

League of Women Voters District 16 Democratic Candidate Forum July 27, 2022 (Moderated by Suzanne M. Kavic)

Candidate Responses Ratings

Rating Methods

A favorability rating scale was used to rate candidate responses. When assigning values I asked myself 4 questions: 1) to what extent did the candidate answer the question? 2) How clearly did the candidate communicate their ideas? 3) Are the ideas high quality and actionable, and 4) do I agree with the ideas presented? Including the introduction and closing remarks, there were 12 response opportunities for each candidate. The maximum points a candidate could receive was 60, the minimum was 12. Responses are presented in chronological order by question, followed by a scoring summary table.

Introductory Remarks

Catherine Parker (minute 6:52): *On my to-do list for you: I will vote to support our infrastructure needs because we have leaking sanitary sewer pipes, aging energy grids, and needed flood mitigation projects. I will fight to get our SALT deduction back. And as women our bodies have fewer rights in this country right now than guns. And like you, I'm tired of politicians in Washington 'mansplaining' that guns don't kill people. I will vote for any action that protects a woman's right to choose and every needed piece of sensible gun safety legislation.*

My Comments: I like her focus on infrastructure. I don't like her use of the portmanteau "mansplaining". It's a de rigueur signal to a segment of her base, but I find it alienating. I won't mansplain why.



Mark Jaffe (minute 7:52): *I'm the president of the Greater New York Chamber of Commerce. I think we've accomplished a lot there, more than most elected officials have. We stand up for small businesses, entrepreneurs, we stand up for New Yorkers against billion dollar corporations. We fought with Tish James to get National Grid and they ended up giving 36 million dollars back to small businesses and people that couldn't get their gas; we championed the minimum wage increase so people could eat and work and get to work; we counseled for the NY Rx card which helps lower the cost of prescription drugs. Of course, we're for a woman's right to choose. We're going to secure our kids future and safety by fighting for low interest loans, student loans, and making sure that the colleges help these kids get a job.*

My Comments: This was ok. I'm not sure I understand his student loan comment- the issue isn't the interest rates, the issue is the sky high cost of tuition and whether it makes sense to saddle 20 somethings with student loan debt that they will need a life time to pay down. The student loan debt makes it hard for them to save for and ultimately afford to buy a home. And reputable colleges invest in helping to get their graduates jobs, so I'm not really sure where he's going with that. It could be that he's talking about the "for profit" colleges.



Jamaal Bowman (minute 8:54): *Prior to coming to congress in 2020, where we won an historic election by building a diverse coalition in beating a 31 year incombent, I worked in education for 20 years as an elementary school teacher, high school guidance counselor, and middle school principal for 10 and a half years. And I learned so much in that experience and we have one of the best schools in new york city. But the number one thing I learned in serving kids and families and community is the importance of listening, really assessing what the needs are, really developing and understanding before implementing a solution. And that's how I've tried to serve this district over the last 2 years- listening, learning, engaging, understanding, and then delivering results. That's how we've been able to bring 205 million to the district; that's how we've been able to 88 million for flood mitigation in Mamaroneck; that's how we've been able to respond to mental health supports and other supports.*

My Comments: Being a middle school principal for 10 years is no joke. I like that Mr. Bowman linked his current process (i.e., listen, assess, and develop understanding before implementing solutions), to his prior experience.



Vedat Gashi (minute 10:26): *I'm running for congress to bring real results and real progress. I promise you I'm always going to put families first, not rhetoric or partisan politics. At four years old I fled Kosovo with my family. My parents only had a middle school education but with hard work we achieved our American dream, and that taught me that we can achieve anything. Our country is at a crucial juncture. Women's reproductive rights are being obliterated, mass shootings have taken countless innocent lives, and families are struggling to make ends meet. As county legislator I've been able to pass a first in the nation gun safety law, protect women's health by passing a clinic access bill, and deliver millions for child care and affordable housing. This is not the time to debate ideology, or defund law enforcement or actively block infrastructure investment. Too much is at stake. We need a common sense democrat who is going to bring real results and progress, someone who's not only going to fight for us but win, and I am that candidate.*

My Comments: This was ok. I do take issue with claims that anything of substance has been done by the county to alleviate the affordability crises in housing and child care. That doesn't suggest to me that Mr. Gashi is in touch with what's actually taking place.



Question 1

What is the single most critical issue facing Congressional District 16 residents, and what is the federal role in addressing this?

Vedat Gashi (minute 11:50): *Gun violence. I think that for me has been um...the more I walk around and talk to voters, that's the thing that I hear most frequently. People are concerned about crime and how it impacts their family. I think we do play a role nationally and that's why, frankly, I think the incumbent's use of defund the police has been something that's been difficult because when I talk to the neediest communities they what they tell me most often is we don't need less police we need better policiing, effective policing, but they want that policing done. We've been able to do it in Westchester County and I think that's part of the answer to get some of the guns off the streets, but we also need comprehensive background checks, we need a ban assault rifles, we need to make some actual real progress and I don't think we've done it yet.*

My Comments: I'm not sure I agree that gun violence is the "single most critical issue" we face, but it's an issue and his response was fine. Regarding Mr. Gashi's comment about the incumbent's use of the phrase "defund the police", interested readers can here Mr. Bowman explain his view of the phrase in this CNN clip from 2020: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=724473885169600>.



Jamaal Bowman (minute 13:00): *Climate change. If we don't deal with the issue of climate change, and the earth continues to warm at a rapid rate, we're going to have more consistent and more severe storms which will continue with the flooding and continue with the destruction of our infrastructure. Now climate change is an issue that does not operate in isolation. It's also an issue connected to environmental justice and jobs and job training. So when we really address climate change and finally invest at a federal level at a high level, we're able to create a workforce that gets kids off the streets, stops them from committing gun violence and puts them on a pathway to jobs and careers. It also deals with the health issues we have in many parts of our district because there's an overlap between climate and health outcomes. The reason why black and brown people disproportionately passed away from COVID is because of the upper respiratory illnesses they had that directly connected to issues related to climate. So addressing climate will improve our health outcomes and our employment outcomes, and dramatically decrease many issues we're having with public safety.*

My Comments: This was a well communicated answer and I agree that the effects of climate change (nee "global warming") are the most critical problems we face. Mr. Bowman touched on several positive outcomes that will result from a comprehensive solution to this burgeoning crisis. The pervasiveness of the problem demands a response that will transform the way we live and Mr. Bowman clearly sees this.



