



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.** 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: [TRACY JOHNSON]

Running as a candidate for: Yes_ U.S. Senate U.S. House of Representatives

Candidate Mobile Tel:

Candidate Email: TJ@Trabianenterprises.com

Optional - Mobile Tel and Email for staff:

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

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

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

Everyone has the right to run for any office that they choose in the Primary Election. We are facing crisis from so many different vantage points, and we need new voices, with new ideas, new leaders to come forward. Voters deserve to have a choice in the primary.

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.

Traci (TJ) Johnson is an accomplished IT Executive and President of Tra'Bian Enterprises, a privately held, leader of Information Technology Solutions Firm located in Dublin, Ohio, specializing in IT Management Consulting and Professional Services Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Staffing provider.

I am running for the US Senate because Ohio is now dangerously divided, as is our nation. I will Unify Ohio:

Over 30 years of dedicated voluntary service in the Democratic party, recruiting, screening, training candidates to represent our values in public office. I have been an Elected Ward Committee Women for over 20 years. Building collaborative partnerships with Corporations, Small Business and our Communities. I have rose to the leadership ranks within the Democratic organizations because of my qualifications, drive and my passion to serve.

Ohio deserves a leader focused on job creation, access to Affordable Wi-Fi and robust broadband for all, adequate and equitable funding for education and publicly funded childcare. A Business owner and leader that will grow our economy by investing in small business, focus on new lending opportunities, access capital, greater access to low interest loans and grants so business can grow and sustain.

Our challenges must be resolve together, so everyone will have a seat at our table to discuss critical issues that impact our communities. We will create comprehensive strategies to combat gun violence, fight against voter suppression, protect a women's right to choose, end the HIV epidemic and ensure election integrity.

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.

Windfall Elimination Provision is harmful to teachers, fireman, police and working people. I have always stood on the front lines and in the trenches through Senate Bill 5 and know Windfall. The Provision must be reformed, and I will support legislation that supports Ohio Workers

Support our teachers by giving them the pay and dignity they deserve. Many Teachers invest in our schools and students out of their own pockets. Invest in the resources needed for student to grow and Teacher can focus on Teaching.

Education is unconstitutional because of the over reliance on property taxes, so our

children's future is constantly being decided at the voting booth. Invest in our schools to eliminate the funding gap between rich and poor districts, a child's future should not be determined by parents' income or race. Ohio has over 600 school district so we must invest according to the need not the zip.

Rents have increased for decades, while incomes have remained same for people working in low-wage jobs. Increase funding for affordable housing and homelessness programs; provide home energy and emergency assistance programs to families on the verge of losing their homes, everyone deserves safe and affordable housing in Ohio.

3. **Education -**

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

Y Yes No

B. 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?

Y Yes No

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

Filibuster has been historically used to block social justice reform and delay civil right for black people it must be ended.

4. **Racial Justice -**

A. 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?

We must pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, Federal policing standards and police reform legislation to rebuild the trust between law enforcement and our communities. Reform our criminal justice system to eliminate racial disparities and systematic racism that exist.

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

Y Yes No

Please elaborate if you wish.

- C. 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

5. **Voting Rights –**

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

Yes No

- B. 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?

6. **Healthcare –**

- A. 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

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

Expansion of the Affordable Care Act

7. **Climate Change –**

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

- We must achieve a 100% clean energy economy and reach net-zero emissions no later than 2050.
- We must work with other countries to address climate change and take decisive actions to integrate climate change into our foreign policy, national security strategies and use it as a framework to approach international trade.
- We must take action against fossil fuel companies who put profit over people and knowingly harm our environment and poison our communities' air, land, and water and do not disclose information regarding potential environmental and health risks.

What are you 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?

- Upskill workforce and talent pipelines in renewable energy, technology and manufacturing industries ready to integrate into our new infrastructure and clean energy economy. Provide a foundation for sustainable growth that will allow us to compete in the global economy.
- Environmental justice, agriculture, resilience, and conservation is a key consideration in creating good, union, middle-class jobs in our communities. Decrease dramatic cost reductions in clean energy technologies, ensuring that new technologies are made in America.
- Improved public transportation with high-quality, zero-emissions options through flexible federal investments that meet the needs of our cities that include light rail and improving existing transit, bus lines and installing infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists.

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

9. **Campaign Finance Reform –**

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

Y Yes No

B. What other campaign finance reforms do you support?

We need a comprehensive campaign finance system that allows for equal and leveled playing field for candidates that are seeking office. Support limits on campaign contributions and stricter enforcement of existing bans on coordination between candidates, reject lobbyist and super PACs. Our democracy is paid for by the wealthy we must put the power back into the hands of the people.

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

Y Yes No

10. **Labor Rights –**

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

Y Yes No

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

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

Y Yes No

11. **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? Yes

12. **Equality** –

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

Y Yes No

B. 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?

Y Yes No

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

A. 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?

Y Yes No

B. Do you support federal legislation to ensure that right?

Y Yes No

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

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

Y Yes No

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

Investments must be made to make our communities stronger by addressing root causes of crime: Poverty, expanding transportation to higher paying jobs on the bus line, opioid treatment, recovery and prevention. In addition, we must fund community policing and invest in community violence intervention, reduce recidivism, fund summer programs for youth, provide workforce development programs and training programs to get people back

to work and prevent the flow of guns in our communities used for robberies, homicides and accidental discharge.

15. **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?

Strengthen our Relationship with our Allies Globally- Donald Trump's policies eroded our reputation globally. Through his actions he undermined our alliances, threatened our national security and our democracy. We must focus on improved cyber security to keep America Safe, restore Democracy that eliminates, voter suppression, provide equal access to education so our children can be competitive globally.

Re-Establish our Global Leadership – American lost credibility and respect on the Global Stage, we must regain trust and credibility that was lost through the Trump administration. Renew our commitment to NATO and encourage other nations to address the impacts of global climate change.

16. **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?
Y Yes ___ No

Please explain your reply

Yes, only if India and Africa can accelerate the production and deployment of vaccines. They are seeking greater access to vaccines and other health products, but there is a concern regarding drug safety and quality. We should also examine how a waiver could affect U.S. economic interests and the implications for future U.S. trade agreements.

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?

Immigration Reform, Voter Rights, Criminal Justice Reform

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?

Y Yes ___ No