



**How fast should the US move from coal, nuclear, oil and natural gas to renewables; and what can/should Congress do to speed up the conversion?**

**HIMES (D):** The conversion from fossil fuels to green energy and renewables should be carried out as swiftly as possible, taking care to ensure that it does not put an undue burden on Americans struggling to make ends meet. I am proud that the last coal-fired power plant in Connecticut, the Bridgeport Harbor Station, is being transitioned to natural gas and Dominion Bridgeport Fuel Cell provides 14.9 megawatts of electricity. Natural gas is a good transitional step, but remains a finite fossil fuel; wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal energy should be the long-term goals.

Congress can facilitate this transition by providing incentives for companies to invest in green technologies, helping consumers transition to this kind of energy and ending our subsidies for oil companies. Then we can move to cleaner, greener fuels that protecting the environment and improve health in our communities.

**SHABAN (R):** The United States should make all efforts to move quickly and efficiently to renewable sources of energy. I am an environmental lawyer and head republican on the Connecticut General Assembly's Environment Committee, so this issue has been at the center of my public service. Indeed, the transition to renewable energy is a proverbial "silver bullet" that can spark the next economic boom in this country and throughout the world. Not only can Congress fund research, it must pass long-term production tax credits to give investors and inventors needed confidence to develop and bring to market clean and affordable renewable energy.

**What would you do to move federal law to improve disclosure of the actual names of campaign finance donors?**

**HIMES (D):** One of the most important issues that we face is the disproportionately large influence of money in politics. After the disastrous Supreme Court decision in Citizens United, the floodgates opened and we now have virtually no accountability. I support a Constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United and also am in favor of the Supreme Court overturning its previous decision.

I cosponsored the DISCLOSE Act, which would strengthen the reporting requirements for outside groups that wanted to donate money to political campaigns.

**SHABAN (R):** Whether to donate and/or identify oneself as a donor has been protected in many circumstances as a form of free speech under our United States Constitution. Our options are limited. Still, I would support measures to make campaign finance simpler, sounder and more transparent. Indeed, our current federal representatives are the recipients of millions of dollars of PAC and special

interest funds + the source of which is largely hidden from public view. Federal law should track some of Connecticut's campaign/public financing laws concerning donors (which sadly are being undermined as of late) to promote transparency while avoiding many of the constitutional issues.

**What federal laws would you favor to reduce gun violence?**

**HIMES (D):** Gun violence affects the lives of every American through the loss of loved ones, the terror we feel after mass shootings and the damage to our communities from the scourge of daily violence. No one knows this sense of loss and pain more than we do in Connecticut.

I support laws that would institute universal background checks for all gun purchasers; ban assault weapons that are designed only for combat; limit the size of magazines so that killers can't wipe out entire rooms without reloading; and allow research into the health effects of gun violence by the CDC and NIH. We should also invest more in mental health services and local initiatives to reduce violence. I respect the Second Amendment, and understand there are responsible gun owners in Connecticut, but we cannot sit silently as gun violence against our families and communities goes unchecked.

**SHABAN (R):** I am the only candidate with both a track record and standing to speak to this issue. In 2013 I helped craft and supported Connecticut's bipartisan gun, mental health in school security bill, and have since proposed legislation to fund and amplify our efforts to stop the illegal interstate shipment of weapons into our cities + i.e., the primary ingredient of gun violence in our nation. I will make it a legislative priority to stop illegal gun trafficking across state lines. The federal government has failed on this front, as have our federal representatives. We need leadership and action -- not more excuses, pithy press stunts and histrionics.