Mark Jaffe (minute 14:23): I agree with the congressman: one of our most important issues is the environment and the sustainability of our future for our children. However, there are different ways to go about it. Right now the fossil fuel and oil industry has a lot of money and to transfer over to renewables we need to get their money we need to take these billion dollar corporations money and invest into the grid so that we can have energy for our future. When we don't have enough energy and we don't have enough jobs as the congressman said we see rising property crimes so we need to have respect for our police also huge issue. And I work well with the police. As a Ukrainian Jew I have to say that I'm very upset here that our congress could not rally and get the job done here preventing a war. Now we're in another war, a lot of blood and treasure is going to be lost, and you have a crazy leader who now that he's in there just might push the button so I say to the environmentalists, let's do this smart because a nuclear blast and inflation because we're not wiping the slate clean on how to transfer to renewable clean energy is not working for us at this point in time we need a congress person that can use some common sense and get it done and reach across the aisle and pass good bills for everybody in new york 16.

My Comments: This response was all over the place and borderline incoherent. It started off ok with the relationship between big oil, our energy needs, and transitioning to renewables. But after that Mr. Jaffe went off the rails.

	Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
My Rating:	1	2	3	4	5

Catherine Parker (minute 15:58): *There isn't just one top priority issue. I speak with voters every single day and you know every day I hear a plethora of answers. The top of the list I think now that Roe v Wade has been overturned, a lot of people what to know what we're going to do to protect a woman's right to choose. With what the courts have done with the new york state concealed carry law, a lot of people are concerned about gun violence, and certainly climate change and the byproduct of that flood mitigation is a factor in every community it seems in cd 16. Certainly that will be uh it's a good thing I'm a multi-tasker it is something that I look forward to tackling all the issues for my constituents but I can tell you from listening that there is concern that we are you know going to have a lot to do and that they haven't really seen much action coming out of washington and so I will be working very hard to ensure that we actually see results I will be going to washington with my to-do list from all the municipalities and when constituents have given me something that they would like me to fight for I will do that.*

My Comments: This was not a good response. Ms. Parker had the luxury of going last in this first round, yet she was unable to give a well thought out, concise answer to a straightforward question. Instead, she just rambled and listed all of the different things that might be of concern to people in the district. She ended by taking a thinly veiled dig at Mr. Bowman and reminding us that she's a self-proclaimed "multi-tasker".

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My Rating:	1	2	3	4	5

Question 2

Now that Roe v. Wade has been overturned, what role if any does the federal government have in addressing abortion access, and what realistically may be accomplished on a national level?

Jamaal Bowman (minute 17:42): *well we have to repeal the Hyde Amendment, that's a big part of the conversation that would allow us to open abortion clinics on federal land even within states that have tough anti-abortion laws. We have to codify Roe v Wade by authorizing and passing the women's health protection act in the senate. Unfortunately, that continues to not move because the senate doesn't function. So we need to do everything in our power to put pressure on the senate so that that bill can be moved and passed into law. One of the ways we can do that is to make sure we win additional senate seats in November, but also maintain the house in November as well. If we win additional senate seats, the president has already stated we need to carve out the filibuster to make sure we codify Roe v Wade through the women's health protection act. The president stated that, Schumer's on board with that, if we get additional senate seats we can become Manchin proof and get that done. I also just want to mention we need to end the filibuster completely anyway so that we can evolve our democracy and respond to the needs of hte american people and not special interests.*

My Comments: This was good. He addressed the question specifically. I'm not sure how realistic it is for the democrats to pick up senate seats, end the filibuster, and maintain control of the house, but in theory this is a path to legislative intervention.

	Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
My Rating:	1	2	3	4	5

Mark Jaffe response (minute 18:56): obviously a woman's right to choose is strong here in new york, thank god, and I thank god every day for my wife, my daughter, and all the children. Children will make mistakes, things happen, and it's a shame that in other states now we have to put a burden on a young person who should have a private right to take care of her medical necessity in whatever way she believes and now they're asking people to drive a long way postpone it, it's not right. We have to codify Roe v Wade. We have to use the power of hte mailing house they're talking about taking away the right to contraceptives. We have to strengthen our mailing laws and make sure privacy is there. We have to protect this because too many children in america will be forced into a bad situation. We've all read the horror stories. Codifying Roe v Wade would be on the top of the list, and thank god we live in new york and making sure we get some money because people will be traveling, they will be inconvenienced to come to states like new york. The Hyde Amendment would be similar. They have to go a long way to a federal property so we need to reach across the aisle and explain to our friends in red states that this is putting our children in jeopardy and it's a travesty and let's codify it; be a number one priority.

My Comments: This was another rambling, borderline incoherent response. And Mr. Jaffe seems not to understand that abortion is not just a "burdon" on "young people". In fact, according to guttmacher.org, adolescents made up only 12% of abortion patients in 2014.

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Catherine Parker (minute 20:25): I've been pro-choice my whole life, and as a woman, a mother to a daughter, this is really pesonal for me. The overturn of Roe v. Wade has taken women back 50 years. I've marched and protested many times with organizations like Planned Parenthood and people just like you, and I'm proud of co-sponsoring the clinic access bill that we just passed last month for Westchester county. And we fight, but we shouldn't be fighting, we should be really fighting those that are really anti-choice, and I say this because one of my opponents has just done a poll where I have been called anti-choice, and I don't know who that person is but whoever it is really should be ashamed. We need to fight the overwhelming male politicians in Washington who gets to decide what a woman can and cannot do with her body. Last Friday, the House passed the woman's health protection act which is wonderful to codify Roe v. Wade. But without the Senate what's going to happen? Absolutely nothing. I think in a post Roe v. Wade America, we have to be doing everything that we can do. I'm going to be fighting to make birth control free and widely available. And I will also just to go to other women's rights, I'm going to stand along with the League of Woman Voters and fight to pass an equal rights amendment. I think, you know, sending a strong woman in Washington to get things done will be the way that we ensure that we protect our reproductive health>

My Comments: Ms. Parker didn't really answer the question. Her response seemed more like part of a stump speech.



Vedat Gashi (minute 22:14): *It's incredibly important it was shocking that Dobb's decision was unbelievable to me and I think it put us in a place where we need to do something. We have my mom, my wife, my daughter...this is not only about abortion it's about women's health. It's something that we need to actively be working towards. In the county, we passed as a co-sponsor of the clinic access bill to allow people in Westchester anyway to be able to access abortion or reproductive rights without being harassed. I think a repeal of the Hyde amendment would be incredibly important and, respectfully, I think I'm- I don't share hesitation in codifying Roe v Wade. I think codifying Roe v Wade is our only option right now. The supreme court has made it clear where they're at, we need to work on that as a priority, it's too not for us to fight so that for that reason it's incredibly important, it's something I'd like to be doing at the federal level.*

My Comments: Mr. Gashi's response didn't really answer the question. I value concise responses that answer the questions asked, not vague platitudes that don't tell me anything about the candidate's ability to think strategically about problems.



