



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: Jason Stein

Residence Address: 3510 Severn Rd

Home Tel: 216-321-1309

Mobile Tel: 216-538-0129

Email: stein4council@gmail.com

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.

- What do you hope to accomplish on behalf of the community as a member of the City Council?
As a member of Council I hope to continue to provide high quality city services, revive our commercial districts and cooperate with our schools, the arts community and local non-profits. As well, I want to pursue new opportunities to collaborate regionally and see a citizens driven Charter Review Committee through to completion.
- What qualities, skills, insights, or perspectives do you possess which would be of value as a member of the City Council?
I am a lifelong resident of Cleveland Heights. I attended Boulevard, Wiley and Heights High school. I am the product of Cleveland Heights. Now I am raising my children in this great City. The values of Cleveland Heights are my values. Having a home grown Cleveland Heights perspective is important on Council.
- What education, employment, and/or life experiences have prepared you to serve as a member of the City Council?
I am a Cleveland Heights High graduate (1995). This experience and excellent education gives me a uniquely Cleveland Heights perspective. As well, I have been active in Cleveland Heights for many years. I have a wide range of experiences that include being a City Councilman, CH-UH Library Board Trustee, a member of the Cleveland Heights' Citizens Advisory Committee, a member of the CH-UH Board of Education's Facilities Committee, an active Democrat and other valuable experiences.
- Describe your recent community, professional, charitable, and political involvement. Is there one situation where your participation made a difference?
Cleveland Heights City Council Member 2011 – present
Cleveland Heights Vice Mayor 2016 - present
Chair of Community Relations and Recreation Committee 2016 - present
Chair of Planning and Development Committee 2014-2015
Chair of Public Safety and Health Committee 2012 – 2013
Chair of Administrative Services 2011

Executive Committee Member of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party 2010 - 2016
Democratic Precinct Leader 4-G, 2010 - 2014
CH-UH Library Board Trustee, 2010- June 2011
Citizens Advisory Committee 2008- June 2011
CH-UH School Facilities Advisory Committee 2010 – 2011

My participation in the political process is with the purpose of making a difference.

- How will you raise funds for your campaign?
I receive financial support from supporters.
- 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.

I. Reducing crime and enhancing the quality of life on our streets and in our neighborhoods.

I am proud of the work I have done to make our neighborhoods safer. I am particularly proud of initiatives such as;

1. Youth diversion program,
2. Community Policing emphasis,
3. Meet your police night every Thursday,
4. Neighborhood Watch Program,
5. Cleveland Heights Police Facebook page and
6. Bike patrols

II. Reducing foreclosed, vacant, and abandoned housing, and improving the housing options available to current and new residents.

The remanence of the foreclosure crisis is still being felt. I support continued cooperation with the Cuyahoga County Land Bank and demolition of nuisance homes. We must continue to work with community non-profits like the Home Repair Resource Center to assist homeowners to better manage their financial realities and being able to invest in home improvements.

As well, I support sustainable and green legislation that will permit new uses for multi-family homes in identified areas of the City and to permit community gardens in vacant lots.

I continue to support incentives to home ownership such as Cleveland Heights' down payment assistance loan.

III. Maintaining and improving infrastructure, including resolving our water crisis and future as a master meter community in the Cleveland Water Department distribution system.

As of this year, Cleveland Heights is no longer a master meter city. We are now part of the regional Cleveland Water system. For years prior to and during the City's "water crisis", I had strongly advocated to keep our water system a PUBLIC ENTITY by joining with Cleveland Water. I consistently OPPOSED PRIVATIZATION of our City's water with Aqua or any other for-profit company. I continued to advocate for merging with Cleveland Water even as the City was finalizing privatization of our water lines with

Aqua. I am proud of my efforts and the efforts of those Cleveland Heights residents that spoke out against privatization and supported my repeated calls to keep our water public by joining with Cleveland Water.

IV. Fostering regional collaboration.

I have been a proponent of regionalism since 2007. This was the salt dome (Cedar/Taylor) issue that put Cleveland Heights in direct conflict with University Heights and the CH-UH Board of Education being caught in the middle. My leadership led to the eventually “regional” solution of sharing the Cleveland Heights salt dome. Now, the Cedar-Taylor commercial district has many new businesses and a growing merchants association.

As well, I have advocated for Cleveland Heights to join the Cleveland Water district, expanding dispatch to include additional municipalities, join the Regional Income Tax Agency, entering into a joint study with Shaker and University Heights to explore the potential benefits of merging Fire Departments, collaborating with University Heights on sharing a salt dome and garbage disposal and there is more to come. Regionalism is about working together to improve the quality and efficiency of City services.