



## 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:** Tim Ryan

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

**Candidate Mobile Tel:**

**Candidate Email:** [tim@timforoh.com](mailto:tim@timforoh.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.  
 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 for the U.S. Senate to cut Ohio workers in on the deal. I am a lifelong Ohioan who lives just a few miles from the house where I grew up in Niles, and I am proud to have spent my career fighting for Ohio workers. I've seen what happens when our politics and our economy*

*aren't working for working people and I understand that there's nothing more patriotic than investing in our team, bringing good-paying jobs to Ohio, and making sure our workers can compete with countries around the world and win. I have worked across the aisle and alongside Northeast Ohio leaders like Congresswomen Marcia Fudge and Stephanie Tubbs Jones to support working families, invest in education, expand access to affordable health care, and create good paying jobs here in our communities. I've also worked hand-in-hand with businesses to revitalize American manufacturing and bring good paying jobs and opportunities home to Ohio. In the Senate, I will keep fighting to raise wages and make it easier to unionize, make healthcare more affordable, protect Ohioans' retirement security, invest in education, rebuild our public infrastructure, and revitalize manufacturing so we can make things in Ohio again — and make sure we're cutting workers in on the deal every step of the way.*

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.

*My top priorities would be:*

1. *Creating good paying jobs—by continuing to build on the investment from our infrastructure bill which is estimated to create as many as 600,000 jobs in Ohio, revitalizing manufacturing, helping businesses grow and hire more workers, and by expanding our care economy and ensuring those are good paying, dignified jobs that will allow workers to pay the bills and get the breathing room they deserve. Above all, I'll keep fighting to raise wages and pass the PRO Act so it's easier for workers to form and join a union, which will help us to tip the balance of power back to working people.*
2. *Investing in education and skills training—the only way we can win the future is by going all-in on our team here. That includes universal pre-K and community college, as well as bringing back and modernizing shop class so our kids enter the workforce job-ready, and investing in our joint vocational schools, apprenticeships, and on-the-job training. You shouldn't need a college degree to earn a good living, and I'll keep fighting for opportunities for Ohioans with all levels of education.*
3. *Bringing down costs for working families—costs are rising and corporate profits have soared, while workers' wages have stayed nearly flat. I'm pushing to permanently restore the Child Tax Credit that gave so many Ohio families some breathing room over the last year, and to bring down costs across the board, including bringing our supply chains back from overseas so that disruptions from events out of our control don't lead to scarcity and price gouging, lowering the Medicare eligibility age and creating a public option to increase competition in the health care marketplace, and allowing Medicare to negotiate for lower prescription drug costs.*

### 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

*There's absolutely no place in our education system for for-profit charter schools, and nonprofit charter schools must be held to the same standard as public schools on every count—including transparency about how taxpayer dollars are being used, teacher training and labor standards, protection of every student's civil rights, building quality, and more. That's why I introduced the Charter School Accountability Act, whose language pushing for more transparency was included in the Every Student Succeeds Act.*

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

*The Senate is broken, and it's holding us back from addressing the urgent challenges facing working Ohioans, from strengthening workers' rights and passing a permanent Child Tax Credit, to going all-in on American manufacturing and positioning our workers to take on China and win, to restoring the Voting Rights Act and strengthening our democracy. The only way we can fix it is by abolishing the filibuster and electing more senators who will fight like hell on behalf of working people in Ohio and across the country.*

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?

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.

*I am a cosponsor of the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act. which would form the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans to study the issue of reparations and how it would be implemented.*

*However, my immediate priority is to address the generations of systemic racism and disparities that have left Black and Brown Ohioans behind — including making sure that we’re investing in infrastructure and bringing resources to marginalized and underserved communities, expanding access to credit and capital for minority-owned businesses, investing in skills training and education, and making sure our health care system is equipped to meet the needs of Black Ohioans.*

- 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?

*In the richest country on Earth, it is unacceptable that anyone should go broke because they had to go to the hospital or pay for a prescription. I am committed to bringing down health care costs and giving Ohioans more options for how they get the care they need. I also know we must invest into rural health care and find new ways to attract health care workers to underserved and rural areas so every Ohioan can get high-quality, affordable care without having to travel far from home.*

*I support expanding Medicare by lowering the eligibility age to 60, and allowing people to buy into the program at 50, along with creating a public option that will increase competition and bring down costs. I also support allowing Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices, which would keep more money in Ohioans' pockets while also saving hundreds of billions in taxpayer dollars and helping sustain Medicare for generations to come.*

## 8. **Climate Change** –

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

*I am focused on making sure that efforts to combat climate change and protect the health of every Ohioan translate into investments into our people and our communities, creating good-paying jobs and opportunities for Ohio workers to once again lead the country and the world—all while ensuring that we enjoy the benefits for generations to come.*

*With climate change already bringing more intense heat, flooding, and changes to growing seasons for our farmers—along with greater risk of heat death and more unsafe air quality days that disproportionately harm low-income communities and people of color—I recognize that we can't afford not to act. I've pushed to pass a robust infrastructure plan that will put thousands of Ohioans to work modernizing our grid, going big on clean energy, and preparing for the challenges of the 21st century, all while using American-made materials.*

*There's no reason we should be relying on wind turbines and solar panels made in China. I am fighting to cut Ohio workers in on the deal by revitalizing clean manufacturing here at home—so we can supply the world with American-made wind turbines, solar panels, batteries, electric vehicles, and everything else we'll need to power the clean energy economy.*

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?