Question 3

What legislation would you propose to address climate change that could garner bipartisan support in both chambers?

Mark Jaffe (minute 23:41): *Well, that's the critical issue. We have to garner bipartisan support because we can't get certain votes we can't just change the rules. We can try we can talk about it, but there's too much talking- Trump Tea Party is fighting, AOC squatters and we're not getting bipartisanship. When it comes to the environment I would definitely- and we've done this at the greater new york chamber of commerce- we shout up we stand up against billion dollar corporations but be convince them that it's good for the economy to do certain things. We passed a 15 dollar minimum wage, we got blown up by large corporations yeah you can't do that. We did it. We did it because it made sense and productivity actually went up, then everybody jumped on the bandwagon. When it comes to the environment right now we're missing the ball, we're not getting the fossil fuel companies and the oil companies to pay to help us transition. And if they're going to pay to help us transition to clean energy, they're going to want a piece of that action and I'm all for that and we need to reach across the aisle and make sure that the fossil fuel industry pays for the transition and we can get clean energy enough of it to live the way we want to live by 2030. That's what I would work on.*

My Comments: This was nonresponsive to question asked.

	Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
My Rating:	1	2	3	4	5

Catherine Parker (minute 25:06): *So, you know I'll just start with a little personal story. As a small business owner married to a massage therapist, I told my kids that we may not be leaving them anything other than a better environment, and as a parent and elected official I've worked both at home and at work to fulfill my legacy. So I think many of you may know me by reputation in Westchester as having been on the forefront of good environmental policy, and I would most certainly like to advocate for legislation but it is a frustration of mine to see that so little has been accomplished in congress on this front. As many of you may have read just recently senator Joe Manchin withdrew his support from any legislation, particularly build back better, that curbs fossil fuel energy. That's why the infrastructure bill was uncoupled from build back better and what I think will be possible to do in congress is to look for opportunities to fund programs with new york state and our local municipalities. The bronx and many communities have challenges with clean water infrastructure and sanitary sewers that pollute our waters. High on my to-do list is what Mount Vernon needs: 200 million dollars for a project Governor Hochul has just committed \$150 million, congressman Bowman secured 3 million. There's still 47 million dollars that Mount Vernon needs for that. Those will be the type of things that I will be doing in congress until we have a majority in the senate where we can really pass really good effective legislation.*

My Comments: Ms. Parker did not answer the question. If she believes there is zero legislation that can garner bipartisan support from both chambers, she should just say that. She implied that by saying she'd focus on working with the NYS and local municipalities "until we have a majority in the senate where we can really pass really good effective legislation". She didn't even tell us what that "really good effective legislation" would be. And how is she going to keep the promise she made to her children if she isn't even willing to try to find common ground with the other major political party?

	Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
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Vedat Gashi (minute 26:49): *Another area that's incredibly important it's a passion of mine. As the chair of public works and transportation in my first year I think what we worked on here in Westchester was to build infrastructure to allow for charging vehicles but also transition completely to a hybrid electric vehicle fleet. I think these are all important things and I think that's part of the argument, that's part of the way we build bipartisan support because there is this presentation that it's either the economy or the environment and the truth is we saved millions in Westchester by doing that. and I think by being sustainable, and by pursuing these goals we can achieve, again we can also help our economy and so I think it's incredibly important that we do. These are um, it's not only environment it's also infrastructure that's why I was disappointed when the incumbent voted against the infrastructure bill. There's a lot there that would help us and is going to help us on these points. These are things that are vitally needed for the environment, and I think something I would work towards and make sure that I vote for and promote.*

My Comments: I think he was suggesting that there might be an opportunity for bipartisanship around legislation calling for a transition to hybrid electric vehicles because it is a "win win"- good for the environment (democratic party concern) and good for the economy (republican party concern). But I have to read a lot into the response to infer this. Overall, another candidate response that rambles but never really addresses the question.

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My Rating:	1	2	3	4	5

Jamaal Bowman (minute 28:07): *So I look forward to working with republicans as soon as they stop trying to destroy our democracy. So I introduced something called "the green new deal for public schools". It's a 1.43 trillion dollar investment that moves our public schools to completely green, sustainable, renewable energy. It's an incredible investment that puts public schools at the center of our fight for sustainability in our fight against climate change. We also introduced a piece of legislation called the "heating and cooling relief act" which is also a climate bill which focuses on one, making sure utility costs are brought way down, but also making sure we invest in retrofitting homes and heat pumps here locally so that we can, again, get off of fossil fuels. We're working local with NYSEDA and Sustainable Westchester and other organizations because what we're seeing is even though the federal government has to respond to this aggressively and quickly, we could do a lot locally. So through working with NYSEDA and Sustainable Westchester, we did a heat pump project here in Mount Vernon where we grew the number of heat pumps in Mount Vernon, again, moving away from fossil fuels. This has to be a whole of government approach- federal, state, county, and local, and we have to be innovative and courageous and bold to get this done at every level of our country.*

My Comment: We live in a pluralistic society with many competing interests. Finding common ground and working cooperatively with people who do not share one's own view of the world is essential in a pluralistic society. That doesn't mean you stop trying to persuade people to come around to your way of thinking, but it's a mistake to hold up work until you've persuaded them. Obviously, republicans don't think they are "trying to destroy our democracy". Essentially, Mr. Bowman is saying, "when republicans agree with me I'll work with them". That means Mr. Bowman is a hyperpartisan, and hyperpartisanship does not work well in a pluralistic society with many competing interests. What about Mr. Bowman's \$1.43 trillion dollar "green new deal for public schools"? Even if Mr. Bowman showed a willingness to build bipartisan support for something like this it would be a serious reach. But given his hyperpartisan ideology, it's a fantasy.



Question 4

What legislation would you propose to address climate change that could garner bipartisan support in both chambers?

Catherine Parker (minute 29: 46): *I see certainly there is a path and I think we are on it. You know the abraham accords I think is absolutely part of that path. It is you know a peace accord it is a way for Isreal to be recognized by some of it's neighbors in the middle east and they also recognize by the way that the real country that they have to worry about is Iran. So they are united in their belief that that is the enemy, they are together in recognizing that they have to work together for stability in the region, they can work together for security in the region and they can work together for economic development in the region. It's a great document. I think that there's opportunity for other countries to join and have a part of the abraham accords and have an expansion of that. I said recently, you know I admire congressman Bowman, he always starts his meetings with "peace and love". Yet, he voted against the abraham accords and I have felt that that was missing sort of the heart of the peace accords, of the abraham accords, and that I would think he would want to be in support going forward.*

My Comments: Ms. Parker answered the question and communicated her thinking well. It should be noted that Iran is part of the middle east so at some point any roadmap to peace will have to figure out how to bring them into the fold.

	Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
My Rating:	1	2	3	4	5

Vedat Gashi (minute 31:20): *I think the roadmap to peace in the middle east has to go through Isreal. I think that's one of our biggest challenges in the middle east obviously, and Isreal is the only democracy in the middle east and our biggest ally so I think strong support for Isreal is an important part of it; making sure that they have, that we continue that relationship is incredibly important to me. I think we have a beginning of that roadmap through the abraham accords and Isreal relations normalization act. Disappointed that the incumbent voted against it. I think normalizing and establishing relations between countries in the middle east is an incredibly important first step. I'd like to see it expanded. I think part of the solution is not in the sort of name calling and attacking, well for example, as the congressman co-sponsored the Nakba resolution which would designate the founding of Isreal as a disaster. I am in favor of the founding of Isreal and I would not regard it a disaster so those are, I think, detrimental to peace in the middle east and not helpful in as part of the roadmap.*

My Comments: I think Mr. Gashi mischaracterized the Nakba resolution. The resolution doesn't engage in "name calling" or "attacking", and it doesn't claim that the founding of Isreal was "a disaster" per se. The Nakba resolution is a formal recognition that during the founding of Isreali -which entailed war- many tribal palestinians who were living on the land that became Isreal, suffered disasterous consequences and displacement. Interested readers can read the text of the Nakba resolution here:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-resolution/1123/text?r=15&s=1>

	Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
My Rating:	1	2	3	4	5

Jamaal Bowman (minute 32:50): *Well, we have to end the proliferation of weapons traveling through the UAE- that's a part of peace in the middle east. We also have to make sure when we negotiate a peace agreement that palestinians and western sahara africans are at the table. You can't negotiate peace where there are members of the middle east not at the table being a part of the discussion. To get to peace, everyone needs to be at the table and everyone has to commit to diplomacy. One of my frustrations with our country, not just in hte middle east but all over the world, is we have not been the diplomatic leaders we need to be; we have not been the global climate leaders we need to be. We haven't responded to famine and mass migration properly, and in order to show that we are truly a strong and powerful democracy and loving country, we have to approach conflict through diplomacy, through getting everyone at the table and stop investing in our military in a way that leads to more war, but invest in the way that needs to deal with the issues that people are struggling with around the world, regardless of their race or religion or class or background. The forever wars must end, and we have to move to a time in human history where we are no longer settling conflict with war.*

My Comments: I'm confused. In this response, Mr. Bowman said it's important to get everyone at the table to find diplomatic solutions so we can end wars, and address climate change, famine, mass migration, etc. But earlier, in his response to the question about finding a bipartisan solution to address climate change he said "*I look forward to working with republicans as soon as they stop trying to destroy our democracy*". That's not diplomacy.

	Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
My Rating:	1	2	3	4	5

Mark Jaffe (minute 34:17): *The roadmap to peace to Isreal does lie in trade, does lie in diplomacy, and it's unfortunate that our congress could not rally NATO through diplomacy to prevent this war, which the current war might be never ending. There are already too many people dead. There's already been too much money spent because we had a lack of diplomacy. We were scared of Russia and now Russia has taken our oil and fuel industry and they're pumping dirty oil into the air. That's not good for the environment. I work with a number of smaller chambers, the orthodox jewish chamber, I was privileged to sit with them to get Turkey involved in the negotiations because everybody wants to do trade and that might be a good way to get peace done in the middle east. I mean it's unfortunate that the Balfour declaration which helped to create Isreal has led to a six-year and now a lot of people just want to point fingers at Isreal and go "it's your fault". Isreal was protecting themselves from being destroyed, and actually they have ports of entry, they have a border, and people can come in and work as long as they identify themselves and they have peaceful intent. So the roadmap to peace to Isreal goes through jobs, trade, and diplomacy, and we need more people in congress that understand that and who can reach across the aisle and not say "I won't talk to republicans until they respect my opinion". It's our job to get them to respect our opinion.*

My Comments: Mr. Jaffe tends to ramble and jump on and off topic, which makes him difficult to follow. My take away is that he sees trade and diplomacy as the ways to establish peace in the middle east, which is fine. At the end of his response, Mr. Jaffe seems to express concern with Mr. Bowman's undiplomatic approach to dealing with republicans, a concern that I share.

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My Rating:	1	2	3	4	5

Question 5

What campaign finance reforms do you support, and how does your current campaign reflect your commitment to those changes?

Vedat Gashi (minute 36:06): *I think we need to repeal Citizen's United. I think it's been a proliferation of funds and spending that is actually ridiculous. I've had exceedingly little- I think 3 total checks. One from, a PAC was for one thousand five hundred, another from Nita Lowey's campaign, and the last one was the Albanian-American Civic League. Those are the three, but otherwise we've been collecting from individuals and one at a time and grassroots, most of them here in the district throughout Westchester and the Bronx. I think it's unfortunate that so much has to be spent but I think it's also a function of where we are as a country almost. I thank you so much as the League of Women Voters for hosting this forum, but newspapers aren't covering it the same way, magazines or the news isn't. It's important that the voters know, and those funds are important to get us, to allow us to communicate with those voters so I'm proud of the fundraising we've had and I'm proud of the fact that we've raised the most, and of the way we've done it.*

My Comments: This was fine. Go here for info regarding campaign finance for Mr. Gashi:

<https://justfacts.votesmart.org/candidate/campaign-finance/185292/vedat-gashi>



Jamaal Bowman (minute 37:36): *We have never taken a corporate PAC dollar and we never will. We are completely supported by small dollar contributions, and one of the reasons why congress doesn't function is because of big money in politics. We have to get big money out of politics as part of a larger democracy reform package. I am an original co-sponsor of HR 1, we passed that very early in my tenure at the beginning of 2021 and it has not moved in the senate. One of the reasons why senator Manchin and others, democrats by the way, do not support build back better and other transformational legislation is because of their corporate PACs and special interests and how special interests control the behavior of members of congress and by the way legislators at the county, state, and local level as well. We have to be responsive to the people. In order to do that we cannot be in bed with special interests and corporations. We need publicly financed elections. Make it equitable, give everyone an even playing field, and then we can have a true democracy.*

My Comments: Good response. Go here for info regarding campaign finance for Mr. Bowman:

