

Prepared as a service by the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland, CHUH Chapter, and published in collaboration with the *Heights Observer* and FutureHeights, which has generously provided a portion of the publication costs.

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy. The League of Women Voters does not endorse candidates or support political parties. It encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Mayoral Primary Election Date September 14, 2021 POLLS OPEN 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS MAYOR

Four-Year Term	Salary: \$115,000	Four Candidates are seeking to be Mayor:	
BARBARA DANFORTH	MELODY JOY HART	JOSEPHINE MOORE	KAHLIL SEREN

In 2021 a mayor will be elected by the voters in Cleveland Heights for the first time since the founding of the City in 1921. This is a result of the amendment of the City's Charter approved by the voters in November 2019, changing the structure of City government from a council – manager form (with the elected members of Council appointing a City Manager to implement Council's policies and to manage day-to-day operations of the City) to a mayor-council form (with the voters of the City electing a Mayor to serve as the chief executive of the City).

Voters will select one among the four candidates in a Special Election to be held on September 14, 2021 (a nonpartisan primary). The two candidates receiving the most votes in this primary will face off in the November 2, 2021 general election.

The Charter provides that the elected Mayor will exercise control over all departments and divisions of City government; will hire and fire all employees of the City, with limited exceptions; will prepare the annual budget of the City for submission to Council; and will sign all contracts to which the City is a party and see that all terms of those contracts imposed in favor of the City are performed.

In addition, the Mayor serves as Director of Public Safety.

The 2019 Charter amendment also provides that the Mayor is to appoint a person with executive and administrative training and experience to serve as City Administrator to manage day-to-day operations of the City. That appointment is subject to Council approval.

September 14, 2021 Primary Election Early In-Person Voting Hours



Weekdays*	August 17 - September 3	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Weekdays*	September 6 - September 10	8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	September 11	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday	September 12	1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday	September 13	8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

*Weekdays are denoted as Monday through Friday.

2925 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115 | (216) 443-VOTE (8683) | www.443vote.us

Cleveland Heights Mayoral Primary Calendar

- **Aug. 16** – Voter registration deadline. Register to vote or update your registration online at olvr.ohiosos.gov
- **Aug. 17** – The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections (BOE) begins to mail Vote by Mail (VBM)/Absentee ballots. Early voting begins; see schedule to the left.
- **Sept. 11, noon** – Last day to request a VBM/Absentee ballot.
- **Sept. 13** – last day to mail a VBM/Absentee ballot; must be postmarked on or before this date.
- **Sept. 14 – Mayoral Primary Election, polls open 6:30 am to 7:30 p.m.** VBM/Absentee ballots can be returned in person up to 7:30 p.m. on this date. Overseas VBM ballots must be signed and submitted for mailing by 12:01 AM EDT on or before this date and received on or before Sept. 14, 2021.

Advantages for Voting by Mail (VBM)

Absentee voting has many benefits: You can vote early, it is convenient, it reduces the chance of lines at the polls on Election Day, and **absentee ballots are the first votes counted on Election Night.** Voters need only fill out and return an application and their absentee ballot will be mailed to them so they may make their selections at their leisure and return their ballot to the board of elections ahead of Election Day. **See detailed instructions for VBM on the back page.**

The material contained in this publication was assembled in the following manner:

- Questions were selected by the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland and addressed to the candidates.
- Candidates were informed that their responses would be printed in their own words, which has been done, and that each would be solely responsible for the contents of the replies.
- For publication, the order of presentation of the candidates is alphabetical.
- The League of Women Voters neither endorses nor rejects the views of any candidate quoted and does not and cannot assume responsibility for the contents of the candidates' replies. We DO NOT and HAVE NOT endorsed any candidates for any offices.

All candidate information has been submitted by the candidates themselves.

Access your voting information here

Use this QR code to access the Ohio Secretary of State (SOS) Voter toolkit, where you can:

- Track your VBM ballot
- Find your polling location
- View sample ballot
- Check your voter registration



Visit www.VOTE411.org today!

There you can learn what's on your ballot, your polling place location, information



about candidates and issues on your ballot, and candidates' answers to questions posed by the League of Women Voters. You may also find links to news articles, candidate forum videos, and other election information.

