



## Ohio Governor and State Legislator Candidate Questionnaire

Dear Candidate:

The Cleveland Heights Democrats will hold its endorsement meeting at 7 PM on June 14, 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 8 PM on Friday, June 3, 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:** John E. Barnes Jr.

**Candidate for:** \_\_\_ Governor \_\_\_ Ohio House \_\_\_X Ohio Senate

**Candidate Mobile Tel:** 216-650-6683

**Candidate Email:** Globaltwo@att.net

**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:

**Answer:** I'm a lifelong Democrat who has helped hundreds of democrat(s) Win. My message is I want to earn your trust and provide first class services to the citizens of Cleveland Heights and all residence of the 21<sup>st</sup> Senate District.

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

**Answer:** This request may cross the line. Therefore, I would seek the advice of the Ohio Ethic Commission for clarification as to whether or not signing an agreement and "conditions" is in complies with Ohio Ethic Laws. Respectfully, in my opinion they do not. The oath that I will take is in service to you and be assured I will be a Full Time Senator working each and every day to Deliver For All Of Us.

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.

**Answer:** I will be a full Time Senator committed to delivery for all Us. The 21<sup>st</sup> Senate District is a historic African American District that deserves a Senator who delivers. John Barnes Delivers. As State Representative. John Barnes brought millions to the People of Northeast Ohio. My opponent will only represent the district part time, since he is also running for Cuyahoga County Democratic Party Chair.

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?

**Answer:** Senate District 21 including Cleveland Heights cannot escape the turbulence of the pandemic, inflation, mental health, and the unfortunate distinction of City of Cleveland as the most impoverished City in America. In addition, these challenges require urgency to counter the constant attacks on the fundamental Rights of People to live and let live. These attacks in the form of purposeful meanness are designed to contour and distort Democracy from its purpose to function of, for, and by the People. The following are three areas you requested: 1) My proven strategy is to use a pragmatic approach to avoid unnecessary partisan gridlock to seek incremental legislative and policy progress, which can renew the promise of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness for Cleveland Heights and all of Us; 2) We live in area of uneven economic growth, but I think we will be alright. I will combine Jobs creation, economic development, and investment attraction to identify untapped markets opportunities, to provide security in neighborhoods that also protect commerce and promote growth and opportunity for seniors, our youth, and all of Us; and 3) Enhance education through local autonomy and investment, which can increase performance outcomes and efficiency by expanding marketable skills, partnering with local industries and career technical training opportunities for students who pursue either college or career training, which promotes workforce readiness or entrepreneurship to support emerging technologies, stable industries, or investment opportunities.

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?

- A. 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.

**Answer:** The difference between a large business and small business is research and development. Here are three policies: 1) I think we can do a better job of programming supportive service that are trusted for our small businesses by establishing connectivity to include but not limited to academia, industry experts by industries, finance, law, analytics, social media, and policy makers supported by Ohio State Government; 2) business lending; and 3) access to global markets to Sell Ohio Global Initiative.

- B. 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?

**Answer:** Cleveland Heights is a vibrant community. First, I would pursue more Local Government Funds. Second, convene a community intervention of stakeholders to better understand: where you are; want to go; how to get there; and how the State of Ohio can help the community Grow. Third, assemble retail science experts to share research and development on retail and how to responds to consumer needs, security, transition strategies. Forth, one source that I used years ago is Goldman Sachs work on the "New Retail," which I'm sure has changed in response to the pandemic. Fifth, I would like to assemble a delegation to trade shows as I previous lead when I served as State Representative (expensed out of my pocket) to where opportunities begin.

- C. 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?

**Answer:** Ohio’s Municipal Tax Code, currently says “taxes are paid where the work is actually performed.” The pandemic certainly has changed business norms. Many people are working from home and businesses are maintaining commercial space either tied to leases or planning at some point in time to resume normal business at these hopefully well-maintained locations. At this point in time, I am not able to state a policy change without talking with my constituents, city officials, other stakeholders, and access information from the Ohio Department of Taxation.

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?

**Answer:** All, of the above.

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?

**Answer:** I want to hear the advice of experts and listen to model initiatives, which are best for the citizen of the 21<sup>st</sup> Senate District and all Ohio.