<https://justfacts.votesmart.org/candidate/campaign-finance/191205/jamaal-bowman>



Mark Jaffe (minute 38:50): *I'm glad you asked that question because if you look at the recent financial filings, I'm in last place. I think 2 people are approaching a million dollars, I know a third is on her way to raising a lot of money, and it's funny when you think twenty-nine hundred dollars or a thousand dollars from individuals is not a lot of money. Why are people giving money to candidates? There's rules against pay to play - and I'm not accusing anybody of pay to play but when somebody gives a politician a thousand dollars, or twenty-nine hundred dollars, I would imagine they expect something. A return phone call. And it's not quite fair that people who can't afford to contribute to campaigns don't have that same access. So we need to revamp all election laws, new york state election laws, we have to look at public financing but you know it gets in the way even in new york city where they have it as six to one. So I don't know the answer to that. I do know that running this campaign is a problem without money getting your message out, and the League of Woman Voters and other press entities covering people and what they say is very important but there's too much money in politics whether you call it corporate donors or large individual donors it's a shame.*

My Comments: What's a shame is that Mr. Jaffe didn't know the answer to the question given that the question asked him to tell voters what campaign finance reform he supports. Go here for info regarding campaign finance for Mr. Jaffe:

<https://justfacts.votesmart.org/candidate/campaign-finance/127971/mark-jaffe>



Parker response (minute 40:20): *Well to that last point Mark I will say directly to you don't worry; I don't think that in this election money is going to buy it. I've seen this before in 2020 when you know seven million dollars was spent by a candidate who didn't live in the district and that didn't work so well. So in any case I know that Katie Porter, who I admire very much in congress, is part of the campaign finance reform caucus and I tweeted at her not that long ago that I can't wait to get to Washington to be part of that caucus and we absolutely need campaign finance reform. I have actually received one check from an organization that maybe people aren't familiar with it's called "no labels" and it came to me completely unsolicited but it's for you know politicians that I guess have demonstrated that they can work with people from either party and to get things done and it's to break up the gridlock, and it wasn't a big check it was I think you know the twenty-nine hundred dollars but it was as they say I didn't recognize it I thought where did this come from and I thought it was interesting that I received it. Another you know another piece of this is I think you to my family and friends that are watching I apologize I apologize I apologize because honestly it's been people that have just been you know who you are there for me.*

My Comments: She didn't answer the question. Go here for info regarding campaign finance for Ms. Parker:

<https://justfacts.votesmart.org/candidate/campaign-finance/164383/catherine-parker>

	Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
My Rating:	1	2	3	4	5

Question 6

What provisions would you want to include in federal gun legislation, and which of those would you be willing to forego in order to secure sufficient votes for the legislation to pass?

Jamaal Bowman (minute 42:20): *We need an assault weapons ban, and we needed an assault weapons ban for several years when we had one in this country mass shootings were down tremendously, we absolutely need an assault weapons ban. I would negotiate to ensure that no one under 25 can buy an assault weapon, to hopefully get the support we need for it to pass, but we absolutely need an assault weapons ban. We also need to pass HR 8 in the senate. This is another piece of legislation that has passed the house, has been in the senate for over a year and has not moved. My office wrote a letter to Mitch McConnell to tell him and encourage him to get 10 republicans in line to pass HR 8 so we can have common sense gun reform across the country. Close the gun show loopholes, close the online purchase loopholes, expand background checks. We also wrote a letter to president Biden, asking him to take a series of steps to deal with the issue of gun violence. One of those steps was to ban ghost guns after a ghost gun killed a young man by the name of Julian, in New Rochelle, who was 16 years old, killed by another 16 year old kid. We wrote that letter, the president responded to our letter, he banned ghost guns obviously a lot more work to be done, but an assault weapons ban is something we have to do in our country.*

My Comments: This was a solid response.

	Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
My Rating:	1	2	3	4	5

Mark Jaffe (minute 43:54): *I'm no constitutional expert but I am an attorney and I've read the constitution several times and it clearly states in the 2nd amendment we're talking about a well-regulated militia and when you remember when the constitution was written we were kind of at war fighting for our liberty. Somehow that's been convoluted but I talk to a lot of my conservative and republican friends and we talk about a ban on assault weapons I mean we don't need to have that many bullets to go hunting deer. Obviously, HR 8, we're not getting that passed in the senate but bipartisanship is important, background checks are super important. We have checks for licenses to drive cars, we have checks for everything we have checks to go vote. Why don't we have background checks to buy guns? Why do we have loopholes? You can go to a gun show but they can ship it, fedex. There's no urgency for people to get guns. Red flag laws, very important. When we see somebody that's unstable, we want to check it out before we put a gun anywhere near that person or near their family. Let them get their constitutional rights back, let's have a safer environment, and let's punish people that are carrying guns illegally. Don't let them out. It's the rap sheets speak volumes. Let's put these people away, let's stop the proliferation of guns.*

My Comments: This was another response that was largely nonresponsive to the question that was asked. Ignoring the questions and just rattling off stuff related to guns is disrespectful to the person who posed the question and it's disrespectful to voters trying figure out how to vote.



Catherine Parker (minute 45:28): *I'm a proud "moms demand action gun sense" candidate and many of you may have first gotten to know me in 2017 when I was fighting to pass a ban on gun shows at the county center and I took on leadership at the board of legislators to try to force another vote after Astorino had vetoed, and in 2018 when I was majority leader, I was really proud to see our board take the very first vote in the new term to ensure that no more no more gun shows, that's not our culture in Westchester County on our county property. But we didn't stop there. We also passed a resolution in support of extreme risk protection orders before new york state passed their law to basically show them that look we can do this in Westchester send this piece of legislation to you and the state followed suit. Folks in Harrison may remember me from fighting along side them to keep a gun store from opening in the community. And you know I'm glad that President Biden was able to get through the first meaningful piece of gun legislation on gun control in 26 years. My to-do list includes any action that's going to keep my kids and your kids from getting shot in school or mall or on the street because of the toxic masculinity that permeates our culture. And like you, I am so tired of politicians in Washington mansplaining that guns don't kill people.*

My Comments: Ms. Parker did not answer the question. It's as if she didn't really listen to the question, she just heard the word "gun" and just regurgitated a canned response. That leaves me flat.



