



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: Nina Turner

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

Candidate Mobile Tel: Please send endorsement meeting notices to Allison Delooze

Candidate Email: Allison.delooze@ninaturner.com; snt@ninaturner.com

Optional - Mobile Tel and Email for staff:

Marvin Hayes, Political, marvin.hayes@ninaturner.com; 216-526-2390

Allison Delooze, Scheduling, Allison.Delooze@ninaturner.com, 440-829-0753

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.

Answer:-1

I'm running to continue my mission of public service, to amplify the voices of the poor, the working poor, and barely middle class in my district and the country. I believe that every human being has a right to dignity and that dignity includes a good job, a place to live, clean water, food, air, an education, healthcare, and the opportunity to thrive. My core is justice in all of its forms, political, economic, social, racial and environmental. I will continue to fight and be in solidarity with individuals and institutions that are trying to advance the same goals.

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.

Medicare for All
Student Loan Debt Relief
\$15 Minimum Wage; Equal Pay for Equal Work

3. **Education -**

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

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?

Yes No

Answer - 3

I am a strong proponent for fully funding the needs of public education and public schools. For those families who choose not to attend public school, I do support their right to seek educational alternatives in ways that do not adversely impact public school funding.

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

Answer - 4

The filibuster is a rule of the Congress, not part of the Constitution. This rule has been used to thwart the democratic principle of majority rule. It represents an unequal distribution of voting power, by giving a minority opinion the ability to subvert the will of the majority. Use of the

filibuster has been tantamount to a political trick, and its use has not served the best interests of the Country.

5. **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?

Answer - 5

Hatred and violence directed at people of color requires a multilevel response. Strengthening penalties for racially motivated attacks; increased attention and funding for community mental health services; more federal attention to systemic biases embedded in federal law and policy (e.g. housing disparities) are all examples of needed response. Generally, I believe the federal government must be proactive in attending and resolving some of the root causes of racism and racial bias.

- B. 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.

The economic, social and political harm of racism in the history of the United States must be redressed, if there is to ever be any hope of parity and equality for Black and Brown citizens. The damage received by these communities continues to accrue faster than any progress can be made. I do believe that innovative solutions are necessary to affect a reparative strategy.

The emerging cannabis industry is an example of the potential for reparative solutions that could be addressed by policy. Drug laws related to cannabis were used to target black people and in turn they were very harmful to Black communities. A social equity approach to cannabis legalization should be employed to provide opportunities to Black entrepreneurs to participate in the industry, and financial support to affected communities should be a requirement of tax dollars collected.

- 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

6. **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?

Answer – 6B

I do support the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, and the provisions individually listed above. It is imperative to democracy that we do everything possible to encourage engagement in our political and governance processes. The foundation of democracy depends on the engagement and participation of all of our citizens.

7. **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?

Answer: -7

I support Medicare for All.

8. **Climate Change –**

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

Answer - 8

Generally, I support enactment of the Green New Deal Specifically, I support aggressive funding and expansion of EV infrastructure for passenger and commercial vehicles, ending subsidies for fossil fuels and prohibiting exploration and extraction of fossil fuels on specially protected and public lands – and closing loopholes on fracking that exempt the practice of fracking from existing environmental laws.

- B. 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?

Answer: - 8B

Maintaining and advancing net-zero emission goals, locally and nationally
Funding incentive programs for conversion to wind and solar energy production

Active participation in global initiatives and treaties on climate change policy

9. Would you oppose legislation that would weaken the **Endangered Species Act**?

Yes No

10. **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?

Yes No

B. What other campaign finance reforms do you support?

I would support a Constitutional Amendment to undo the Citizens United decision that gives corporations the same constitutional rights as people. I would also support reasonable limits on political spending and contributions.

C. 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** –

A. 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?

Answer - 11

The increase in the federal minimum wage is long overdue and should be increased in the shortest time frame possible, or by 2024.

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)?

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?

Answer - 12

The lack of child care is a crisis in America for both the severe need for quality options for child

care and for the implications of educational progress for children. I support increases for funding childcare subsidies and funding for universal pre-school.

13. **Equality –**

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

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?

Yes No

14. **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?

Yes No

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

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?

Answer – 14D

My position has remained consistent on this issue.

- D. 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?

Answer - 15

I believe that we can, and we must, find a balance between the Constitutionally-guaranteed right to bear arms and the rights of people who feel safer in the absence of firearms. The compromise is both necessary and achievable with the right balance of regulations. I would support banning the sale of military style assault weapons and support for more and better access to community mental health services as a preventative measure of gun violence.

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?

Answer - 16

I support a U.S. foreign policy based on peace, cooperation, and support for human rights and democracy. I am concerned about the patterns and decisions of military support the United States provides. I understand and support the right of any nation to defend itself, but I think we should examine very closely the type and amount of military aid we provide and in what circumstances we provide military aid.

I am also concerned about trade policy. I will oppose any trade deal that fails to include binding climate, environmental and labor standards, that would otherwise fail to support a clean environment, healthy communities and good union jobs.

Our nation's foreign policy should always recognize the dignity of other nations and their citizens, and reflect this understanding as a primary objective of our policy decisions.

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?
x Yes ___ No

Please explain your reply.

Answer - 17

The global nature of the Covid-19 Pandemic means that communities that are not protected by sufficient vaccine distribution can and have continued the pandemic through the variants that arise in unvaccinated populations. Furthermore, in a time of crisis such as this, I support necessary measures that protect vulnerable communities.

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?

Answer - 18

We need a comprehensive review of the immigration system. However I would support immediate measures that would provide a path to citizenship for undocumented workers. I am supportive of the Dream and Promise Act which would provide permanent protection from deportations for immigrant youth and TPS and DED holders.

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