



Ohio Governor and State Legislator 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.

We request that you insert responses in this Word Document. (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 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: John Cranley

Candidate for: Governor Ohio House Ohio Senate

Candidate Mobile Tel: (216) 394-8582

Candidate Email: info@johncranley.com

Campaign Website: johncranley.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. Please note that certain questions below are posed only to candidates for Governor and others are posed only to candidates for the Ohio legislature. Most of the questions are posed to both categories of candidates. 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. **[For Candidates for Ohio Legislature]** Briefly describe the major reasons why you would be of value as a member of the Ohio Legislature representing the Senate or House District that includes Cleveland Heights.
2. **[For Candidates for Ohio Legislature]** Please list what you regard as the three most urgent problems of the Senate or House District that includes Cleveland Heights. What legislative efforts will you make to address those problems?
3. **[For Candidates for Governor] Jobs and the Ohio Economy** – Voters in Cleveland Heights are concerned about both the local and the state economy and availability of good jobs, jobs that can support a family.

A. What are your top 3 policies designed to attract businesses and provide opportunities for good jobs in Ohio?

- 1) *I have a plan to get every city, neighborhood, and corner of the state connected to truly high-speed internet and WiFi. We need everyone to be part of Ohio’s comeback, and this can’t wait. We learned during COVID that being a student, running a business, or just going to work requires quality internet access—it is a vital service, like running water or electricity. Too many inner-city and rural Ohioans are lacking this basic infrastructure that is needed to meaningfully participate in the 21st-century economy.*
- 2) *Far-right policies make Ohio a less welcoming place than it should be — forcing many of our best and brightest young people out of the state. Attacks on women’s reproductive rights, voting rights, LGBTQ rights, etc. are forcing many young people between staying in a state they love and grew up in, or move to a state that will reflect the values and policies they believe in. For us to have a competitive business climate, we must be able attract and retain top talent.*
- 3) *Ohio will become a national leader in small business growth by making each of our state universities the best in the world in at least one field, and liberalizing commercialization of research and development to attract entrepreneurs and venture capital. We also will build on our assets to compete in the knowledge economy. The strategy of creating businesses and jobs from university-based research and development is working for Cincinnati and Columbus with UC and Ohio State, but it needs to be supercharged and extended to all state universities to have the doors opened to all Ohio entrepreneurs.*

B. We know that while big splash business decisions like Intel locating a new facility in Ohio get a lot of press, our small businesses are a critical part of the Ohio economy. Small businesses not only provide jobs, but also tend to spend their money in the local economy. At the same time, we know that the pandemic has been very tough on small business, especially those in more disadvantaged areas. Please describe your

top 3 policies to support Ohio's small businesses.

- 1) *As governor, I will provide incentives to make it easier for people to create new small businesses and train new employees in all parts of Ohio, including rural areas. My plan to support Ohio small businesses will create thousands of jobs with \$60,000 and above annual earnings, along with many other economic benefits.*
- 2) *For Ohio's workers to lead our comeback, we need everyone to have the skills that are in demand in today's economy. My plan is to fill jobs with higher wages, and help people get their first job by offering workers \$1,000 as an incentive to earn in-demand skills and associates degrees from the state's highest-performing job training programs and excellent community colleges. Based on Project Lift in Cincinnati, the plan will move many families out of poverty, train a workforce on par with the best in the nation, and make Ohio's economy more just and inclusive.*
- 3) *Take on inflation pressures that disproportionately hurt small businesses. First, I believe we should immediately temporarily reduce the gas tax until gas prices are down by at least a dollar and a half. Two, I have a plan to provide a dividend to all Ohio families of \$500 a year, from natural gas, similar to what they have in Alaska, which is over \$1300 per person, and North Dakota with is \$300 per person. Both states, by the way, are run by Republicans. But their Republican leadership gives them a dividend. Ours, Mike Dewine, gives us corrupt bills and higher utility prices. Let's stop the rhetoric, and start taking action. We can reduce gas taxes now, we can deliver a dividend that puts money in people's pockets, shores up the middle class, and main streets all across this state.*

C. Urban city centers have also been hit hard by the pandemic. As many businesses switched to remote work, many restaurants and other service businesses have closed and suffered serious economic losses, with job losses. This all translates into less tax revenue for cities. What policies would you pursue to help the urban centers to recover?

I was proud that Cincinnati offered a huge amount of support to our small businesses, especially in the service industry, throughout the pandemic — and I repeatedly called on Governor DeWine to do more. Cincinnati did better than many cities, but the pathway to recovery is giving clear guidance about reopening policies, regulatory policies that encourage density in business and residential zoning, and being an vocal champions for our downtowns.

D. Ohio tax law now allows people working remotely to avoid paying taxes to the city in which their employer is located. This threatens a significant loss of revenue to Ohio cities, not only large cities like Cleveland, but also cities in the suburbs. What is your position on this policy change?

