



posed by Science Debate are decidedly pro-science, this is not a representative picture of the candidates on the whole. All of the 435 seats in the House are open for election in 2018, as are 35 seats in the Senate and 36 gubernatorial seats. At the time of publication, only 20 candidates have provided responses across the total 506 seats open for election. Of these responses, most have been from candidates running for House seats (16 districts across 11 states), and many of the candidates who provided responses have withdrawn or have been eliminated in primary elections. Some of the eliminated candidates were particularly detailed in their awareness of science innovation, as seen by their responses

to the questions. In addition, with the exception of one Green Party candidate, all responses received so far are from Democratic candidates—Republicans have yet to weigh in.

While it is unlikely that all candidates will decide to participate, the Science Debate website emphasizes that “what matters most to candidates is what their potential constituents request.”

Constituents and voters can visit the Science Debate website (<https://sciencedebate.org>) for more information on this initiative, view full candidate responses, and find information on contacting their candidates to encourage responses to the questionnaire.

**Jennifer A. Nekuda Malik**

“

Our nation is behind in our goal to produce up to ten million STEM-educated professionals needed over the next decade. What's worse is the gender gap that continues to exist in this area of our education system. As an engineer, I know how STEM can open up a host of opportunity for students. That's why I have promoted STEM programs at home and across the country and worked with Senator Gillibrand to improve engineering education in schools with the Educating Tomorrow's Engineers Act.

Representative Paul Tonko,  
New York, district 20

”

### EC proposes €100 billion for research and innovation

[www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)

A new program—Horizon Europe—will build on the achievements and success of the previous European research and innovation program (Horizon 2020) and keep the EU at the forefront of global research and innovation. With a proposal of €100 billion for the next long-term budget (2021–2027), Horizon Europe is a more ambitious research and innovation program than any proposed previously.

Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, says, “As part of this [proposal], we want to increase funding for the European Research Council to strengthen the EU's global scientific leadership, and re-engage citizens by setting ambitious new missions for EU research. We are also proposing

a new European Innovation Council to modernize funding for groundbreaking innovation in Europe.”

The European Innovation Council is to help identify and fund fast-moving, high-risk innovations with strong potential to create entirely new markets. It will provide direct support to innovators through two main funding instruments, one for early stages and the other for development and market deployment. It will complement the European Institute of Innovation and Technology.

Also new for Horizon Europe are EU-wide research and innovation missions focusing on societal challenges and industrial competitiveness. Examples could range from the fight against cancer, to clean transport or plastic-free oceans.

These missions will be co-designed with citizens, stakeholders, the European Parliament, and member states.

The principle of “open science” will become the *modus operandi* of Horizon Europe, requiring open access to publications and data. According to the European Commission (EC), this will assist market uptake and increase the innovation potential of results generated by EU funding.

The proposed budget allocation of €100 billion for 2021–2027 includes €2.4 billion for the Euratom Research and Training Programme. The Euratom program, which funds research and training on nuclear safety, security, and radiation protection, will have an increased focus on non-power applications such as health care and medical equipment, and will also support the mobility of nuclear researchers under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, which provide grants for all stages of researchers' careers. □

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