



## U.S. Senate and House of Representatives Candidate Questionnaire

Dear Candidate:

The Cleveland Heights Democrats will hold its endorsement meeting at 7 PM on April 7, 2022 via Zoom. We invite you to participate in our endorsement process.

Prerequisites for participation:

- (1) The candidate must be a registered Democrat.
- (2) Per our Bylaws, the candidate must confirm agreement with the "purpose statement/conditions to endorsement" set out below.
- (3) **Deadline: The candidate must submit a completed copy of this questionnaire not later than 5 PM on Saturday, March 26 by email to [president@clevelandheightsdems@gmail.com](mailto:president@clevelandheightsdems@gmail.com).** Receipt of your questionnaire will be acknowledged; if you do not receive an acknowledgment promptly, please text Linda Striefsky at 216-533-6941.

This is a Word Document, and we request that you insert responses in the appropriate spaces in the questionnaire. (The document will allow you to expand the space if needed.) In addition to your contact information, you also may provide a telephone number or email for a staff member, but we will need your email address for purposes of sending you a link to participate in the endorsement meeting. Candidates' answers to the questionnaire will be shared with our members prior to the meeting.

You are encouraged to attend the virtual endorsement meeting on Thursday, April 7 at 7 PM via Zoom, but attendance is *not* mandatory for endorsement. If you choose to attend, you will be given an opportunity to speak to the Club for 2 minutes prior to the endorsement vote. Each candidate also will be given 5 minutes to respond to questions from the Zoom audience.

With respect to the endorsement meeting, only Club members in good standing and on the official membership roster for thirty or more consecutive days prior to April 7 may vote on the endorsements. **An endorsement requires the vote of 60% of those members in good standing present and voting.**

Name: **Congresswoman Shontel Brown**

Running as a candidate for: \_\_\_ U.S. Senate **X** U.S. House of Representatives

Candidate Mobile Tel: **216-536-0566**

**Candidate Email:** kim@shontelbrown.com

**Optional - Mobile Tel and Email for staff:** Darryle Torbert (Campaign Manager)  
216-357-8006/ darryle@shontelbrown.com

**Purpose statement/conditions to endorsement:** By completing and returning this Candidate Questionnaire, I affirm the following:

- A. I am a registered Democrat.  
 Yes \_\_\_ No
- B. 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.
- Yes \_\_\_ No
- C. I agree not to openly oppose any Democratic nominee in a general partisan election.  
 Yes \_\_\_ No
- D. I agree not to openly support any opponent of a Democratic nominee in a general partisan election.  
 Yes \_\_\_ No
- E. I have not violated the above A through and including D during the past five (5) years.  
 Yes \_\_\_ No

If you cannot affirm as to items B, C and D above, please explain your reasoning here:

Per the Club Bylaws, the Screening Committee may require candidates to sign an agreement to comply with those conditions during the candidate's term in the office for which the endorsement is given.

Please answer each of the following questions. Some require only a 'Yes' or 'No' answer. For others, you may take a few sentences to express your response. Out of respect for your time, we are not asking for lengthy answers.

1. Briefly describe the major reasons why you would be of value as a member of the U.S. Congress representing the Congressional District in which Cleveland Heights is located or as a member of the U.S. Senate, as applicable.

I am running to continue to represent Ohio's 11th Congressional District to build on the work I have started in my first term in Congress. In my first 100 days in Congress, I proudly supported the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which is slated to bring good-paying, union jobs to Northeast Ohio and provide Ohio with \$9 billion to repair roads, \$1.2 billion to modernize public transit, \$1.4 billion to deliver clean water to families, and \$100 million to expand access to high-speed internet. Additionally, in response to our county's inconsistent collective bargaining practices, I proudly co-sponsored the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act, setting a minimum standard of collective bargaining rights across the nation. The legislation would give public employees the freedom to convene in a union selected by most employees, collectively bargain over wages, hours and terms and conditions of employment, and much more. If re-elected to Congress, I will continue to build upon the historical work I have accomplished so far and continue to proudly serve the people of Northeast Ohio as a collaborative leader, partner, and advocate for all.

2. List your top three priorities for bringing **federal assistance to the 11th Congressional District**, whether in the form of federal funding for local needs or other legislative solutions to local needs.

#### **CREATING JOBS IN OUR COMMUNITIES**

I supported the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which is slated to bring good-paying, union jobs to our region that cannot be outsourced. We need robust infrastructure investments to create jobs locally and make us more competitive.

