

WHERE THE CANDIDATES STAND

Side-by-side: 11 questions from a MN-01 progressive voter — Jake Johnson’s written answers vs. Alex Eaton’s answers

FOR RELEASE — Jul 19, 2026

HOW THESE ANSWERS BECAME PUBLIC

Late April 2026 — The questions were emailed to the Johnson campaign; per the questioner’s account at the Winona town hall, the campaign promised a response but did not provide one. (The questioner refers to “10 questions”; Johnson’s written reply answers 11.)

Jul 14, 2026 — At Johnson’s Winona town hall, a young person, with no affiliation with Eaton’s campaign, pressed him on the unanswered April questions. Johnson committed on the record to answering them and directed the questioner to jake@jakejohnsonforcongress.com. (See Exhibit E transcript excerpt.)

Jul 16, 2026, 1:14 AM — Johnson replied by email (jake@jakejohnsonforcongress.com), apologizing for the delay and answering all 11 questions in writing. His answers appear verbatim in the table below.

Jul 17, 2026 — Reddit user [apathydivine](#) posted the questions and Johnson’s complete written responses, including a screenshot of the email header, to [r/rochestermn](#) under the title “Jake Johnson responds to questions about important policies,” noting a friend had sent the original email.

July 18, 2026 — Alex sees the post on Reddit and posts his own response.

July 19, 2026 — Alex’s campaign posts a side-by-side comparison of the issues on [Reddit r/rochestermn](#).

Question	Jake Johnson (email, Jul 16, 2026)	Alex Eaton
1) Single-payer healthcare (Medicare for All)?	“I do not support Medicare for All because of the number of jobs it would cost us in our district. In a district where 1 in 4 people work in healthcare and social services, we are talking about losing around 10,000 jobs under Medicare for All.”	Yes. Universal single-payer healthcare is the center of my platform. Cut out the private insurance companies to drive down spending. Every person covered, no premiums, no networks, no medical bankruptcy.
2) Abolishing ICE?	“I do not support abolishing ICE. I believe we need to bring ICE funding levels back to the bipartisan levels under previous administrations, and focus on deporting violent criminals who are here illegally, rather than having a well-funded, poorly-trained militia roaming our streets.”	Yes. ICE operates like a goon squad, and that’s not what public safety looks like. I support strong, professional border security—but that’s a separate function from an agency that terrorizes communities. Abolish ICE, keep the border secure.
3) Ending Citizens United / campaign finance reform?	“I strongly support ending Citizens United. I take no money from corporate PACs, and I also support bans on politicians from ever becoming lobbyists or foreign agents.”	Yes. We can’t let corporations buy our elections. This is personal in this race: my primary opponent is backed by healthcare insurance executives who host fundraisers in their living rooms for him, and my general opponent is supported by corporate PACs. When the people

