

# Immigration Knowledge and Understanding Questionnaire

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## 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?**

In my early twenties I studied abroad at the London School of Economics. My classmates came from every corner of the world. As students of economics and social policy, we formed a rich, international community with diverse perspectives and experiences. Later, I was the Head of the Global Cities Practice at Gallup, leading a consulting business with a global perspective on how cities around the world operate. Today, through my campaign for Mayor I have engaged with the international community, meeting with groups like South Asians for Justice & Equity and hosting Meet and Greets with Arab American, Refugee and Immigrant Community members. The international community deserves a mayor who will advocate for Cleveland on the national and international stage and lead by example to make Cleveland an inclusive and welcoming city.

## 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?**

Cleveland must do a better job of retaining the pipeline of talent of international students to drive population and economic growth. It is my understanding that many local organizations and businesses do not know how to hire international graduates who need visa sponsorship. As Mayor, my office will educate Cleveland-based organizations and businesses on the visa process. We will serve as a better partner to the international community by launching mentoring and networking opportunities between local business partners and international students to increase retention of international students graduating from TRI-C, CSU, and Case Western Reserve University.

**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?**

As mayor, I'll be a visible and vocal ambassador for Cleveland on the global stage to ensure refugees, immigrants, and international students know they will be welcomed here with open arms. This advocacy has been missing from our current administration, which has failed to use the bully pulpit of the Mayors' Office to engage with global partners. I will make it a priority to establish stronger relationships with our sister cities through regular and culturally appropriate communication.

**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?**

What makes a new city feel like home is connection - to jobs, community and culture. To attract more immigrants to Cleveland, my administration will partner with Refugee Response, Global Cleveland and others to ensure there is a connected pathway to employment for refugees when they arrive.

Secondly, I am proud to live in a city with diverse places of worship, Cleveland has a large presence of mosques, Hispanic ministries, and Buddhist temples. I see the faith community as an extension of City Hall and I will be intentional in connecting with faith communities and visiting religious spaces.

Finally, it is time that the Mayor's office embraces immigrant and refugee communities. As Mayor I will bring City Hall to every neighborhood library, encourage refugee and immigrant residents to engage in participatory budgeting, and lead with the belief that refugees and immigrant residents who might not be able to vote should still be able to participate in city government.

**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?**

As Mayor of Cleveland, I will ensure every immigrant who arrives in Cleveland receives resources when they arrive so they do not feel isolated and alone. Every immigrant will receive a welcome letter from the Mayor's Office with information about resources and advice on accessing training for U.S. style resume and cover letter writing, networking, and interviewing skills to all immigrants and refugees to create accessible pathways to employment. My office will provide industry specific resources and guidance, with job search coaching. When I am Mayor of Cleveland I will work to level the playing field for immigrants and refugees in search of a job, by providing them with the skills necessary to be successful in the job market.

**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?**

Cleveland has the potential to emerge as the next big entrepreneurship and tech hub and immigrants play an important role in this emerging industry. To incentivize new business development, I will launch direct relief and grant programs for small and minority owned businesses to give new residents their start.

**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 understand the importance of immigrant workers. When I am elected Mayor of Cleveland I will activate the demographic of immigrant workers. I would like to provide them with training for U.S. style resume and cover letter writing, networking, and interviewing skills to all immigrants.

**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?**

Minorities who are members of the international community are often left out of the racial diversity, equity, and inclusion conversation. During the time of our country's anti-Asian racial reckoning, I stood in solidarity with the Asian community. As Mayor I will work to end food deserts and provide internet in highly populated immigrant and refugee neighborhoods. I will combat Islamophobia, the model minority myth, and other hurtful stereotypes. I will have immigrant representation in my office and I will fight for policies that defend the immigrant and refugee population of Cleveland.

**Midwest cities leading the way in citywide 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, to ensure increasing numbers of immigrants arriving in Cleveland are able to establish roots here, I am committed to uniting city representatives, immigrant community leaders, business leaders, and members of Cleveland's non-profit community to make Cleveland a welcoming, inclusive, productive place to live.

**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 fully support adding members to the Community Relations Board, such as an Arab Immigrant Community Liaison and an African Immigrant Community Liaison.

**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 am aware of and in support of the Language Access Plan and Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. As Mayor, I will ensure that the City Government's website will be accessible to ELL and ESL speakers, and I will make sure that literature and ordinances put out by the city are comprehensible for people who do not speak English.

**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?**

As we grow our immigrant population in Cleveland it is important that the next generation of Clevelanders have expanded language training programs in public schools. This is an important step in creating a more international-facing and open city.

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

I believe that immigrants, refugees, and international students are not only the future of our country, but the future of our city. Cleveland lost 50% of its population between the years of 1970 and 2013, I believe that immigrants and refugees will play a central role in gaining our population and economy back. When I am elected mayor I will retain international students with visa training programs and business and international student connections. I will put refugees and immigrants on a pathway to jobs, with training programs. When I am elected Mayor of Cleveland, I will make it a more open and international facing city because it is essential to the growth of our great community.

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

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

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