

Immigration Knowledge and Understanding Questionnaire

Please return this form by to the address at the bottom of the page

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Background Information

Are you aware that neighbors across our community have businesses being started by people who were not born here? They take risk, they pool resources, they provide wonderful things like restaurants as well as important services. What would you do to increase immigrant entrepreneurship?

The city of Cleveland has a rich history of immigration dating back over 130 years. Over this period immigrants and their descendants helping to transform Cleveland into what it is today and shaping into the future. Immigration continues to play an important role in Cleveland and our surrounding communities. These immigrants are vibrant and diverse coming from every continent and bringing with them unique cultures and experience. Not only this, but they work in important fields, open businesses, and create jobs. They weren't born here but Cleveland becomes their home to. As an individual running for or holding an elected office it is key to understand the international community that calls Cleveland home. At Global Cleveland we work to make Cleveland a place that is open and welcoming to all. We hope that you found the following statements informative and the questions thought-provoking. Most of all we hope that you will join us in this mission to continue making Cleveland a better, greater city and home for all its residents.

In Partnership with

ASIA Inc	Connecting Cleveland Global Shapers Cleveland
Asiatown	NAACP of Cleveland OPAWL
Badondo Community of Greater Cleveland	British Refugee Response
American Chamber of Commerce of Ohio CCWA	US Together
CIP	USCRI – Cleveland
Cleveland Cultural Gardens	Young Latino Network
Collaborative Chambers Alliance	

Personal Experience with the International Community

What is your experience serving and interacting with the international community in your own community and NEO at large? How has this shaped your understanding of your community and your role as a leader?

I was the Executive Director of the Community Relations Board from 2006-2017. It was my job to cultivate relationships with Cleveland's 117 cultural groups. I am also a German Marshall Memorial Fellow and have taken several international trips to work on building relationships with other governments and the City of Cleveland. I have also taken part of 2 missions to Israel to establish strong ties with our Jewish community and their country. Most recently, I was a part of a team that traveled to Germany to learn more about digitalization and the future of work (Industry 4.0) I presently serve an area that has a large amount of Case Western Reserve students.

Transform Cleveland into an International Hub of Innovation

Annually, hundreds of international students graduate from Case Western, TRI-C, and CSU with in demand skills who are not being retained in the area to contribute to population and economic growth. Can you share what policies you will support to address this?

I will support policies that promote more Traded sector jobs in Cleveland. Many of our healthcare organizations create several patents in the University Circle and Cleveland area. I would look at ways that we can keep those manufacturing jobs here instead of shipping those inventions overseas to be mass produced. I would also support ways to establish a path to citizenship for many of the students that want to make Cleveland home.

Cleveland has sister cities all around the world such as Ibadan, Nigeria; Lima, Peru; Gdansk, Poland; and Bangalore, India. What is your game plan for making Cleveland a more open and international-facing city to strengthen and grow these relationships?

I would encourage more Sister City agreements. I would like to outline where we will collaborate on international trade, culture and educational exchanges. I would encourage the airport to be more welcome to the international community. I would work with our libraries to help establish hubs where communities can learn multiple languages so international students can better interact with Cleveland residents. I will also work with Community Development Corporations to identify enclaves of international communities and provide wrap around services for them so they can understand basic city services (What day should they take out the trash, housing codes and other issues) as well as making sure these communities have the educational, social and job training support they need to thrive in Cleveland's community.

Our population loss from 2010-2018 would have been even worse if not for the 37,000 immigrants who moved into Cuyahoga County during that time. These new residents have offset the population loss by 45%. How can we attract more immigrants to move here to continue this important trend?

I would identify neighborhoods that have lost a lot of population and work with housing entities and CDC's to renovate and build housing in those areas to attract international communities. This is how Cleveland was able to grow their population in the past.

On average, 500-700 refugees are resettled to Cleveland every year, from countries such as Nepal, Afghanistan, The Democratic Republic of Congo, and Somalia. The Biden-Harris administration announced they will increase refugee admissions to 125,000 a year nationally, up from 15,000 this year. This means Cleveland's three refugee resettlement agencies will receive 3-4x as many families as they did this past year. How do you plan to open Cleveland for these new residents and provide refugees with the opportunity to contribute to Cleveland?

