



Cleveland Heights City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Dear Candidate:

This questionnaire is a prerequisite for consideration for endorsement by the Cleveland Heights Democrats at our endorsement meeting at 7:00 p.m. on September 13, 2017 at the Cleveland Heights Community Center, One Monticello Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio. You are encouraged to attend this meeting, and if you choose to do so, you will be given an opportunity to speak to the Club prior to the voting on endorsements.

With respect to the endorsement meeting, only club members who are in good standing and on the official membership roster for thirty or more consecutive days prior to September 13, 2017 may vote on the endorsements. A majority of those members in good standing present and voting make an endorsement for office.

Please complete and return this questionnaire to Screening Committee Chair Katura Simmons at katuras414@yahoo.com, 1736 Wood Road, Cleveland Heights, 44121, no later than September 4th at 5:00 PM. This is a Word Document, and we request that you insert your responses in the appropriate spaces in the questionnaire.

Name: Michael N. Ungar

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By completing and returning this Candidate Questionnaire, I affirm the following:

1. I am a registered Democrat.
2. I agree to comply with the purpose of the Club as stated in Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution, that is:

The purpose of this organization shall be to provide a means by which residents of Cleveland Heights can organize to promote and develop the highest principles of the Democratic Party, to improve the administration of government, and to work for the good of all citizens. This organization shall endorse and support for public office all candidates whose election will, in the judgment of the membership, best advance the

Purpose. In pursuing its Purpose, this organization may also cooperate with the National, State, and County Democratic Committees, and pursue other programs of benefit to the community.

3. I agree not to openly oppose any Democratic nominee in a general partisan election.
4. I agree not to openly support any opponent of a Democratic nominee in a general partisan election.
5. I have not violated the above 1-4 during the past five (5) years.

If you cannot affirm as to numbers 2-4 please explain your reasoning here:

Please answer all of the following questions.

1. What do you hope to accomplish on behalf of the community as a member of the City Council?
 - Continue to work hard on implementing the Master Plan that has been developed for our city, with a particular emphasis on further development of vibrant neighborhoods, strong business districts, high quality infrastructure and a healthy, diverse, safe and engaged community.
2. What qualities, skills, insights, or perspectives do you possess which would be of value as a member of the City Council?
 - My professional resume is attached. I believe that my skills as a lawyer, a mediator, former President of the Bar Association, member of various civic and charitable boards and a long time chair of the Cleveland Heights Planning Commission, all of which are now supplemented by my service on the Cleveland Heights City Council, provide me with both a strong foundation and the skills that are hopefully of value to our City Council. I am a good listener and, as a professional mediator, I am constantly working to facilitate compromises and to get things done. I try to bring these same skill sets to the table as a current member of City Council.
3. What education, employment, and/or life experiences have prepared you to serve as a member of the City Council?
 - Please see above response and attached professional resume.
4. Describe your recent community, professional, charitable, and political involvement. Is there one situation where your participation made a difference?
 - Please see prior responses. As but one example, I believe that my recent involvement in the fight against the ARCO dump site in East Cleveland, which affects a number of Cleveland Heights residents, helped make a difference.
5. How will you raise funds for your campaign?
 - I will seek, on a limited basis, relatively small contributions to my campaign via private fundraising events and donations. I do not anticipate that there will be any significant donors such that any questions about my impartiality and/or “owing favors” to anyone

could ever be raised. I am fiercely independent and will remain so. My only loyalty is that which is owed to the citizens of Cleveland Heights.

6. Following is a list of issues facing the City of Cleveland Heights. Please choose three or more and briefly describe how you propose to address the issues you select. You are welcome to write about a different issue, if you like, in addition to writing about at least three of the issues listed below.

- a. Spurring economic and community development that grows our tax base and maintains Cleveland Heights as a vibrant community.
 - **Continue to work closely and collaboratively with our City Manager and our Economic Development staff to address important matters affecting economic development, including, for example, the Top of the Hill project, Noble Triangle, Coventry School, etc. Work closely with a soon-to-be-chosen partner in the form of a community development corporation (likely Future Heights) to identify opportunities throughout our city that will help to grow our tax base, which is highly important to the ongoing vitality of Cleveland Heights.**
- b. What is your view on using Tax-Increment Financing (TIFs) to spur economic and community development? How does this view effect the relationship with the Board of Education?
- c. Reducing crime and enhancing the quality of life on our streets and in our neighborhoods.
- d. Reducing foreclosed, vacant, and abandoned housing, and improving the housing options available to current and new residents.
 - **We can do a better job on both fronts. In other words, we need to continue to focus unwavering attention on doing everything we can to address the vacant property problem in Cleveland Heights, and recognize that it is a serious one that can become contagious. We need to stop the spread. At the same time, we need to work closely with our Economic Development and Planning staffs to address needed housing options for certain segments of our community (including affordable housing and housing for seniors), and to ensure that we are attractive to a broad range of potential new residents. This is challenging, but I believe that our current staff is making positive strides.**
- e. Maintaining and improving infrastructure, including resolving our water crisis and future as a master meter community in the Cleveland Water Department distribution system.
- f. Achieving sufficient revenues to provide good city services. For example, adequate safety forces, efficient garbage and rubbish collection, snow removal, etc.
 - **As a city councilperson, I have spent a lot of time making certain that we are providing good city services to our residents. This is a basic and**

fundamental expectation, as it should be, for all who live in Cleveland Heights. As Chair of our Finance Committee, I have kept my finger on the pulse of the City's economic condition, and I will continue to do so to ensure that the most important services are being delivered without interruption. If we do not do this, and continue vigilant pursuit of a safe and healthy community with high quality infrastructure and services, then the DNA of our city will be threatened. We will not be able to maintain strong business districts and we will not be able to attract individuals who wish to call Cleveland Heights their home if we do not deliver on our promise to deliver these types of basic services. Thus, ensuring that we have sufficient revenues to maintain these key city services is essential to our very survival, and the importance of this need cannot be overstated, in my opinion.

Additional comment: It has been a privilege and an honor to serve on City Council. I have worked very hard on behalf of the citizens of Cleveland Heights and I will continue to work hard to be responsive to peoples' needs and deliver good results. Thank you for performing this valuable service for our community.

Enclosure

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