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS MAYORAL PRIMARY

Four-Year Term Salary: \$115,000 Four Candidates are seeking to be Mayor:
BARBARA DANFORTH MELODY JOY HART JOSEPHINE MOORE KAHLIL SEREN



Barbara Danforth

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Twitter: @votedanforth
Instagram: votedanforth/
YouTube: watch?v=IMzCZ5xON9U

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: Eastern Michigan University, BS; University of Pittsburgh School of Law, JD
Current occupation: Executive Coach
Qualifications: A deep love of Cleveland Heights and all that makes it unique and the desire to bring my education, skills and experience to facilitate improvements and growth in the City. Thirty years of executive leadership experience serving in private, public and non-profit sectors in city, county and state governments, including the practice of law, CEO of the YWCA of Cleveland, and CEO of largest charter school in Ohio serving children with learning disabilities with 24 schools, 1,000 staff, budget of \$62 million. I developed and led a team, in collaboration with the Board of Directors, that implemented a total structural and cultural transition of the YWCA and built an organizational foundation that has enabled the YWCA to grow and thrive for over a decade. Twenty-two-year resident of Cleveland Heights.
Volunteer activities: Forest Hill Home Owner Association, Board of Trustees; Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services; Member and former Board member of City Club of Cleveland and In Counsel With Women.

What do you consider to be an effective working relationship between the elected mayor and members of City Council? The Mayor and City Council are equal branches of the government and must work collaboratively to implement the City's goals and objectives. As Mayor, I will understand the priorities of each Council member and engage the City staff to help facilitate their agendas. The Mayor and the Council will need to bring our diverse perspectives together, listen carefully, respectfully, identify common ground, resolve conflicting positions and make decisions that are in the best interests of Cleveland Heights residents. It will be the responsibility of the Mayor to determine from the City staff issues, initiatives and projects that require legislative consideration, provide Council members with relevant data and information, and facilitate the preparation of the legislation. The Mayor is charged with the implementation of legislative mandates and completing projects on time and on budget.

What opportunities do you see for regional collaboration between Cleveland Heights and other local governments to provide services or facilities? There are many opportunities for collaboration among other local governments, some of which are already in existence. Cleveland Heights is a member of the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium, which is a government-led advocacy organization working to revitalize mature communities. As issues facing mature cities become more complex and challenging, there are greater needs and opportunities to collaborate, and to initiate and support policies and practices that facilitate the redevelopment of these cities. Cleveland Heights can draw upon the experience and best practices utilized in other similar cities. A broad and deep connection to our central city, Cleveland, and Cuyahoga County is important to identify trends, advances, opportunities and resources that may be available to Cleveland Heights. Additionally, collaboration with non-governmental units, such as University Circle, Inc., is important when considering residential, retail, and commercial development.

What, if any, specific actions would you recommend the city take to reverse the decline of its aging housing? (1) I recommend a careful review and analysis of the City's Housing Department with a particular focus on whether the existing contract for housing inspections is meeting the needs of the city. There must be a fair, consistent, and timely inspection process with penalties that are enforced for failure to correct violations. (2) Review the Housing Department budget to ensure that it demonstrates the importance of our housing stock and provides adequate resources for inspections and any legal services needed to enforce the City's codes, including those relating to rental and vacant properties. (3) I would facilitate communication, at every relevant opportunity, about programs that are available to residents to maintain their homes. There are loan programs, such as the Housing Enhancement Loan Program (HELP), and services available at the Housing Preservation Office and the Home Repair and Resource Center that can assist those in greatest need to maintain their homes.

What is your vision for the redevelopment of Severance Center, and what city actions would be necessary to facilitate that vision? For Severance, I envision a town center of the future. It could build on the expansion of MetroHealth's new hospital and include a campus of other health and education related enterprises. It could draw upon the facility needs of the medical advancements in artificial intelligence, research and development, and clean manufacturing of medical devices. It could fully repurpose the former Regal Theater into an arts, culture and entertainment center. It could include a mixture of residential models including small, energy efficient homes and those with first floor master suites. It must include lots of green space for walking, biking and relaxing. This vision should be driven by a view for bringing in growth industries. I will engage our residents to update their ideas, as well as developers, commercial real estate brokers, financial institutions, Future Heights and the City Planning and Development staff. Finally, tough negotiations with the current owner will be necessary.

