



Barbara Lee for Democratic Caucus Chair

We are lucky to have two great candidates, both from the progressive wing of the party, running for the caucus chair position. Either one is well-qualified and would move the party in the right direction. But each has a particular set of strengths and skills and we believe (bias for our own MoC set aside as much as possible) that Barbara Lee is the choice best suited to this particular moment.

She has demonstrated amazing strength in her convictions and ability to face down enormous outside pressure. She was likely not the only member of Congress in 2001 who believed that an unlimited authorization for the use of military force in the Middle East was a dangerous abdication of Congress' responsibility. But she was the only one who was willing to face the consequences of saying so publicly.

In the years since then, she has developed her rare talent for getting out ahead on bold, progressive policy ideas and bringing her colleagues along, challenging them to keep up. We believe this characteristic makes her the ideal person to join the House leadership team and hold it accountable to the progressive grassroots that brought it to power.

And the specific area where Rep. Lee's famous political courage stands out most—responsible management of military force—is one of the places where we most urgently need strong Congressional action. The administration and its allies are making the world more dangerous: they are helping kill children in Yemen, threatening war with Iran, playing with fire in North Korea, all while spending unprecedented billions of our tax dollars on weapons and war machines that just make these problems worse. And for that last item, they have seen overwhelming Democratic support. But Barbara Lee wants to spend those resources on our communities, to give people health care and education and clean air and dignity.

She will be the voice for these and other progressive values in the leadership of our new blue House. This is a huge moment for our country, and her fearlessness and vision could make it the moment when we turn toward a better world.