Vedat Gashi (minute 46:55): I mean I mentioned it at the opening. It's obviously an issue that I'm passionate about and something I think is incredibly important and scary. As the father of 2 children, nine and eleven, it was hard for me to see the this tragedy in Uvalde. It's incredibly important, incredibly important issue in Westchester. I was glad to with, working with mom's demand action and [indecipherable comment] but and and every every town for gun safety, at their suggestion building on the work of a predecessor, Ruth Walter legislator, I and a colleague co-sponsored legislation to require, sorry. To require a warning at gun stores because the truth is a lot of gun violence is, a lot of the deaths that come out of gun violence are self-inflicted harm so the access to guns doesn't make you safer makes you actually markedly less safe. We would know that better if we didn't have a bill in Washington that prevented us from researching gun violence. I think it's incredibly important to get rid of that. I think obviously, everything we mentioned before, banning assault rifles, comprehensive background checks, things that we've done in new york.

My Comments: This was not good at all. What troubles me the most is that Mr. Gashi went last in this round of questions, which means he had time to listen to the other candidates and formulate his thoughts before responding.



Question 7

What changes, if any, would you like to make to medicare, medicaid, and healthcare in general, and why?

Mark Jaffe (minute 48:40): *First thing I would want to do in congress is to make sure we reauthorize our medicaid and social security bills. This is something that's part of the American culture, it's a bargain that's been made. When I served on the White House council with president Barack Obama, you all know about the affordable care act, so we were given the job at the greater new york chamber of commerce to advocate, to lead the charge to talk about why it was important to business owners. And it is, it's very important, it's very important to have good jobs and to make sure that the employers provide health insurance on the job because of the purchasing power. The exchanges are one thing, but the purchasing power that businesses have for healthcare is unbelievable. I would also pass a bill that will require the insurance companies to pay the freight on the coded and approved healthcare procedures. Any procedure that's approved by a state health department and in effect we would codify this in congress. Those insurance companies must pay, so that the insurance companies will end up doing more of the bookkeeping and the doctors and the clinics and the moms- they can just worry about getting their care and getting better. It's a shame that hte insurance industry is making us suffer from our healthcare outcomes, all in the name of profits. It really is a shame.*

My Comments: Another rambling response, but this time there is an answer to the question burried in there. Mr. Jaffe would "pass a bill that will require the insurance companies to pay the freight on the coded and approved healthcare procedures." Ok.



Catherine Parker (minute 50:13): *So I've been a small business owner for almost 23 years and I remember when the ACA became available and my healthcare costs for my family and my employees dropped by almost two thirds. It was a game changer, as a small business owner that was a tremendous burden that was lifted off of me. And I think for many families, the burden of healthcare, it's just such a shame that people are making decisions about healthcare versus food, healthcare versus rent, healthcare versus all sorts of needed expenses, and I worry about this country the direction that we're going. I support the idea of medicare for all. I think that that would be tremendously helpful. And I also think that when we look at people that have filed for bankruptcy, the number one reason why they get into debt and they can't control it is because of healthcare costs: illness, hospitalization, and it just is too much. It's a major issue in this country and we really have to tackle it and take some more incremental steps.*

My Comments: The closest Ms. Parker came to answering this question was when she said she supports "the idea of medicare for all". So instead of taking the full 90 seconds to respond, she could have done it in about 3 seconds. Everything else she said was akin to grandstanding, and I don't view that as favorable.



Question 8

What is the federal government's role in closing the gender pay gap, and what legislation would you propose to address this issue?

Catherine Parker (minute 54:41): *Well again the League of Woman Voter's called it right when they they called for the equal rights amendment. I think that equity and equality are really important goals that we can work on for women and for all people. The pay equity, we've taken some steps in Westchester, we passed a wage history law to protect mostly women and people that were older going back into the workforce from having to explain what their last pay was because we found that that has kept women's salaries suppressed and lower than men and so doing that at a federal level would be very important.*

My Comments: The answer given addressed the question that was asked, and Ms. Parker got to the point pretty fast which I like.



Vedat Gashi (minute 55:33): *I think a lot of things we've done in Westchester and in new york need to be copied nationally or federally. Childcare is an incredibly important aspect of it as well with women being disproportionately responsible and disproportionately bearing the load there. I think it's got to be a comprehensive and holistic approach and I think unless and until we can have equality on pay, on representation, on all these matters, I don't think we're gonna be truly a pretty unequitable society. So those are incredibly important.*

My Comments: The best I can say about this response is that it was brief. Another poor effort from Mr. Gashi.



Jamaal Bowman (minute 56:16): *Just get it done. Just get it done. I can't believe we are still having this conversation. Equal pay for equal work, period. If employers do not ensure equal pay for equal work they need to be held accountable for that, and there's a variety of ways to hold employers accountable for this. This is what happens when you have a patriarchy controlling Washington for 246 years. And particularly a white patriarchy. You see a consistent attack on women, and you see a consistent attack on people of color with regard to policy. Equal pay for equal work, get it done, why are we even still having this conversation. I also want to pivot to some of the points that were in the build back better act. Policies like universal childcare, universal pre-k, and finally paid leave. We are one of the only developed nations on earth that doesn't have paid leave for moms and families after they have a child. This is completely unacceptable, we can no longer have anti-women policies proliferating throughout Washington. Equal pay for equal work, get it done, hold employer's accountable who don't get it done.*

My Comments: Mr. Bowman never really answered the question, his incredulity notwithstanding. Who, exactly, is he telling to "Just get it done"? He's the elected official, isn't he the one who should "just get it done"? What are the "variety of ways to hold employers accountable", and why aren't they being used? Does the federal government have a role to play in enforce or not?

	Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
My Rating:	1	2	3	4	5

Mark Jaffe (minute 57:34): *Quickly, going back a prescription drug cost I forgot to mention we helped to form the new york rx card saved our members and people in the state 450 million dollars. But the paycheck fairness act, it's a house resolution I think number 7, these are the kinds of things we need to keep fighting for. We're closing the gap. Great leaders like Letitia James, when she sees inequity and unfairness in the system she has no problem running and filing a suit and making those bad actors pay so they're getting caught and that's going to lead to less corruption. It's hard to believe that we still don't have the parity there. We're closing the gap but it's not there yet. And in terms of paid family leave I believe we have that in new york, I believe the greater new york chamber of commerce in addition to fighting for the minimum wage increases wanted paid family leave because you know women are part of the workforce and we have to look at the fact that to have a viable society we need to look out for our future, we need to protect our future, and working with the national organization of women, someone you know [inaudible] and other leaders, we konw how important it is for women to be paid for their work as they multitask, men are multitasking now, there are more dual income families, and we're providing many pivot points as pre-k and we're providing a good after-school programs. But yes, we need to crush this prejudice against anybody not getting paid the same value for the same work and I believe we're gonna get that done, we're gonna reach across the aisle and make sure it's done because it has to be done in every state if we're going to have a great country. Thank god it's done here in new york.*

My Comments: He mentioned the paycheck fairness act (HR 7), which is good, but he said nothing else that was responsive to the question. If this was a contest to see who can string together the most words that communicate the least substance, Mr. Jaffe would be doing ok.