What role should environmental considerations play in the city's policies and actions? Supporting our environment and reducing our carbon footprint seems like an overwhelming challenge and yet we know that urgent action is needed. As Mayor, one of the first things I will do is create an Environmental Task Force. Members will have expertise in clean water, renewable energy, solar energy, recycling, climate change, our tree canopy and green spaces. They will educate the City staff and residents about simple, cost effective, environmentally-friendly strategies to implement. They will recommend specific policies and actions that can be adopted for immediate and long-term reduction of our carbon footprint. Most importantly, members of the Task Force will be at the decision-making table for residential, commercial and other relevant projects to provide advice and recommendations. An example of a possible idea is the construction of an all-electric home with energy supplied by roof-top solar panels. Environmentally-friendly strategies must be a priority for the City.



Melody Joy Hart

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Twitter: @melodyjoyhart

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: Masters of Business Administration - Accounting, Keller Graduate School of Management, Chicago; Bachelor of Science, Bradley University, Peoria, Ill.
Current occupation: Retired Finance Executive
Qualifications: Managerial skills: 30+ year career in finance, including in senior management as a Treasurer, managing departments, budgets, people. Have gone into companies and assessed the finance structure in terms of capital structure, personnel, policies, controls, systems, and procedures and have recommended and implemented changes. Long history of civic engagement and knowledge of city: Current city councilwoman; attended council and committee of the whole meetings for over four years prior to that. Strong knowledge of housing. Financial: Certified Public Accountant (Ill.), Certified Treasury Professional, Financial Planning & Analysis Certification. People skills: While I am directive when the situation warrants that approach, I also am collaborative when the situation warrants that approach.
Volunteer activities: Greater Cleveland Congregations, 10 years, social justice issues, including the diversion center, halting over-charging Greater Cleveland Congregations; Cleveland Heights Housing Committee, 6 years, walking the Noble neighborhood and noting bad investor properties, researching and raising the city for enforcement. CH Democratic Club, Treasurer (in club for about 15 years and Treasurer for about 2-3 years). Precinct Committee Woman (about 7-8 years). Member, Executive Committee, Cuyahoga County Democratic Party. Stonewall Democrats, Cuyahoga Democratic Women's Caucus, The Patriots, Heights Friends of Immigrants--Formed 501c3 with Gary Benjamin called Americans Making Immigrants Safe, Sponsored a Haitian Asylum Seeker, Ansley Damus; Member of Trinity Cathedral, Member of Finance and Investment Committee of Trinity Cathedral, Former Vestry member of Trinity Cathedral, Volunteer on Obama Campaign, Volunteer on Hillary Campaign, Sponsor on Future Heights events, Sponsor on Cedar-Fairmount SID event, Treasurer and Finance Chair for Mercado Global, a fair trade NFP formed by a former CH high graduate, on the board of the Cedar-Fairmount SID

What do you consider to be an effective working relationship between the elected mayor and members of City Council? The Mayor is the Executive and Council is Legislative, but it is key that they work together collaboratively. The Mayor develops strategy and runs the city, but also must provide transparent reporting of their staff key performance indicators so that the council (and the public) have a solid knowledge of where all departmental initiatives and efforts stand as well the financial condition of the city. The Mayor must keep the council apprised of issues that may need Council's consideration and legislation. The Mayor brings forth routine legislation and may bring forth non-routine legislation for council consideration. The Council may also bring forth legislation. The relationship with the President of Council is important as the Mayor will want to discuss non-routine legislative efforts and budget priorities first with the President of Council, then with the Council. It is important that the Mayor develop relationships with all council members since collaboration is key.

What opportunities do you see for regional collaboration between Cleveland Heights and other local governments to provide services or facilities? Building Codes are state codes, therefore, regionalizing a building department would be cost effective. There is also difficulty in hiring these individuals, so banding together to create a solution that works for multiple cities would be smart. Housing compliance codes can differ from city to city, so that is a harder one to combine until the cities standardize their codes together. Garbage could be done in conjunction with other neighboring cities as well. We have new garbage trucks that are automated. If another city has an aging garbage fleet, we could allow them to pay us for our handling their refuse. This could be cheaper for them and for us. However, it is possible it might require additional staff and trucks depending on the city involved, so a cost benefit analysis would be required. But it would likely be feasible. There may be other services that can be combined as well.