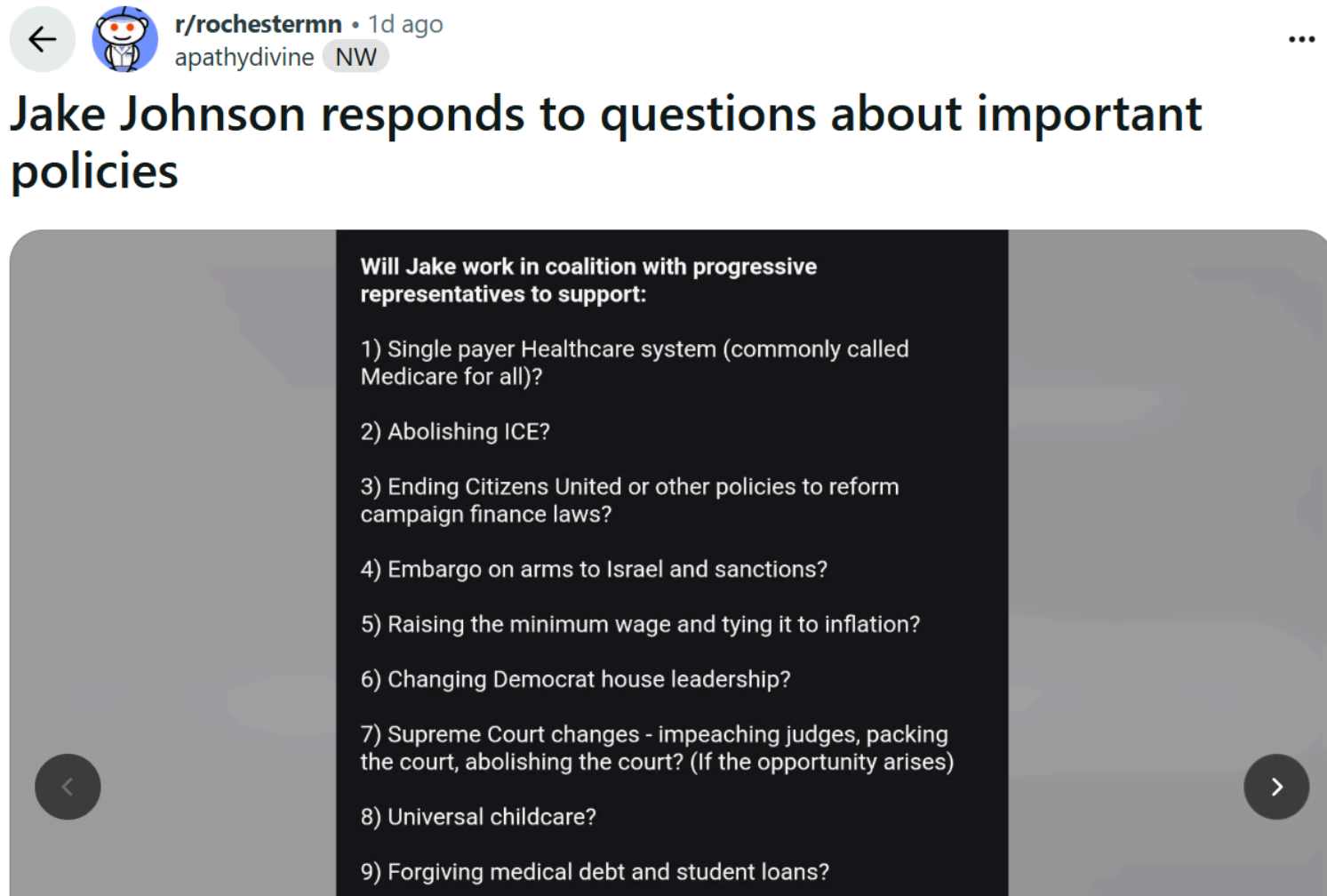
Question	Jake Johnson (email, Jul 16, 2026)	Alex Eaton
		writing the checks are the people who profit from the broken system, working families lose. Overturn Citizens United.
4) Arms embargo on Israel and sanctions?	"I support limiting the funding of offensive weapons for Israel. I support the funding of defensive weapons."	Yes. I support an arms embargo, ending all aid, and terminating our US–Israeli free trade agreement until Palestinians have the right of self-determination that the rest of the world takes for granted. Our tax dollars shouldn't fund grave human rights abuses.
5) Raising the minimum wage and tying it to inflation?	"Yes, we should raise the minimum wage and tie it to inflation."	Yes—raising the minimum wage helps, but it's not the biggest thing I'm fighting for. No federal income tax on the first \$80K, \$500/month UBI for every adult, and universal healthcare would transform the economy for the working class far more than a wage floor alone.
6) Changing Democratic House leadership?	"I would like to see who is running for House leadership."	Yes. The current leadership is inept at delivering for the working class. It's time to fight, and that means new people at the top who understand that.
7) Supreme Court changes (impeaching judges, packing the court, abolishing the court)?	"I believe in term limits and ethics rules for the Supreme Court."	Yes—and thankfully the Constitution allows it. The number of Justices isn't fixed in the Constitution; Congress has changed it before and can again. The filibuster is just a Senate rule, not a constitutional requirement. The filibuster lets a minority block what working people want, like universal healthcare and a living wage, while the wealthy get their tax cuts through on a bare majority. That's the tyranny of the minority: a handful of billionaires and the politicians they fund holding the country hostage. I truly believe in the working-class agenda I'm fighting for, and I'm willing to do whatever it takes—legally, within the Constitution—to deliver it. When we have the votes, we add Justices, abolish the filibuster, and end the tyranny of the minority.
8) Universal childcare?	"I do not know what specific proposals this is referencing."	Yes. Universal pre-K starting at age 3 is already in my platform, and universal education from pre-K through college is where I want us to go.