Question 9

What is your proposal for addressing the economy and rampant inflation?

Vedat Gashi (minute 59:33): *Well first off inflation is something that we're seeing internationally, globally, and it's I think of Russia's war in Ukraine and the function of other you know the pandemic and other things. So some of it is going to be hard to work with but the impacts of it are felt by all of us and I think dramatically. I think we need to help where we can. In Westchester, one of the ways that we've helped is by passing a bill to take away the tax, surcharge, or the additional payment people have to make when they purchase home fueling oil and also gas. I think these are, well these are efforts that we've done here but also, obviously, taxes with the cost of inflation and gas to me it doesn't make sense to be increasing the tax burden right now. One of the ways we are able to decrease the tax burden here in Westchester is by getting rid of the Trump tax, the SALT tax deduction which took away the ability for new yorkers to deduct more than ten thousand dollars on state taxes paid. We need a complete repeal of that. It's double taxation it's not fair it's actually for me the lack of action has been incredibly disappointing. That has to be a priority.*

My Comments: Mr. Gashi did not answer the question. Repealing the SALT is fine but that won't bring down inflation. And if repealing the SALT tax is the key part of his answer, why didn't he say that right out of the gate? It felt like he was just fishing around for something to say and stumbled on the SALT tax and ran with that (with about 20 seconds left) because it sounded good.



Bowman response (minute 101:10): *We need to make sure corporations contribute their fair share in taxes to our democracy. We need to make sure multinational corporations contribute their fair share to our democracy in taxes. We need to make sure the wealthy contribute their fair share as well. If that were to happen we would raise trillions of dollars and that can ease inflationary on the pockets of everyday americans. We also need to hold corporations accountable for price gouging. They are literally raising raising prices to continue with record profits during a time where the supply chain has been choked off and people are struggling with covid and there's no mechanism in place to hold them accountable. So we introduced a "babies over billionaires" act to ensure that the wealthiest among us pay their fair share. We introduced a corporate ending corporate greed act to make sure corporations pay a windfall tax so that we can help ease inflationary pressures. Our heating and cooling relief act brings down utility costs. And we're going to introduce a piece of legislation to cap prices at a certain rate. All have historical context. During world war one, world war two and other times where the economy was stressed and challenged. We've got the bills, let's get it done and let's hold corporations accountable please.*

My Comments: Two solid ideas here: 1) heating and cooling relief act. 2) Price caps. The other thoughts Mr. Bowman offered about getting corporations and wealthy americans to kick more money into the government pot are good for the government coffers but it isn't clear to me how increasing federal tax revenue will bring down inflation.

	Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
My Rating:	1	2	3	4	5

Catherine Parker (minute 102:52): *I agree that this is a confluence of, you know, a perfect storm with the war in Ukraine, the supply chain choke from even going back to covid and you know it's global so it really goes beyond just what we're seeing in the United States. My concern is that we have a situation, there was just an article today in the wall street journal about how the middle class has really suffered tremendously under inflation as well as the lower class and then the upper class, you know, with the rising price of meats and groceries, food, and gas, it doesn't affect people in the upper tier as much. I think what we need to focus on are the things that we do want that were in build back better and maybe take them out and take them separately since as I said earlier Joe Manchin said nothing is going to get passed if it includes anything that is dealing with climate change and renewable energy so that should be taken separately. We should focus on how we can, whether it's the child care, child tax credit, restoring that again, whether it is I agree with legislator Gashi that a SALT tax full deduction would make a tremendous difference in the lives of Westchester residents and that again would go across all economic spectrums.*

My Comments: Restoring the child tax credit is a good idea. The SALT deduction overwhelmingly benefits people with incomes over \$100k per year, so taking the \$10k cap off the amount of the deduction will not help people "across the economic spectrum".

	Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
My Rating:	1	2	3	4	5

Mark Jaffe (minute 1:11:43): *Well it's a huge issue. After PPP, after the virus came we shut down the country, and many federal programs came to the rescue. At the greater new york chamber we helped to make sure that the ppp loans were going to the small businesses. You saw a lot of the large businesses be shamed into not giving it and that's why we have inflation. The american cares act, the american rescue act pumped over 4 trillion dollars into the economy, a lot of people were able to get other programs and benefits, the unemployment boost skewed and gave a lot of people money and now we're facing inflation. Part of the reason we're facing inflation is a lack of the supply chain so our diplomacy has failed us because now we're dependent upon getting goods and our shelves are empty and it's leading to huge problems. Another part of the inflation is just punishing the fossil fuel industries, shutting them down without a good plan for transitioning. And look at when you go to the pump. Another problem is letting the large utilities like Con Ed, look at your Con Ed bill. We took National Grid to school and they paid 36 million dollars. We need to do more of that. We need to negotiate with the billion dollar corporations and the billionaires and I believe they will want to save america and pay their fair share but we need to negotiate with them and negotiate hard. We can't have these supply chain problems, we can't have this inflation eating away at the great job we did at raising wages for those [moderator cuts him off].*

My Comments: I heard no proposal at all in this response.

	Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
My Rating:	1	2	3	4	5

Question 10

What role should the federal government play in public education, and what changes if any do you support?

Jamaal Bowman (minute 105:04): *First, we need to pass my green new deal for public schools. If we pass my green new deal for public schools, we will quadruple title one funding, we will move public schools off of fossil fuels, and we will create a pipeline of workforce development for workers to lead the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy, but also for workers to work in public schools as teachers assistants, teachers, and mental health providers. So pass the green new deal for public schools please. We also have to dramatically increase our IDEA funding from the federal level. We promised that we would provide 40% of IDEA funding. We have not done that, we have not met that threshold. We're only providing about 17% of funding. We need to fund it at the 40% rate that we said we would. We need to dramatically increase our investments in "Community Schools". "Community Schools" is when schools work with community-based organizations and healthcare providers to provide holistic, wrap around services to our most vulnerable kids and families. And finally, we need to equitably fund schools across the country, so that local property taxes aren't giving rich kids more than poor kids can receive in their schools.*

My Comments: Mr. Bowman presented 4 ideas: 1) green new deal for schools, 2) increase IDEA funding, 3) invest in the "Community Schooling" model, and 4) rework how public schools are funded in order to create equity between high and low property tax communities. I think ideas 2 and 3 are very good and doable. I think ideas 1 and 4 would be difficult to realize even under ideal conditions. However, given that Mr. Bowman appears to have no interest in seeking to build bipartisan support for these big and bold ideas, I don't see how they can go anywhere.