The massive structural changes we've seen in the wake of the pandemic around where people work has the potential to deprive localities of much-needed tax dollars. The issue you raise here is one we grappled with in Cincinnati as folks moved further out. My hope

is that we see a natural correction as people begin to return to work, but would be open to revisiting this change.

4. Right to Make HealthCare Decisions - Do you believe everyone has the right to access abortion care legally in their community without stigma, shame, delay or medically unnecessary barriers, and without regard to ability to pay?

Yes No

If you previously held a different position on this question, what caused you to change your mind?

I am pro-choice and I will veto any legislation that will undermine Roe v. Wade. Like Tim Ryan, Joe Biden, and others I was raised Catholic and once opposed to it as a young man. But when my wife Dena and I wanted to start a family, I came to realize that the government has no business telling a woman how to make their own healthcare decisions. So, I evolved on this issue and I promise as governor, I will veto any legislation that undermines Roe v. Wade. That stands in stark contrast to Mike DeWine, who on abortion and so many other issues is trying to take us backward.

5. Voting Rights –

A. If elected, will you strongly oppose Republican efforts to discourage voting, and work to remove existing obstacles to election participation?

Yes No

- B. 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, or something else?

All of the items you've listed above are policies I support.

- C. In order to encourage voting, would you implement an ongoing program to provide voter registration forms and related information at all state offices open to the public?

Yes No

- D. In 2015 and 2018, a significant majority of Ohio voter approved amendments to Ohio's Constitution to reform redistricting practices. The goals included banning partisan gerrymandering and requiring public input and transparency. These requirements have been ignored by Republican members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission. Do you support further reforms to Ohio's legislative redistricting process?

Yes No

If yes, what specific reforms?

I would like to see an independent redistricting commission.

- E. **[For Candidates for Governor]** As Governor of Ohio, and a member of the Ohio Redistricting Commission, would you refuse to approve a legislative district or Congressional map that was arrived upon by any process that did not satisfy the requirements of the Ohio Constitution?
 Yes No

6. 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 to address this?

I am proud of the progress Cincinnati has made on race relations. Twenty years ago, I was 26 and a fresh face on the Cincinnati City Council and in short order, the police killed multiple unarmed Black men — causing the city to boil over. Civil rights leaders like Rev. Damon Lynch III, his father, Damon Lynch Jr., and Rev. Dr. Otis Moss boycotted Cincinnati as a city too racist to do business in. I am proud to say that today, all three are supporting my campaign for governor.

The reason for this is over the past 20 years, we have worked hard together to implement reforms. While Cincinnati is far from perfect, we have made demonstrable progress. After the murder of George Floyd, the US Conference of Mayors asked me to write report on the Cincinnati model and the changes we made. I am happy to provide the report to explain our model in detail, but I'll offer a few big changes here.

Firstly, Cincinnati created a Citizens Complaint Authority, which is a civilian board that has concurrent jurisdiction to investigate reports of misconduct by police officers. Secondly, body cameras on all officers. Thirdly, changing use of force policies to prioritize de-escalation and eliminating dangerous tactics such as the use of batons or chokeholds. Finally, a shift in training of officers. This includes implicit bias and mental health training but also a change in how officers focus on crime. In Cincinnati, we have shifted officers to focus on violent crime, and less on things like curfew violations.

Reforms in policing themselves, however, are not enough. We must make efforts to improve economic racial equity as well. As Mayor, I increased contacts with the City and Black-owned business from 2% to 17% and partnered with the business community to create a Black-owned business incubator. Now, Cincinnati has more Black-owned businesses that make a million dollars than any other city in Ohio. As a result of these changes, over the last 20 years, we have arrested half as many people as 2002 and type 1 crimes are down over the same period. We improved community-police relations and made the city safer by arresting less people.

As Governor, I have licensing authority over law enforcement. I will enact reform that mirrors the Cincinnati experience statewide through that authority.

- 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

- C. If elected, will you advocate for reparations for descendants of Black people who were enslaved in the U.S.?
 Yes No

Please elaborate if you wish.

7. Equality – Do you oppose all discrimination on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity?
 Yes No
8. Education - About one hundred Ohio public school systems have joined a legal complaint against the Ohio EdChoice voucher mechanism that diverts tax based public school financial support to fund private school tuition. Generally, nonminority students use these tuition vouchers. The suit alleges that this program, with recently increased voucher allowances, has contributed to an effective resegregation of some public school systems.

- A. Do you support increased State funding for public schools, and elimination of State 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

- B. Do you oppose efforts to require presentation of religious concepts as alternative theories in the public school science curriculum?
 Yes No

- C. Republicans in Ohio’s legislature have jumped on the misguided band wagon that mischaracterizes teaching in our K through 12 public schools regarding our country’s history as to people of color and women. These measures seek to undermine policies that support diversity, inclusion and honest education of our students. The proposed bills, such as HB 327, further impose punitive and overreaching measures, including fines and other penalties, aimed at intimidating and harassing public school teachers and public school districts. What is your policy to support our hard-working public school teachers and school districts from these overreaching measures?