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?

Answer: Here's the goal: What's good for African American is good for all Americans, because I think we're all in this together. Currently, the systems simply lack fairness for African Americans. This is not stable and is inherently unsustainable for people in transitioning communities and society in general. Politics has contributed significantly to the antiquate state of racially motivated threats and violence here at home and across America. First, for historical guidance, I want to review the Kerner Commission Report commissioned by President Johnson and other documents, Second, I want to assemble experts to reflect on their wisdom regarding data analytics; Third, I want to convene a community intervention partnering with local officials and community leaders. Forth, Consider Appreciative Inquiry, Action Research Methodology to discuss the best of what we can be as a community. This intervention would help promote positive change in public policy and assist with writing legislation (if any) or the rules process as needed to achieve themes for the policy goal(s).

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?

**Answer:** Legislation will not change the harsh realities of turbulent history of the Nation. Healing the souls and hearts of People requires the truth and only the truth can help promote diversity, inclusion, and honest world-class education, which our children need to compete globally. My policy proposals include but are not limited to ways we can eliminate the shortage and sustain the careers of teaching professionals as follows: 1) Free access to state colleges and universities for professional development; 2) declare war on the 28 “at risk” factors (recorded by my office) that are largely ignored by public policy, which can better ready students to learn. In addition, create an environment that focuses on the teaching profession resulting in a more efficient school system for students, parents, and teachers. I would be happy to elaborate on any issues of concern.

D. What other legislative effort would you make to better enable Ohio's public schools to attract and retain qualified teachers?

Yes  No

Answer: Professional Career Development Paths requires investment for our children future, which begins with attracting and retaining qualified teachers. This endeavor includes but is not limited to the following: 1) Free access to state colleges and universities for professional development and career path; 2) The Nation has not treated teachers fairly. The easy answer is better salaries. The tougher answer is to gain insights from the daily experiences of our teachers and treat them as partners rather than employees. It’s extremely important to make teachers happy by rewarding them for the ideas of their experience, which will fast track careers and help our schools be the best they can be. 3) Laws allowing teachers to carry guns is ridiculous. Teacher should not carry guns. That is not their role and should not be a role in any of the 611 school districts in Ohio. We must find common purpose in our classrooms, and I am committed to do so.

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?

Answer: Significant effect.

- 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? Everybody needs a raise immediately above \$15.00 an hour.

- 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?

**Answer:** President Biden cited Justice Antonin Scalia that “Second Amendment right(s) is not unlimited.” Ohio and the Nation has an epidemic of gun violence that is not limited to but includes the consequence of hate and mental health Issues. Moreover, not unlimited refers to government’s failure to recognize essentially ignoring the limited rights of the Second Amendment. This failure has contributed significantly to a wild wild west environment, which is sweeping the country and cannot be tolerated by government’s legislative representatives. The State of Ohio has a responsibility to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. To achieve that we must that common sense steps to ensure our school, churches, and public facilities are protected, my list includes and is not limited to: universal background checks; red flag law; mental health; school security; raising the age to buy; ban on assault weapons; 3 day wait; bump stops; and rap around service for community that are impoverished.

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?

**Answer:** Yes, strongly oppose. . . We must support the scientist, embrace predictive analytic, and experts like Dr Amy Acton who from my limited view, did an outstanding job of informing and protecting the public during an unknown pandemic procedural safety transition.

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

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?  
 X  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?  X  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?  X  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?  X  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?  X  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?

**Answer:** I believe this is an opportunity to promote marketable skills training for careers and business development opportunities. I support any economic development tools that promote Green technology.

- 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

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

Answer: The safety issues is understood, but Governmental Cash Grabs should not hurt People. I had a grandmother on fixed income to contact my office regarding (4) tickets totaling \$400.00 issued by traffic light cameras operator. The problem was her grandson was driving her car back and forth to the store. She said Representative Barnes now I can't pay my \$800.00 rent. I think tickets should not be attached to the car. Require the ticket issuer to identify the driver of the vehicle or reduce the fines minimally. A grandmother should not have to pay \$400.00 dollars in fines and then can't pay her rent. That's wrong. I felt so sorry for her.

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

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