Catherine Parker (minute 106:28): *So the federal budget for education is about 30 billion dollars. To put that in some context, our county budget is 2.2 billion. It seems woefully underfunded for the public education system in the United States. And when we talk about wanting to do things for universal pre-k, or funding higher education, public higher education, we are woefully dealing with a department that has been ignored for decades. Our schools need help and the way the formula is structured, where property taxes pay for primarily your school district builds in structural inequities and we really should be tacking that. I would like to see us do more, and try to bring up that number for the department of education. I think that it's, as they say "long overdue" and that will be something that I will be going to Washington to look for.*

My Comments: Again, Ms. Parker did not answer the question. What's more, Ms. Parker appears to be misinformed about the size of the federal dept of education budget. The fiscal year 2022 federal dept of education budget is around \$190 billion dollars, perhaps not enough but a far cry from the \$30 billion that she stated.



My Rating:

1

2

3

4

5

Mark Jaffe (minute 108:14): *Public education is very important. In previous campaigns, and I'm sure everybody in this campaign seeks the endorsement of our public schools. I am a proud father and put three children through the public schools. Public schools need a lot of funding. The Campaign for Fiscal Equity was fought for a long time ago and we're just beginning to see dollars. But we need, you know, better training and as Mr. Bowman brought up in an earlier question, not only are there many mental health disparities, but there are a lot of kids with special needs. So let's not kid ourselves; we need to raise funding for public education all across america but our focus here in new york 16 is to make sure the school children in Westchester and parts of the Bronx that we represent get that funding, and get good teachers. And more importantly, we're going to hold the schools and the colleges and the community colleges accountable for getting our children jobs. A big issue when we get out of the public schools is how to pay your student loans. One thing is to make sure all the banks are putting money in so we can lower the interest, another thing is to make sure that all the educational institutions are teaching the right skills so our kids can get a job and if they don't, then those institutions are going to pay the interest on those loans until they do. Public education, smaller classes for special ed needs and it comes down to your money.*

My Comments: The closest Mr. Jaffe came to giving an answer was his idea about making institutions of higher education pay the student loan interest of their graduates until they get a job. It isn't a workable idea but at it was an idea. But the rest of what he said was just rambling, just throwing stuff out at us and hoping something might stick. Again, total disrespect for the person who asked the question and the voters expecting an answer to the question.

My Rating:

Most Unfavorable
1

Unfavorable
2

Neutral
3

Favorable
4

Most Favorable
5

Vedat Gashi (minute 109:52): *I think you help public education by making sure you have funding for public education. I think part of that is resisting pressures, taking away and putting it toward charter schools and other such vehicles. I'm a proud product of public schools. I went to, as I mentioned I'm an immigrant, we I didn't speak english in the first grade. My- and by the way it wasn't only in the school it's also public education, PBS. I learned english through sesame street. I'm sending my kids now to public schools and those schools need to be funded we need to make sure that the teachers have the resources and support they need so that kids can have that access to the american dream because really it is the key to the american dream. Education is the cheat code. If you are able to get educated, if you are able to promote your children through that public education then you're going to be able to access it. Otherwise, you're not going to be able to. Obviously, we have disparities between communities we need to make sure that those disparities are addressed. Broadband access was something that was highlighted during the pandemic. We need to make sure that that's available. And yeah, funding increase that. That's the number one most important thing.*

My Comments: Maybe the moderator should have given questions in a "complete the sentence format". For example "Mr. Gashi, please complete this sentence: The role of the federal government in public education is to _____".

	Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
My Rating:	1	2	3	4	5

Closing Remarks

Vedat Gashin (minute 1:13:33): *We're all democrats. We're going to agree on a lot of different policy positions. But very importantly, we disagree on a whole lot too. Most notably how we're going to hope to accomplish our policy goals. My opponent's a democratic socialist and he aligns himself with "the squad", more comfortable wiht attacking the democratic party than helping the democratic party achieve the progress that we all agree is so important. If that's what you want I'm probably not your candidate. We're under attack and, respectfully, the question is not how hard do we fight but how do we win? That's what we need in congress. We need results. This is, I came to this country as a refugee. I grew up in the Bronx with nothing. Penniless. I've not only fought but I've succeeded. People are worried about the inflation, the cost of gas, the environment, the woman's right to choose is under attack, gun violence is surging. But at a time like this, you don't want symbolic votes; you want real results and real progress. I've done that at the county legislature, I've done it all my life, and when elected, with your help, I'm going to do it for the people of this district in congress.*

My Comments: This was good. The problem is his responses to the questions don't instill me with much confidence that Mr. Gashi is a very good listener or capable of thinking on his feet.

	Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
My Rating:	1	2	3	4	5

Jamaal Bowman (minute 1:14:42): *Let's talk about real results and real progress. So we helped co-op city refinance and free up 120 million dollars so that they can do much-needed repairs throughout co-op city. We brought in half a million dollars to Westhab to help with senior affordable housing. We brought in another half a million for the Yonkers YMCA so they could fix their pool so kids in the inner city can learn how to swim. We brought another 400 thousand to New Rochelle YMCA so that they can provide after-school services. We brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Mount Vernon neighborhood health center so they could provide telehealth services to seniors for mental health. And we brought in 300 thousand dollars into Mamaroneck to help with the senior expansion of the community center and 88 million dollars in response to hurricane IDA and I don't even have enough time to go into everything else we've done. You can look it up, peace and love to you all, thank you for having me, we show up, I look forward to continuing to serve you in new york 16.*

My Comments: Great response. All business, clearly communicated.

	Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
My Rating:	1	2	3	4	5

Mark Jaffe (minute 1:15:47): *Well yes, again, I'm not an elected official but we've been getting it done at the greater new york chamber of commerce for over two decades. We work hard to make america a better place. We work our military and veteran's affairs committee, our international trade committee would work towards peace and jobs throughout the country. A woman's right to choose and I'm sure for all of us moms demand action would be proud of all of us. We're not getting our SALT back though. We need to reach across the aisle and not have these ideological fights with people from other states. Because of the way the system's set up we need to be really convincing to make sure we're getting our fair share, and we're not. Everybody look at your tax bill, look at your Con Ed bill, go to the grocery store. There's something wrong with the current leadership at all levels of government. That's why I'm running. To make new york and america a better place, and I believe if you look at what we've accomplished, with our limited budget. You get a winner when you send me to congress.*

My Comments: ok.

	Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
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