What, if any, specific actions would you recommend the city take to reverse the decline of its aging housing? Implement strategy to strengthen our housing department, focusing efforts on absentee landlords and investor owned properties that are not maintained. Use a collaborative approach with homeowners to provide guidance and assist them. Review and update code. Fully staff for a higher level of compliance. Provide day-to-day legal counsel on housing. Employ pro-active legal strategies to forestall abandonment by responsible owners, investors, lenders. Increase code officials' capacity to protect neighborhoods from neglect, abandonment and abusive predatory practices. Utilize all tools available (i.e., receivership, legal intervention, etc.). Have staff obtain state certification as housing inspectors if needed. Upgrade IT tools and data management capacity, increasing departmental coordination and ability to see trends and respond early, as well as providing dashboards for reporting. Replace punitive oriented criminal misdemeanor enforcement with civil administrative and judicial proceeding.

What is your vision for the redevelopment of Severance Center, and what city actions would be necessary to facilitate that vision? My vision for redevelopment is expanding health care facilities at Severance, adding mixed use development with housing, specifically houses for the aging population and houses to accommodate the needs of the orthodox community, all readily walkable with green space. However, we do not have site control of the property. We need to find a willing developer and a way to encourage the owner to sell. This will take a tremendous effort to accomplish, but is highly important. I would have staff research what properties they own that they have sold and what encouraged the sale. I will make as many trips to meet with the owner as needed, to determine what his plans are and what would make him sell. I will start applying pressure: Giving him frequent violations and fines, forming an alliance with other property owners there to help pressure them. The city has control of rights of way and zoning and owns some other property there, which can be utilized to pressure the owner as well.

What role should environmental considerations play in the city's policies and actions? It is important that sustainability be a consideration in the city's policy and actions. Sustainability needs to be ingrained in the culture of the government. As a policy, for decisions, the city should look at the relationship of the well-being and quality of life for residents, economic viability impacts on the city, and environmental impacts to ensure a sustainable future. The city has three of the city buildings heated and cooled by solar power. Our Community Reinvestment Areas have incentives for green buildings. We need to continue these efforts to improve processes and pass legislations that impact our sustainability. In dealing with developers, we need to ensure up front that they understand our values, which includes sustainability so they can design for that. Implementing a regular pruning program for city trees will help to lengthen the life and health of our trees, even as we plant new trees. Sustainability is part of our values and is a wholistic and long-term process.

Four-Year Term **Salary: \$115,000** **Four Candidates are seeking to be Mayor:**
 BARBARA DANFORTH MELODY JOY HART JOSEPHINE MOORE KAHLIL SEREN



Josephine Moore

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: Metropolitan State University of Denver, BA, English & Philosophy; University at Buffalo, MA, English

Current occupation: Communications: copywriting, branding and messaging

Qualifications: My professional work is in communications, and my political work is in grass-roots activism. I have helped build effective local and statewide organizations from the ground up to advocate for progressive issues. In these, I led outreach and community engagement. I quickly rose to positions of leadership, where I managed multiple simultaneous and complex projects to meet our overall goals; directed diverse teams; formed coalitions and facilitated coordination with other organizations; and mediated dialogues to find opportunities for compromise that opened pathways to progress.

Volunteer activities: Capital NYPAN (Albany, N.Y., area), NYPAN (New York Progressive Action Network), Ohio for Bernie, Cleveland Heights Progressives

What do you consider to be an effective working relationship between the elected mayor and members of City Council? A strong, positive relationship between the mayor and council is vital. While the mayor has been elected with a mandate to effect progress and lead the city with a clear vision and direction, the council serves as a vehicle to balance community concerns and to represent residents' varying needs. Although there needs to be a general alignment of vision and direction among the mayor and council members, it's healthy to include different viewpoints and ideas on how to work toward our common goals. The mayor and council members need to be willing to reach out, discuss ideas and concerns, and be responsive to each other in a spirit of collaboration and problem-solving. We need leadership—both in our mayor and our council members—that sees civil disagreement as an opportunity to find pathways for improvement. This is why open, ongoing, and respectful communication is key to an effective working relationship that enables the achievement of our city's goals.

What opportunities do you see for regional collaboration between Cleveland Heights and other local governments to provide services or facilities? Our region's municipalities share many challenges, and our leaders should be working together to collaborate, coordinate, and build scale. Because many issues we face do not stop at city borders, in addition to exploring opportunities for service-sharing—such as snow removal, garbage collection, and so on—we should work regionally to innovate and collectively advocate for improved and more responsive solutions. Some areas we can take on jointly include: (1) finding ways to make both public transit as well as broadband more affordable, accessible, and to improve quality; (2) addressing poverty and helping low-income households achieve financial stability; (3) tackling sewer and water infrastructure needs; (4) building a regional environmental sustainability plan of action; and (5) developing a program similar to Cleveland's Co-Responder Program, in which police and social workers work together in response to mental health and substance abuse needs in our community.