I will work with the education centers and other institutions to establish ways to provide wrap around support for these refugees. I would also work with healthcare entities to make sure we have ways to deal with the physical and mental health of these new residents. I will work with job training and other companies to establish a pathway to work opportunities and entrepreneurship. The international community often are great entrepreneurs. Therefore, we have to find ways for them to get capital to start their own businesses.

Set the Table for Internationalization and Economic Growth

There are over 1000 immigrant entrepreneurs in Cleveland, are 38% more likely to be entrepreneurs than U.S. born residents. What portion of the economic development office in the City of Cleveland would be devoted to supporting immigrant entrepreneurs under your leadership?

I believe the economic development department should have a dedicated team of people that focus on attracting international businesses large and small. There should be ways to teach business principles and the Cleveland marketplace. People should know everything from permitting processes, licensing and assessments and all government operations. There should be a dedicated team at City Hall to work on this. We also need to work closely with Global Cleveland to accomplish this.

As evidenced by this information, immigrants are a key part of building a successful and strong regional economy. With a spending power of over \$3B, how will you support integrating this powerful demographic into a regional growth plan?

___ I would work with Team NEO, the Healthcare and higher educational institutions to establish a partnership that ___ would attract more international companies.

Embrace and Cultivate a Culture of Inclusion and Shared Prosperity

The important and paramount 'diversity, equity and inclusion' conversation happening right now often does not include members of the international community living in Cleveland. Would you support policies in the private and public sectors that take into consideration the voices of this diverse and important constituency? Would you vote for and promote policies in government to achieve these goals? ___ Absolutely. It is extremely important for the voices of the international community to be heard in Cleveland. Cleveland has mostly been seen as Black and White. East and West. It's past time to dismantle those perceptions and create a narrative built on facts and commitment that Cleveland is much more ethnically diverse and inclusive. We have to be proactive with this conversation so the international community does not fall prey to racism, bigotry and prejudice.

Midwest cities leading the way in city wide growth and development through the inclusion of immigrant communities, such as Detroit and Pittsburgh have created taskforces or commissions to analyze the effects of immigration on their city, examine the challenges facing immigrants and immigrant communities, and promote immigrant success and build strong relationships between native-born and immigrant communities. Would you support the creation of such a taskforce or commission in Cleveland made up of city representatives, immigrant community leaders, business leaders, and members of Cleveland's non-profit community?

___ I would support such a taskforce. I would work hard to help native born communities who feel that the American Dream has been elusive understand that there should never be an adversarial relationship with the international community nor immigrants. We should be partners in setting our goals, aspirations and achievement. Never adversaries. We need to set up a structure to compliment each other. No community or ethnic group should feel like they are being displaced or replaced.

Would you support adding members and staff to the Community Relations Board that represent the changing immigrant population in Cleveland such as an African Immigrant Community Liaison and Arab Immigrant Community Liaison?

___Yes. I strongly support that. I have extensive experience working with multiple African immigrant communities. I would reactivate and re engage the administration in this effort.

Were you aware that in 2017 Cleveland created a [Language Access Plan](#) that outlines how to engage with ESL (English as a Second Language) and ELL (English as a Learning Language)? How would you ensure implementation of this plan, as such services are mandated by [Title VI](#) of the 1964 Civil Rights Act?

___Yes. I helped develop the Limited English Proficiency plan in the City of Cleveland when I was at The CRB.

Would you support expanded language training in public schools for English speaking students as well as contextualized ESL support for English language learners at all levels of education and workforce development?

___Yes. _____

Do you support more immigrants, refugees, and international students moving to Cleveland/Cuyahoga County? If no, why not? If yes, how?

___Yes. Absolutely. Once again, I would identify areas that have begun losing population and help set up international communities throughout these areas.

Would you like to receive information and data on immigrants and refugee populations and communities in Greater Cleveland? YES NO :Yes

Would you be interested in receiving more information from Global Cleveland and our partners? YES NO :Yes

Thank you for participating in this survey. We hope you have found this informative and useful as a guide to local

policy advancement.