Question	Jake Johnson (email, Jul 16, 2026)	Alex Eaton
9) Forgiving medical debt and student loans?	“No, I do not support broad forgiveness for these loans, but I believe we have to take real action to make healthcare and education more affordable across southern Minnesota.”	Yes to forgiving medical debt, and yes to forgiving some student debt. But the real fix is upstream: universal healthcare so medical debt never happens, and universal education from pre-K to college so students don’t go into debt in the first place.
10) Keeping banks and corporations from buying single-family homes en masse?	“Yes, I support policies that stop banks and corporations from buying up single family homes en masse.”	I’d want to look at the specifics before committing to either mechanism (see #11). I believe in big but simple government—focused on a few things that make a real difference—so I’m wary of intricate or narrow prohibitions and targeted subsidies that get complicated and add administrative expense. The market is good for some things, and government doesn’t need to tip the scale in every instance. My priority is shifting economic benefits to workers, not to the homeowner class—putting money and power directly in working people’s hands. In addition, I favor breaking up the big banks, which borrow cheaper than everyone else because markets assume the government will bail them out; they’re subsidized in many ways, including the Too Big To Fail subsidy that taxpayers pay for now.
11) First-time homebuyer subsidies?	“I would want to see the specifics of the first-time homebuyer subsidies you’re mentioning, but in general, I am supportive of these types of policies that make it easier for working families to buy a home.”	See #10 — same answer covers both housing questions.

APPENDIX — SOURCE SCREENSHOTS

Screenshots of the public r/rochestermn post by u/apathydivine, “Jake Johnson responds to questions about important policies,” captured Jul 18, 2026.

Exhibit A — Post header: r/rochestermn, posted by u/apathydivine (1d ago at capture), showing the 11-question card (carousel image 1).



Jake Johnson responds to questions about important policies

Will Jake work in coalition with progressive representatives to support:

- 1) Single payer Healthcare system (commonly called Medicare for all)?
- 2) Abolishing ICE?
- 3) Ending Citizens United or other policies to reform campaign finance laws?
- 4) Embargo on arms to Israel and sanctions?
- 5) Raising the minimum wage and tying it to inflation?
- 6) Changing Democrat house leadership?
- 7) Supreme Court changes - impeaching judges, packing the court, abolishing the court? (If the opportunity arises)
- 8) Universal childcare?
- 9) Forgiving medical debt and student loans?
- 10) Policies that keep banks and corporations from buying up single family homes en mass?
- 11) First time homebuyer subsidies?