What, if any, specific actions would you recommend the city take to reverse the decline of its aging housing?

Cleveland Heights' housing stock is fundamental to the health of our economy. But it's our people who make this place our common home. Protecting the well-being of both needs to be one of our city's highest priorities. The privatization of our Housing Department has resulted in inconsistent quality of inspections, varying application of standards, and inequitable access to resources for homeowners trying to address violations. We must rebuild our Housing Department, in time bringing all inspections in-house, as well as hiring community liaisons to help people access resources to repair and improve their homes. In addition, our city's leadership needs to bring together all local organizations working in housing to align and maximize our goals as a city. We should also encourage one or more of our CDCs to develop a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) loan fund for increasing access to low-interest financing for community housing needs.

What is your vision for the redevelopment of Severance Center, and what city actions would be necessary to facilitate that vision?

Severance Center is ideally situated to be a thriving city center that can offer improved quality of life and increased access to needed businesses, services, and amenities to our community. However, its current owner has not shown interest in improving the property. We must begin by working with our legal team to develop a dynamic strategy to get control of the property—either securing active cooperation or taking ownership. After that, to ensure that our investment in the property will be beneficial for us for the long term, our city needs to engage in deep community outreach to find out what our residents want and need most. Through collective brainstorming, collaboration and problem-solving, and quality analyses of different options' wider and long-lasting impacts, we can move forward with a focused RFP, confident that we are setting out to develop this space in a way that will be a productive investment and vital community space for generations to come.

What role should environmental considerations play in the city's policies and actions?

By 2050—when today's children will be in their 30s and 40s—the climate crisis will be felt every day, in varying forms. What its impacts will look like for us depend upon how—and to what extent—we adapt everything we do, starting now. While we need large-scale systemic changes from the top-down, localities need to act as well. Local initiatives can be nimble, serve as opportunities for innovation that can be scaled, and drive climate action from the ground up. And we need to begin adapting for what's coming—and this must be done locally, as impacts will vary widely across the U.S. How we currently live—how we commute, work, eat, consume, and so on—is unsustainable. We need to change in both macro and micro ways. We cannot continue to measure environmental responsibility against fiscal ledger sheets, especially when so many costs don't get factored in. We need to build an economy and way of life centered on the health of our environment and the well-being of our people.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: Master of Science in Urban Studies (Law and Public Policy Specialization) and Graduate Certificate in Urban Economic Development, Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University; Bachelor of Arts, Psychology/Political Science, Cleveland State University; Professional Development: Economic Development Finance Professional Certification; Lean Six Sigma Certification; Federal Bureau of Investigation Citizens Academy; Levin College Leadership Academy XXII

Current occupation: Policy Advisor

Qualifications: Policy Advisor (6/2011-Present), Cuyahoga County Council; City Council Member (2/2015-Present) and Council Vice President (1/2020-Present), City of Cleveland Heights; Communications Coordinator (3/2007-6/2011), Policy Matters Ohio

Volunteer activities: Executive Committee Member, Cuyahoga County Democratic Party (3/2015-Present), political leadership body responsible for evaluating and endorsing Democratic candidates in Cuyahoga County. Secretary-Treasurer, Cuyahoga County Community Improvement Corporation Board of Trustees (8/2017-Present), not-for-profit, quasi-governmental organization with the sole purpose of advancing, encouraging, and promoting the industrial, economic, commercial, and civic development of Cuyahoga County; the Corporation serves as Cuyahoga County's review agent for industrial revenue bond financing and economic development loan activity. Cleveland Neighborhood Progress Policy & Advocacy Advisory Committee (9/2016-Present), group providing policy guidance to Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, the City of Cleveland's community development funding intermediary organization. Center for Population Dynamics Advisory Board (4/2015-6/2018), (Member, Real Estate Development Committee), Board Member at Cleveland State University Research Center focused on competitive development through the lens of migration, applied demography, and cultural trends. City of Cleveland Heights Citizens Advisory Committee (1/2013-2/2015), assists in the evaluation and preparation of the CDBG yearly application, participates in monitoring the implementation of the CDBG program, and reviews the City's annual CDBG budget. Higher Education Compact of Greater Cleveland (2012-2019), (Member, Operations Committee), determines the objectives and direction of the Compact, provides oversight of Compact Executive Director and ensures the successful completion of goals by the Compact partners and task forces. Cuyahoga County Veterans' Employment Transition Team (2012-2014), voluntary organization of service providers and employers using shared information to work toward the goal of connecting U.S. military veterans to civilian employment; helped develop and fund the United Way of Greater Cleveland 2-1-1 Help 2 Veterans Line. Strategic Workforce Alignment Group (2013), created by the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) to design and implement strategies to address information, skill, and location gaps that constrain the alignment of workforce supply and demand.

