on our children and grandchildren. We must change that. Our tax code should be an extension of our collective moral code.
- We must protect the environment. As succinctly stated by a foreign leader, “there simply is no planet B.” We must do this for our children, our grandchildren and for their children.
- We must have a government that follows the rule of law with a heart. That applies not only with refugees at the border but also to DACA and so many other things.
- We need criminal justice reform. Everyone, especially younger folks, deserves a second chance. We need to administer our criminal laws rationally, thoughtfully and humanely.



- We need a strong defense and we must protect our veterans after their service. In addition to hard military assets, we must project the smart power of the US around the world by projecting our values, our traditions, our culture and our democracy. We must remain a beacon to the world by remaining true to our fundamental values on which our nation is based.
- We must enhance efforts to prevent intimate partner violence and we must eliminate gender-based disparities.
- We need to focus on improving the lives of all people including those who live in rural areas. We must improve Internet access in rural area and improve policies that impact rural communities. We need a “Rural Internet Act” to enable connectivity like the 1936 Rural Electrification Act under FDR.
- In SC-05, ratepayers who pre-paid billions of dollars for a failed nuclear plant in Fairfield County need to be made whole. There are ways to remedy this through the US tax code.
- We must recognize that the world is interconnected and interdependent, and we must cooperate with other countries on trade and not start trade wars simply to make political points.
- We need to fix and upgrade our deteriorating infrastructure including roads, bridges, airports, harbors, rail and public building (including schools). In so doing, we can provide jobs and improve the economy. We should reexamine and take lessons from the Civilian Conservation Corps in place from 1933 to 1942 as one way forward.
- We need thoughtful government budgeting, not just kicking the can down the road.
- We must address the diminution of democracy in the United States caused by partisan gerrymandering. Drawing lines should be done on a non-partisan basis and there are fair ways to do this.
- Right now, our Congress is effectively dysfunctional. We need members of Congress who will talk with each other, not in partisan sound bites, but pragmatically with the goal of reaching rational solutions with the goal of putting **People First**.

Please visit www.archieparnell4congress.com for more information.

Thank you.