



## County Executive 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. Candidates will speak in the order in which questionnaires were returned to us.

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: Tariq K. Shabazz**

**Candidate Mobile Tel: 216-584-8561**

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

**Campaign Website:**

**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. Do you support the right of women to make their own healthcare decisions?  Yes  No

- A. Do you oppose all legislation that reduces or restricts access to abortion care?  
x\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
  - B. Do you oppose granting employers a religious conscience exemption to cover abortion care and birth control through company health insurance plans? \_\_\_x\_\_\_  
Yes \_\_\_ No
2. Do you support expanding early voting? \_\_\_x\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
- A. Do you support automatic voter registration? \_\_\_x\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
  - B. In order to encourage voting, would you implement an ongoing program to provide voter registration forms and related information at all county offices open to the public? \_\_\_x\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

3. There have been many concerns raised about the management and staffing of the county jail, particularly with respect to deaths of people in custody. What is your plan to reform management and operation of the county jail?

My administration will invest heavily in attenuating the underlying conditions that lead to crime. It is imperative that more dollars are appropriated to the re-entry process to ensure that returning citizens are not put into the same position in which many committed the crimes out of proximity. For example, ensuring that Housing is a right will address the issues of housing insecurity. An aggressive job placement infrastructure that will guarantee gainful employment. Increased access to mental health counseling not only to address the issues of incarceration, but also to uncover issues associated with underlying conditions that led to incarceration.

- A. What is your recommendation for the location of a new jail? There must be more input, community dialogue, and transparency in the process of erecting a new facility for incarceration. As it currently stands, this process has been expedited in a manner that is uncouth and will ultimately lead towards the increased occupancy of those incarcerated. It is our duty to ensure that all options have been exhausted and currently they have not.
4. There also have been many concerns raised regarding management and operation of the juvenile detention center. What is your plan to reform management and operation of the juvenile detention center?

Under my administration, we will work to reduce the level of youth within the facilities, by improving the utilization of the diversion center. These children should not be recognized as undesirables.

5. Public transit service in Cuyahoga County is under par and underfunded. This adversely affects both social equity and environmental issues. Many residents with low incomes are dependent on public transit to get to jobs, markets and doctors. Reliable, extensive transit systems in metropolitan areas provide alternatives to use of private cars, reducing

greenhouse gas emissions. What role do you believe elected County officials can play in promoting improvement in our RTA's services?

We will work to end the death spiral of Transit and evaluate a multitude of plans to ensure that transit is either minimal costs to riders or free.

6. Do you support The Ohio Fairness Act, which was reintroduced as SB 119 in 2021 session of the Ohio Legislature?  Yes  No
- A. Will you lobby federal elected legislators to add sexual orientation and gender identity to federal protections already in place as to housing, employment, and public accommodations?  Yes  No
- B. Do you support marriage equality for same-sex couples?  Yes  No
7. Do you oppose all discrimination on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity?  Yes  No
8. Do you support increasing Ohio's \$9.30 per hour minimum wage?  Yes  No

If yes, to what value? The more comparable models have suggested for laborers to live comfortably would be closer to \$20 dollars an hour.

In a single increment, or incrementally over what period of time? I will work with experts in the field to ensure that there is a robust system of employment which meets the needs of laborers. In this process we will exercise sound judgment on the best practice of increasing wages.

- 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?
- The people are not being compensated in a manner that is consistent with the cost of living.
9. Do you support the right of workers to collectively bargain for benefits, wages and working conditions?  Yes  No
- A. Some employers prohibit employees from discussing their salaries or wages with co-workers, which impedes the ability of women to determine if they are being paid equal pay for equal work. Do you agree that employees should be free to discuss their salaries or wages with co-workers?  Yes  No
- B. Employers often require job applicants to disclose their salary history, which often has a discriminatory impact on women. Do you agree that employers

(including counties) should be prohibited from requiring that job applicants disclose their salary history?  Yes  No

C. Will you work to improve the FBE and MBE requirements used for county contracts?  Yes  No

10. A. The plastic bag ordinance is being implemented after a pause due to the pandemic. Do you support the plastic bag ordinance? yes

B. What would you support as the three next steps that the county can take to be more environmentally conscious?

Continue efforts to improve the quality of Lake Erie. Ensuring there is a robust recycling program.

11. Has a claim of sexual harassment or assault ever been made against you?   
Yes  No

A. Are you in favor of creating a separate office to address complaints of sexual harassment?  Yes  No

12. If desired, you may provide additional comments here regarding any of your responses to this questionnaire (optional):

11A. Am willing to construct office and would love to gather more input from the organizational leaders of how it would be best implemented.