



## 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](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.

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:**

**Candidate for:**  Governor  Ohio House  Ohio Senate

**Candidate Mobile Tel:** 937-545-0304

**Candidate Email:** nanwhaley@gmail.com

**Campaign Website:** nanwhaley.com

**Optional - Mobile Tel and Email for staff:** Michael McGovern, michael@nanwhaley.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. 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. Invest in Ohio’s small businesses: Ohio businesses and their employees know better than any of us that they are the heartbeat of our state’s growing base of good jobs. Ohio’s government needs to support them if they are to create the high wage jobs of the future. To do this, I will create a new compact with Ohio business. The Ohio Business Compact pledges to help Ohio businesses grow if those businesses help Ohio’s workers grow, by creating and retaining good jobs that can support a family.
    2. Invest in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jobs: Ohio led the last manufacturing revolution and there’s no reason we can’t lead the next one. We’ve always been a state of creativity and invention. I know that the high-paying jobs of the future don’t all look like the old ones. I will focus on preparing for and growing the jobs of the future right here in our state, so that folks all across Ohio have the opportunity to thrive. That includes repealing HB6 and restoring Ohio’s renewable portfolio and pioneering a reshoring agenda for our state.
    3. Invest in Ohio workers: Dignity at work begins with good pay. Wages need to go up across the board in Ohio and I will use the full influence of the Governor’s office to encourage companies to raise wages. In addition to only rewarding companies that pay fair wages, I will support a variety of policies that raise wages for all Ohioans, regardless of what their job is or where they work. This includes raising the minimum wage, supporting union organizing, and cracking down on wage theft.
  - 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. Invest in companies that invest in Ohio: It's time to rethink how Ohio supports and attracts business. My administration will invest in business in this state; all that we ask in return is that they invest in our workers. That means paying an honest wage, providing good benefits and health care, and treating them with dignity. If businesses keep their promise to the workers of Ohio, we promise to work with businesses to ensure their success. That's why, under my administration, JobsOhio and the Development Services Agency will focus its investments and assistance on companies that pay a fair wage. Firms that actively oppose union organizing drives will be prohibited from receiving any state assistance, incentives, or tax abatements until they change their practices. Companies whose employees are paid so little that they qualify for Medicaid programs at Ohio taxpayer expense will be prohibited from receiving any state assistance, incentives, or tax abatements until they raise wages and benefits received by employees.
  2. ReInvent Ohio: As Mayor, I helped Dayton connect to its history of innovation. As Governor, I will bring that spirit to the entire state, spurring entrepreneurship. Early in my term, I will establish a ReInvent Ohio initiative, convening leading banks, investors, community lenders, and entrepreneurs to help guide public investment in firms and small businesses that are critical to the state's economic future. I will work with JobsOhio, banks, and federal agencies to develop a broader variety of financing options for entrepreneurs to invest in and streamline business support organizations, make business supports more accessible, and reorient public purchasing so there are more on-ramps for entrepreneurs.
  3. Revitalizing Ohio communities by bringing back Main Street businesses: As a former Mayor, I understand that shops, restaurants, and other small businesses are what make our communities vibrant. These face-to-face businesses have also suffered the most from the pandemic. I will convene local small business councils to maximize the use of federal and state resources to make sure that these businesses prosper in the post-pandemic economy. And I will direct the Development Services Agency to redouble their efforts on making targeted commercial corridor investment in cities, towns, and villages across the 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?

As the former mayor of Dayton, this is personal for me. We've watched for years as the Republicans in Columbus have attacked our cities. On a good day they ignored us, on a bad day, they actively undermined us. This is why I founded the Ohio Mayors Alliance – a bipartisan coalition of the mayors of Ohio's 30 largest cities that is focused on advocating for communities. And it's why I asked Cheryl Stephens to join my ticket: mayors get things done, and we need more of that spirit at the Statehouse.