*The most important thing we can be doing is expanding production of clean energy technologies here in Ohio. That's why I was proud to introduce the Solar Energy Manufacturing for America Act, which would reward companies like First Solar in Toledo that are making the materials to power our future right here in the U.S. It's why I've worked to bring investment back to Northeast Ohio to help BRITE Energy Innovators support emerging energy efficiency and storage projects, and why I worked alongside Senator Sherrod Brown to pass the bipartisan infrastructure law that includes historic investments into electric vehicle charging stations, climate resiliency, and mass transit—all while using American-made materials and creating good jobs around our state. In the Senate, I'll keep working to build on this progress by*

*supporting the development of our clean energy economy in a way that translates into opportunities for Ohio workers.*

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?

*I'm proud to be a cosponsor of the For The People Act, a monumental step in reforming campaign finance and protecting our democracy. By shining a light on dark money in politics through upgrading online political ad disclosure and requiring all organizations involved in political activities to disclose their big donors, the For The People Act will put the power of democracy back into the hands of the people, not the super-rich or corporate interests. This bill will also Congress' authority to regulate money in politics—pushing back on the Supreme Court's despicable Citizens United decision—while restructuring the FEC to better oversee campaign finance. In the Senate, I'll continue working to pass legislation that will reform our campaign finance regulations and get dark money out of politics.*

- 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?

I cosponsored the Raise the Wage Act, which would incrementally increase the minimum wage 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?

*I hear from working parents and employers all over Ohio who say that the lack of high-quality, affordable child care is a monumental barrier to getting our economy back on track. That's why I voted last year to invest in a historic expansion of pre-K and child care, which included language that would ensure that the jobs created are good, dignified positions that allow care workers and early childhood education providers to earn a living wage.*

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

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

*As elected officials, we have a responsibility to listen and learn from our constituents. I was raised Catholic and attended Catholic schools growing up. When I arrived in Congress, I had the opportunity to hear from Ohioans who had made the choice to have an abortion, and to learn from pro-choice champions in Congress and advocates who fight to protect this critical right, and their position made all the sense in the world to me: the heavy hand of government has no business coming between Ohioans and their doctors when it comes to this critical decision.*

*Since then, I've been proud to vote to protect and strengthen reproductive rights—including cosponsoring and voting for the Women's Health Protection Act, which would codify Roe v. Wade, and opposing efforts to strip funding from critical health care providers like Planned Parenthood. In the Senate, I'll keep*

voting for abortion rights, including by confirming judges to the federal bench who recognize Roe as settled law and will continue to defend reproductive freedom.

- 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?

*As a father of three and husband of a first-grade teacher, I have been proud to speak up in support of stronger gun safety protections both in my official capacity and on the campaign trail -- including joining community leaders in Dayton in the wake of the Oregon District shooting in 2019 and leading a caravan with Moms Demand volunteers and other gun safety advocates to Mitch McConnell's hometown in Kentucky to demand passage of gun safety reforms. I will continue to advocate for common-sense rules to end gun violence and keep our communities safe.*

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?

*The greatest challenge we have is the looming threat of China, which has spent years investing heavily and moving aggressively to become the greatest economic superpower on Earth. We need to have a foreign policy that recognizes this urgent threat, strengthens our relationships with allies around the world, and rebalances our tax and trade regimes to ensure that we're making investments into our workers and our communities here in Ohio so that we are prepared to compete and win in this great global competition.*

17. **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.

*We can only put this global pandemic behind us by making sure that everyone can access vaccines and therapeutics. As long as we allow corporate greed to determine access to these lifesaving treatments, we will be struggling to finish the job of recovering from this crisis.*

18. **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?

*As the great-grandson of immigrants, I understand personally how new Americans' contributions to our communities have shaped the fabric of our society. If we're serious about honoring our heritage as a nation of immigrants, we need to set aside the scare tactics and work to modernize our broken system to keep families together—all while taking steps to grow our economy and keep Americans safe.*

*In Congress, I have worked to secure funding to make sure law enforcement agencies are adequately staffed, and invest in technology and resources to secure our border as effectively as possible to better keep out terrorists and criminals and prevent the spread of fentanyl and other deadly drugs.*

*I voted to reform our broken immigration system and spoke up against efforts to separate immigrant families and end protections for young people brought to the United States as children. Above all, Tim remains committed to working with anyone to make it easier to immigrate here legally, streamline and update our intake processes for refugees and asylum seekers, and establish a path to citizenship for the workers and small business owners who are already in the United States.*

19. **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