#### **WORKING FOR A BOLD RECOVERY FROM COVID**

In Congress, I will stand with the Biden-Harris administration and Democratic leaders in prioritizing health equity and ensuring all future COVID relief is distributed equitably to lead a bold recovery from COVID.

#### **EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES TO END POVERTY**

In my first 100 days, I have shown my commitment to fight for a living wage by supporting legislation to raise the minimum wage and extend the Child Tax Credit. If re-elected, I will continue to support legislation critical to helping families address health and caregiving needs.

3. **Education** -

Do you support changing federal education law to eliminate high stakes testing?

Yes \_\_\_ No

- A. Do you support increased federal funding for public schools, and elimination of federal funding for all privately operated charter schools and all other private schools – religious or not - and any other measures that divert public money away from public schools and/or contribute to public school resegregation?

Yes \_\_\_ No

4. **Filibuster** - What is your opinion on ending the filibuster? Please explain.

I support efforts to increase bipartisanship participation in Washington, but the filibuster has historically prolonged efforts to change laws. The American people elected Democrats to deliver, and without ending the filibuster, we are in danger of not enacting the change this country truly needs. We have a historic opportunity to create lasting progress on voting rights, civil rights, a justice agenda, you name it. Let's make progress now, not punt or be afraid of what might happen in the future. Should Democrats succeed in ending it, I believe they will create new measures to ensure bipartisan support.

5. **Racial Justice** -

People of color across this country are the targets of escalating levels of racially motivated threats and violence. What would you do as a member of Congress to address this?

In Congress, I continued to prioritize civil and human rights laws by voting for the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act, which expands access to the ballot box. Although I was not a Member at the time of its passage, I support the No HATE Act and Equality Act. If re-elected, I will continue to champion legislation that ensures no one experiences discrimination for who they love and nationwide civil rights protections cover all Americans.

- A. If you win this seat, will you advocate for reparations for descendants of Black people who were enslaved in the U.S.?

Yes \_\_\_ No

Please elaborate if you wish.

In Congress, I co-sponsored legislation to establish the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans, H.R. 40, which will hopefully identify and recommend remedies for reparations for descendants of enslaved persons.

B. Will you fight to ensure that school curricula include the accurate and honest teaching of the history of Black Americans and other American people of color and that works by Black authors and other authors of color be made readily available to students?

Yes \_\_\_ No

6. **Voting Rights –**

Do you support **HR 1**, the **For the People Act**, and the **John Lewis Voting Rights Act** of 2021?

Yes \_\_\_ No

A. If you don't support **HR 1** and/or the **John Lewis Voting Rights Act**, what measures for facilitating voter participation in elections do you support – same day registration and voting, expansion of early voting polling locations and hours, providing voters with absentee ballot applications, voting by mail in all states, and/or something else?

7. **Healthcare –**

Do you believe it should be a priority for our government to assure that all Americans have access to affordable, quality health care?

Yes \_\_\_ No

A. If so, by what mechanism: Medicare for All, other single payer construct, expansion of the **Affordable Care Act**, or something else?

I will continue to work with President Biden and Democrat leaders to pass a high-quality public option that will lower costs, drive down prescription drug costs, and expand coverage to achieve universal health care. In Congress, I support the Build Back Better Act, which lowers the cost of health care premiums and prescription drug prices. I believe a public option that President Biden supports is the fastest and most immediate mechanism to get there and will provide quality healthcare.

8. **Climate Change –**

What are your top three priorities for U.S. action to address and mitigate climate change?

I stand by my commitment to follow science. We have been educated on the consequences of global warming, and we continue to witness the effects first-hand. I stand with the Biden-Harris Administration's initiative to deliver an equitable clean energy future. This would include promoting renewable energy, reducing oil and gas subsidies, and establishing a Task Force on Coal and Power Plant Communities.

We need to hold corporate polluters accountable when they lead to the underlying conditions contributing to higher illness rates, hospitalization, and deaths. I support President Biden's plan to reverse excessive tax cuts for corporations, reducing incentives for tax havens, evasion, and outsourcing.

A. What are your top 3 priorities for transitioning the United States from reliance on fossil fuels to a more balanced energy program that includes more significant reliance on renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar?

I am a strong proponent of sustainable and renewable energy to grow our economy and break our addiction to foreign energy. I believe we can simultaneously protect our environment and create good-paying jobs, and my focus will be to find the balance to do both. My top three priorities for transitioning the United States to more significant reliance on renewable energy include requiring the provision of electricity through low-carbon sources throughout the country; strengthening standards for federally funded projects and building codes; and incentivizing additional development and provision of clean renewable energy at the provider level, as well as the consumer level..