As governor, I'll work with groups like OMA and the Ohio Municipal League to help give cities what they actually need to thrive. As the President of the US Conference of Mayors, I helped pass the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the historic infrastructure bill. As governor, I'll

work to make sure that money actually gets to cities. Finally, I'll work with the legislature to finally fix the Local Government Fund and actually find a fair revenue sharing formula that helps all communities.

- 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?

I strongly and loudly opposed this legislation with my colleagues in the Ohio Mayors Alliance.

- 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?

- 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?

I support all of these measures, as well as automatic voter registration. As governor, I will veto any attempts to restrict access to voting and will instead work to make voting even more accessible for Ohioans.

- 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 believe we need to let this process fully play out, but it is clear that the way the Republicans have behaved is unacceptable. After the process – including lawsuits – is complete, we can more fully decide what additional reforms are necessary.

- 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?

No matter where you live or what you look like, we can all agree that every Ohioan deserves to have a quality education, quality health care, and a place that they're proud to live in that is healthy and safe. The way the governor of Ohio can most impact rising violence against people of color is to work to repeal dangerous, racist gun laws passed by the legislature – Stand Your Ground and permitless concealed carry.

- 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.

This is ultimately a federal issue, not one for the Ohio governor. However, as I did as Mayor of Dayton, I will focus on policies that right historical wrongs for our Black friends and neighbors. This will include police reform, investing more in minority-owned businesses, and addressing Black infant mortality.

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?

Every Ohioan deserves and needs a good quality education. But for too long this hasn’t been the case. Years of Republican cuts to education spending has left us with a situation where local communities have to raise taxes to pay for better schools. It’s the responsibility of the state to provide a quality public education in all communities regardless of their income. As governor, I’d make that a priority.

This is a place where the state legislature actually took a good first step with the Cupp-Patterson bill. But we need to stop the privatization of our education with charter schools and vouchers. This latest attack to privatize public education is just another example of a corrupt Ohio statehouse more interested in their donors than in Ohio’s children

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

I believe we need to start with making sure the Cupp-Patterson bill is fully funded for six years instead of two. By just funding it for two years, the state is not giving this program an opportunity to succeed and we’ll be right back where we started sooner rather than later. As Governor, I’d also push against the backpack bill that has been introduced. This bill would decimate public schools. Finally, I’ll veto the extremist proposal to arm teachers and make our schools less safe.

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?

Ohio has the best workers in the world and we need to treat them as such by paying them a living wage. In my jobs plan, I call for investing in Ohio workers by raising wages for all Ohioans, starting with raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. We also need to address other rising costs that many families are struggling to afford, including the extremely high cost of childcare. I was proud, as Mayor of Dayton, to implement high-quality, universal preschool to every three-and-four-year-old in the city. Not only has this improved kindergarten readiness for children across the board, particularly black boys, but it's lifted a financial burden on families who otherwise would struggle to afford childcare.

- 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?

I support raising the minimum wage to at least \$15 an hour so that one job is enough in Ohio. My understanding is that this should be done incrementally over several years.

- 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

- C. What reforms do you support to reduce the epidemic of gun violence in Ohio? \_\_

After Dayton went through a tragic mass shooting, this is incredibly important to me. I stood on stage with Mike DeWine as my friends and neighbors demanded he "Do Something." Yet all he has done is make our communities less safe. We have to take steps to make our communities more safe.

It's clear that gun safety is a big issue - from illegal guns on our streets to the rise of suicides to accidents with children. I would take steps, starting with universal background checks where we have the most support, to make sure that we are making our communities more safe. I will also work to repeal dangerous laws like Stand Your Ground and permitless concealed carry.

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

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?

I support all of these measures. I was proud to help lead the fight for ARPA and the infrastructure bill as President of the US Conference of Mayors – that funding can go towards projects like these. Just as importantly can bring the jobs here that will create those cars! We can build those cars right here in Ohio. But we need a governor who will work to make it happen.

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?  
 -Favor  Yes  No

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

As a former mayor and advocates for home rule, I trust local communities to make these decisions.

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

While I will never take money from the NRA or directly from corporations, our campaign will accept contributions from PACs created by employees of companies or other entities (ie. Labor unions, the Patriots)

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