HB 327 is a disgusting bill. I would veto this and related legislation.

- D. What other legislative effort would you make to better enable Ohio's public schools to attract and retain qualified teachers?
 Yes No

Obviously, teachers need higher salaries. But they also need work environments that are properly funded. That’s why I support finally fixing our broken, unconstitutional funding system.

9. Labor Rights -

- A. The labor shortage in some service, retail, and transport job sectors is expected by economists to persist through 2022. In your view, what effect has the Ohio minimum wage of \$9.30 per hour contributed to the shortage of applicants for these jobs?

It absolutely has been a problem – it's why many business are offering higher wages in a fight for workers.

- B. Do you favor raising the Ohio minimum wage from \$9.30 per hour?

Yes No

If yes, to what value? In a single increment, or incrementally over what period of time?

In Cincinnati, we raised the minimum wage for all city workers to \$15 over the course of several years. However, given the rising cost of inflation, I would support a faster rollout so working class folks don't see all of their purchasing power disappear.

- C. Do you support the right of workers to collective bargaining, and their right to form or join labor unions?

Yes No

10. Public Health -

- A. Do you oppose Ohio Senate bill S215, which proposes to eliminate Ohio's permit requirement for concealed carrying of firearms?

Yes No

- B. What reforms do you support to reduce the epidemic of gun violence in Ohio? _____

We need common sense gun reform in our country. I support background checks, red flag laws and waiting periods. If Republican Indiana has red flag laws, we should absolutely have them here in Ohio as well. However, a legislative answer isn't enough. We need creative solutions. That's why I created the Smart-Gun Consortium. Most gun violence is committed with lost or stolen guns. SmartGun technology prevents anyone who isn't the owner of a firearm from using it. Currently, the NRA opposes SmartGun technology and enforces boycotts on manufacturers for developing it, even though studies show that they are popular among gun owners. The SmartGun Consortium is a partnership of cities that use their collective buying power of municipal police departments to create a market for the development of the technology. As Governor, I will use the buying power of the state for the same purpose and always look for similar creative solutions.

C. **[For Candidates for Ohio Legislature]** As an elected legislator, would you oppose legislative efforts that countermand the advice of scientists and directives of knowledgeable public health officials during an ongoing epidemic of infectious disease?

D. **[For Candidates for Governor]** As Governor of Ohio, would you veto legislation described under Question C immediately above?

Absolutely.

E. The pandemic has exposed the underfunding of Ohio's public health system. Do you support increased funding and other support for Ohio's public health system?
 Yes No

11. Green Energy Transition –

A. Do you support legislative and regulatory measures that facilitate development of utility scale solar and wind electrical power generation projects across Ohio, including (for State legislature candidates) in your district? Yes No

B. In 2014, Ohio adopted wind turbine setback requirements that effectively eliminated development of utility scale wind generation projects. Do you support legislation to restore reasonable setback requirements and other measures to encourage wind electrical generation in Ohio? Yes No

C. Do you support legislative measures to enable owners of homes and commercial buildings to install small - scale photovoltaic arrays, and to sell any excess electrical power from those projects? Yes No

D. **[For Candidates for Governor]** Ohio law provides that the Ohio Public Utilities Commission board of directors may consist of no more than three members of one political party. The present board consists of four Republicans and one Democrat. Decisions of the PUCO during the last 10 years have consistently protected the interests of fossil fuel and nuclear power plant operators at the expense of utility customers. If elected Governor, would you replace PUCO board members as opportunities for that arise with individuals with genuine interest in consumer protection and vision for green energy transition in Ohio? Yes No

I am the only candidate running for governor who has committed to firing all the members of the PUCO on day one and appointing consumer advocates.

12. Green Transportation Transition –

A. Do you support meaningfully increased State expenditures for public transportation in urban and in rural areas? Yes No

- B. Do you favor any legislation or regulatory measures to encourage adoption of electric vehicles in Ohio? Yes No

If yes, what measures - tax incentives, construction of charging infrastructure, modifications to state building codes to require installation of EV charging station outlets, or something else?

Yes, but wholesale change will require transforming our electric grid that would allow the movement of power from clean energy sources to consumers and business. I commit as governor to use my bully pulpit to call on the Biden admin to get this legislation done

- C. Do you support legislative effort and public expenditure to facilitate and improve safety of bicycle and pedestrian commuter movement in urban and suburban areas?

Yes

13. Traffic cameras –

- A. Do you favor or oppose expanded use of traffic cameras by Ohio municipalities?
 Yes No

I oppose traffic cameras

- B. What limits on their use would you require or accept?

I would see the block them.

14. Campaign Finance - Do you confirm that you have not, and will not, accept financial support from any corporate PAC or the NRA? Yes No

I am not opposed to corporate PACs — any Democrat will need this money to go up against DeWine in the general — but I have not nor will not accept money from the NRA. There is blood on their hands.

15. 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