9. Would you oppose legislation that would weaken the **Endangered Species Act**?  Yes  
 No

10. **Campaign Finance Reform –**

Will you commit to campaign finance reforms to require timely disclosure by candidates of all sources of campaign contribution in any form?

Yes  No

A. What other campaign finance reforms do you support?

We must reverse the Citizens United decision that opened the door to a flood of dark money in American politics. Money in politics is a significant problem in our democracy, necessitating real campaign finance reform.

B. Do you confirm that you have not, and will not, accept financial support from any corporate PAC or the NRA?

Yes  No

11. **Labor Rights** –

Do you support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour?

Yes  No

If yes, in a single increment, or incrementally over what period of time?

In Congress, I proudly co-sponsored the Raise the Wage Act which raises the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 by 2025

A. Do you support the right of workers to collective bargaining and, in particular, the **PRO Act** (Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2021)?

Yes  No

12. **Child Care** - Lack of access to affordable childcare has become a crisis across our country. What do you believe the federal government could and should do to address this? For example, do you support increased federal funding for childcare subsidies for families with low and middle incomes and universal pre-school?

In Congress, I voted for the Build Back Better Act and repeatedly called for its passage in the Senate, explicitly noting the importance of an extension of the Child Tax Credit for families in OH-11. If re-elected, I will continue to advocate for American families, including solutions that increase access to and affordability of childcare. I also support universal preschool programs.

13. **Equality** –

Do you oppose all discrimination on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity?

Yes \_\_\_ No

- A. Do you support the proposed federal **Equality Act**, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation or gender identity in housing, employment, public accommodations, education, federally funded programs, credit and jury service?

Yes \_\_\_ No

14. **Right to Make Healthcare Decisions –**

Do you believe everyone has the right to access abortion care legally in their community without regard to ability to pay, without stigma, shame, delay or medically unnecessary barriers?

Yes \_\_\_ No

- A. Do you support federal legislation to ensure that right?

Yes \_\_\_ No

In Congress, I co-sponsored the Access to Birth Control Act, which guarantees patients timely access to birth control at the pharmacy, and the EACH Act, which repeals discriminatory practices created by the Hyde Amendment prohibiting Medicaid and other federal funds to be used for abortions, which disproportionately affects low-income women and women of color.

- B. And if you previously held a different position on either of the preceding two questions, what caused you to change your mind?

- C. Do you support repeal of the **Hyde Amendment**, which bans Medicaid funding for abortion services?

Yes \_\_\_ No

15. **Gun Safety** - What reforms do you support to reduce the epidemic of gun violence in our country?

I support universal background checks for gun sales, mandatory waiting periods for gun purchases, and bans on assault weapons that have no place on American streets. Finally, if you have been convicted of a hate crime or domestic violence, you should not be allowed to purchase a gun.

16. **Foreign Policy** - What are the top foreign policy challenges facing the U.S. that concern you the most, and what should be the role of our country in addressing these?

As always, the security and protection of America's citizens and interests remain high on my list of priorities as a member of Congress. It is more critical now than ever before that the Biden-Harris Administration and Congress work to defend our state and democracy against cyber threats from within and without, continue to strengthen relationships and work cooperatively with our allies, support democracy at home and abroad, and continue to work towards a strong U. S. and global economy.

**International Trade** – Do you support a temporary waiver of some **Trade-Related Aspects of the WTO Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)** rules during the COVID-19 emergency in order to grant access to chemical structures and patent information held by "big Pharma" to countries capable of manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines themselves? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Please explain your reply.

This is a global pandemic, and America is a global leader. The failure to increase vaccine production in other countries may once again result in an upsurge abroad that will travel to America. However, American patents are sacrosanct. A temporary waiver to allow other "countries" to produce the vaccines would need to be carefully considered and include requirements to protect the patents from widespread encroachment. Needless to say, I am torn over the response.

17. **Immigration** – The immigration system in our country is terribly broken, underfunded and unjust in many aspects. What are some of the most urgently needed reforms you would want to see addressed by Congress?

If re-elected, I will continue to work with the Biden-Harris Administration to take the necessary steps to safely modernize our nation's immigration system and ensure that it is fair to all immigrants and more humane. I will support our President in creating immigration reform that will allow eligible individuals to join us in rebuilding the fabric of our nation and economy.

18. **Democratic Solidarity** - If you are not the winner of the Democratic primary election, do you commit to supporting the winner and to urging your supporters to support the winner?

Yes \_\_\_ No