



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:

Candidate for: ___ Governor Ohio House ___ Ohio Senate

Candidate Mobile Tel:

Candidate Email:

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 I have not violated

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. My public service spans 35 years as a first responder, community advocate, and private practice therapist for individuals suffering with PTSD in the communities of Los Angeles, New York, and Cleveland. My career provides me with the experience, education, and advocacy to ensure I will serve all residents to the best of my ability and uphold their rights to ensure their needs are first and foremost.
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? I will submit “Tech Power to the People” legislation to aid in the reduction of poverty in Cuyahoga County, “People and Farmers’ Food Bank Bill of Rights to improve quality, service, and modernization of food bank distributions. I will submit revision of Homestead Exemption to raise qualifying earnings placed on a sliding scale with the addition of solar program to aid in the ability to afford climbing cost of home ownership. Lastly, Peace of Noble- the utilization of solar lighting on roundabouts on Euclid to Noble to create safety, reduce high speed police chases, improve access to walking and public transportation.
- 3.
4. **[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?
 - 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.
 - 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?
 - 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?

5. 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?

6. 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? Placing voting on Blockchain

- 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 Library blockchain programs to aid residents to understand blockchain use as a voting platform

- 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?

- 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

7. 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? Place checkbox on all police reports, requiring all police to ask if victim believes the crime was racially

motivated. This data is to be collected, published, turn into the Feds, and apply for funding to address the issue.

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 Reparations for Native Americans

Please elaborate if you wish.

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

Yes No

9. 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. The community is sadly divided by this problem. The government needs to determine a transparent way to address all community education needs. The use of the term resegregation is a multi-level issue- This community has a long history, documented by universities of economic segregation Our region is reported as one of the most economically segregated communities in our country. Economic segregation contributes to students' academic struggles, as such we must unite as a community to multitask a way to provide education that meets the needs of all the community.

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? The demand for teachers to be held responsible for student academic achievement is harmful to students and teachers. Students and parents need access to each other in order for student to academically achieve. Rather than placing blame on teachers, I will submit Tech Power to the People Initiative to aid families in achieving economic stability and equity. This plan allows parents the ability to afford the time needed to be available for their students' academic needs. This plan shifts academic success away from being the sole responsibility of teachers and instead grants parents the opportunity to allocate time and emotional support for student success.

- D. What other legislative effort would you make to better enable Ohio's public schools to attract and retain qualified teachers?
 Yes No similar to a doctor's housing loan- providing teachers access to zero down home ownership, including teachers within the sliding scale of the Homestead Exemption with Solar Inclusion

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? The cost of housing, transportation, food, clothing, utilities, and other basic needs has pushed service and retail workers to manufacturing jobs that pay a much higher salary. Service and retail jobs schedules and employment are inconsistent as both are motivated by sales. Work in these fields can be unfriendly environments for parents and students seeking consistency so that they may meet their other life obligations.
- 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? Many service and retail workers rely on county goods and services (TANF) if earnings are immediate, at a rate over 9.30, then families will lose their benefits and do not have a way to financially substitute for goods, services, and cash TANF provides. Such an earnings patterns results in a return to TANF via job termination, as the loss of needed TANF cannot be regained quickly enough to avoid plummeting into deeper poverty already experienced by the 9.30. Income serves families and individuals best when incrementally earned to help adjust for lost of county goods and services. 1.00 increase monthly allows for saving needed funds to substitute in for TANF which grants time to successfully move from TANF to employment fulltime, full pay rate of 18.00 an hour of regular earnings.

- 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?___The economic segregation is a multi-level issue that spreads far and wide in someone's life. Blockchain ensures the county participates as a transparent fiduciary partner with the residents. Such a change creates equality between residents and the county, ensuring consistent and timely delivery of goods and services. Such a platform creates economic stability due to the county's reliability of goods and services (food stamps, housing vouchers, childcare, social security, HEAP, PIPP). County consistency in service delivery grants residents' faith in their government and belief in delayed gratification. Gun violence will reduce in this type of economic atmosphere.
- 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?
yes
- D. **[For Candidates for Governor]** As Governor of Ohio, would you veto legislation described under Question C immediately above?
- 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

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? Expand public space use installation of EV chargers

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? Not for use for traffic tickets

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