Jake Johnson responds to questions about important policies

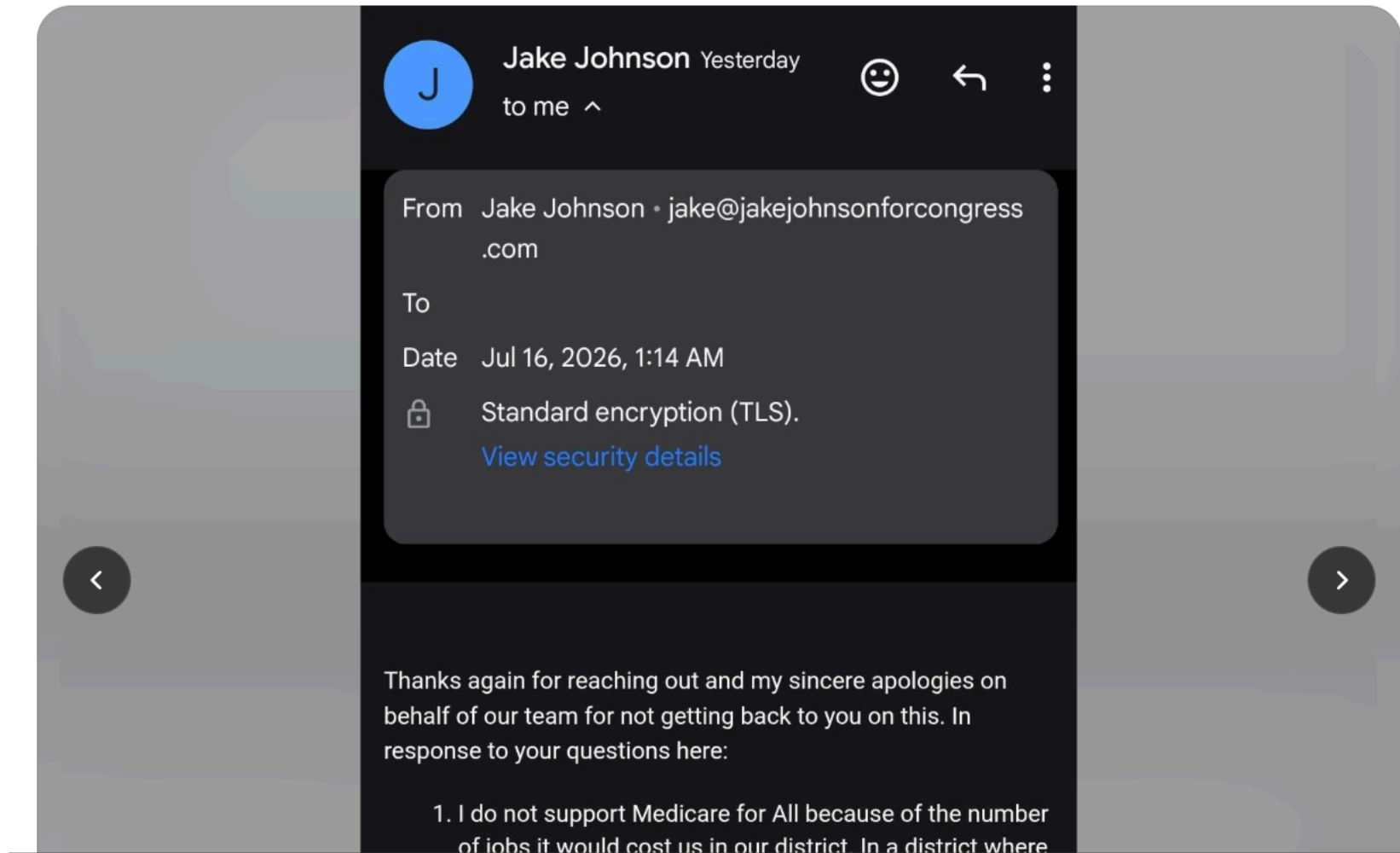


Exhibit D — Carousel image showing Johnson's complete written answers 1–11 (verbatim text in the table above).

1. I do not support Medicare for All because of the number of jobs it would cost us in our district. In a district where 1 in 4 people work in healthcare and social services, we are talking about losing around 10,000 jobs under Medicare for All.
2. I do not support abolishing ICE. I believe we need to bring ICE funding levels back to the bipartisan levels under previous administrations, and focus on deporting violent criminals who are here illegally, rather than having a well-funded, poorly-trained militia roaming our streets.
3. I strongly support ending Citizens United. I take no money from corporate PACs, and I also support bans on politicians from ever becoming lobbyists or foreign agents.
4. I support limiting the funding of offensive weapons for Israel. I support the funding of defensive weapons.
5. Yes, we should raise the minimum wage and tie it to inflation.
6. I would like to see who is running for House leadership.
7. I believe in term limits and ethics rules for the Supreme Court.
8. I do not know what specific proposals this is referencing.
9. No, I do not support broad forgiveness for these loans, but I believe we have to take real action to make healthcare and education more affordable across southern Minnesota.
10. Yes, I support policies that stop banks and corporations from buying up single family homes en masse.
11. I would want to see the specifics of the first-time homebuyer subsidies you're mentioning, but in general, I am supportive of these types of policies that make it easier for working families to buy a home.

Exhibit E — Transcript excerpt, Winona town hall, Jul 14, 2026: exchange between an audience member and Jake Johnson. Transcript reviewed against the audio recording.

Questioner: Politics has never worked in this country in my lifetime. I don't want to go back to how it was. I want to go forward. At the end of April I sent your campaign. Your campaign gave me a promise that you would get back to me on some of my questions regarding young people's concerns.

A week ago, if your campaign told me, we're not going to answer that over email; come ask it at the townhall. However, I had 10 questions and that is disrespectful of everyone's time. Can you be your words that you can get back to?

Jake: Yes. Yeah. Yeah. You're right. I appreciate that, how about this? Send it to Jake@JakeJohnsonforCongress.com. Send it to Jake@JakeJohnsonforCongress.com. And we'll get your 10 questions answered for sure. Do you know what? Give her a round of applause.

Paid for by Alex Eaton for Southern Minnesota.
17755 Leeson Ln, Vasa, MN 55066