

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?

Within NEO and my community, I routinely seek out opportunities to engage with immigrant families. Ward 17 is home to a growing Bhutanese immigrant population and also is home to a large mosque/school that attracts many immigrant home buyers into the neighborhood. CMHA Riverside Park is now home to many Puerto Rican families who came to Cleveland post-Maria and Ward 17 continues to attract Irish immigrants. More broadly, my understanding of our international community ties back to my experiences living/studying overseas and appreciating the opportunities that Cleveland can offer for immigrant families.

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 support a more robust ecosystem that allows international students opportunities to intern for Cleveland-area companies as well as a centralized H1B processor for Cleveland area businesses so that our region can compete for work visas alongside larger metropolitan areas and major corporations.

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 believe that the sister cities program should be expanded and that a greater emphasis should be placed on economic development partnerships. For example, Cleveland's relationship with its sister city of Bangalore, India's tech capital, creates a unique opportunity to bring high-tech jobs to our region that may initially be inclined to locate in California.

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?

Cleveland's low cost of living, amenities, and public transportation make it a good location for immigrants and their families. To increase the number of immigrants that we attract, Cleveland can continue to grow its immigrant-facing services. I also believe that more could be done from a public relations side. Even many Clevelanders are unaware of our growing immigrant communities. Promoting these communities alongside more established ethnic communities can help people better see Cleveland as a city of continuous rather than historic immigration.

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?

In partnership with West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development, I am working to identify housing and employment opportunities for new immigrant communities. A particular focus of these efforts is identifying ways to welcome many families in close proximity to each other as a way of establishing a community and promoting social ties.

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?

City Council does not directly control how city departments allocate staff. Nonetheless, the City of Cleveland Department of Economic Development should have a point person who, alongside economic development partners, works with immigrant-owned businesses and offers support structures that can help the business thrive in what can be an unfamiliar business environment.

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?

As immigrant families (refugees in particular) establish themselves in Cleveland, programs must be in place that allow them to build wealth, purchase homes,

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?

Yes.

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?

Yes.

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.

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. This service should be expanded. In particular, residents should be able to seamlessly engage with City Hall in Spanish.

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. In many ways, Cleveland's historic population growth during a less restrictive era for immigrants may have left us without the tools in place to compete for immigrants, refugees, and international students. Other regions of the United States and their corporate sectors are far more proactive in their attraction efforts and fund resources that allow them to be competitive for finite visas from the federal government.