



Immigration Knowledge and Understanding Questionnaire

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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?

Provide small business grants, offer classes, decrease bureaucracy, start a public bank, be a sanctuary city

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

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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?

I have been throughout all 17 of Cleveland's wards multiple times since 2010 & worked in the Common Pleas Court resolving civil disputes of all nationalities. I realize Cleveland is an incredibly diverse melting pot & had to order translators & navigate cultural differences. I saw that a lack of education & understanding & sensitivity can lead to very preventable problems.

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?

A pipeline with public opportunities & hopefully private partnerships. Create subsidies or incentives to try & keep those skills here. Invest in all 17 wards so as to attack the health & crime problems & make Cleveland more environmentally & culturally friendly.

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?

Add to that list. Be active in making it easy to communicate & visit those cities & bring folk here using Hopkins & our hotel & tourism groups.

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?

Have a department which markets our place to people where they are at and in their language!

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?

Fight for funding with the private sector & divert the new funding toward those agencies so that they have the necessary capacity. Invest in people.



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 absolutely

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?

I was not aware. This would be a priority for me in my term timeline. I would learn about it as soon as possible (now) & make sure the services are in place as soon as possible in 2022

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?

Hire more consultants; Fight for funding & lobby the State & Federal government for more resources. Exert maximum leverage & listen to experts in this field.

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

Yes. This is the melting pot. Bringing people here who want to grow, work, learn & build only has a positive return on investment for all of us. We simply have to fight for a better, more equitable social safety net so folks can spring everything forward instead of falling into decline. Start a local public bank & be a solidarity city.

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.



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 would have to have access to the budget, be able to do an analysis & compare it to other successful similarly-sized cities to be able to honestly answer this question.

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?

Communicate with neighboring counties & municipalities & local leaders in the immigrant communities to see how we can grow the network exponentially. Hold events & disseminate contact information in multiple languages.

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?

Yes, more so the public sector but working with the good-faith international community in the private sector as well. Yes I would vote for & promote these policies.

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. Cleveland has such bad leadership we have to copy other cities & blow open City-Hell to all voices.