What do you consider to be an effective working relationship between the elected mayor and members of City Council? The working relationship between the elected mayor and members of council must be based in mutual respect (both for the roles and for the people holding the positions), shared information, and a healthy friction between branches of government. To facilitate that respect and ensure that healthy friction doesn't devolve into dysfunction, the mayor will need deep, functional knowledge of the powers and responsibilities of both branches and a dedication to not overstepping the executive role. As an experienced legislator, I've learned that the exchange of information between branches is vital to an effective relationship and informed decision-making. As the first mayor I will not attempt to steer the council by artificially restricting critical information. That being said, there will be times when the council and the mayor are not aligned; reliance on a shared understanding of the separation of powers and open debate on the issues will help to turn that friction into effective compromise.

What opportunities do you see for regional collaboration between Cleveland Heights and other local governments to provide services or facilities? In order to more efficiently provide quality services to our residents, local governments will have to pursue collaborative opportunities. As mayor, I will be an active participant in our existing collaborative structures like the First Suburbs Consortium, the Ohio Municipal League, and the National League of Cities. Opportunities for collaboration with our neighboring communities include: shared facilities and fleet maintenance with University Hts., CH-UH Schools, and Heights Libraries, regionalizing our Building Dept., shared animal control and mental health emergency response in partnership with the County, proactive violence interruption, non-violent resolution services, road and bridge repair planning and implementation, economic development planning and incentives in business districts at our northern and eastern borders, capital equipment sharing, and shared bond issuance. This list is not exhaustive but illustrates that there are ample opportunities for regional collaboration.

What, if any, specific actions would you recommend the city take to reverse the decline of its aging housing? Protecting and enhancing housing in the city requires a dual focus on progress and preservation. As mayor I will make targeted housing code enforcement on investment properties a priority, while identifying and providing access to technical and financial resources to homeowners who are experiencing difficulty maintaining their homes. A complementary strategy I will pursue is an aggressive marketing and engagement campaign aimed at housing developers to update and diversify the age and quality of the housing we have available in Cleveland Heights. Part of this holistic strategy is a focus on city support for public improvements in coordination with residential development, neighborhood amenities (both public and business district-based) and neighborhood programming to increase community cohesion and resident buy-in, specifically in areas of our city that need more public support. All of these activities will strengthen our housing submarkets and improve quality of life.

What is your vision for the redevelopment of Severance Center, and what city actions would be necessary to facilitate that vision? The scale of the site can accommodate a combination of a new residential neighborhood (single family and/or higher

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SEREN continued from page 3

density), new office use, and additional commercial. Working with residents, the city must create a rough outline of the preferred uses for the property. My vision includes new office development to further diversify our tax base, using proximity to University Circle as a draw (15 min. from highway access, 20 min. from downtown). Once the city understands community priorities, we can begin energetically courting developers who have the capacity to develop all or part of the site. On a parallel track, the city must respond to the current owner's business model and level of investment. The lack of investment is dependent on a lack of aggressive enforcement of city code. We must create new regulatory tools to disincentivize stagnation. If the city makes the current model less attractive as a low-cost investment, we can increase the likelihood of successful redevelopment.

What role should environmental considerations play in the city's policies and actions? Environmental considerations should play a major role in all of our city's

policies and actions. I recently introduced, and Council passed, a resolution approving a partnership with Power a Clean Future Ohio and setting a goal to reduce the city's carbon emissions by 30% by 2030. The mayor is tasked with coordinating our city's progress toward that goal, using the technical expertise made available through our PCFO partner and recruiting the expertise in our own community. Whenever the city seeks to develop land, make capital improvements, make changes to our zoning regulations, or offer incentives for business creation and growth, we should proactively and intentionally include an environmental analysis in our decision-making process. That analysis should not just consist of an examination of the expected environmental impact of the proposal, but alternatives that minimize negative environmental impact or maximize positive environmental impact (e.g. reforestation at Severance).

All candidate information has been submitted by the candidates themselves.

VOTER REGISTRATION

To vote in the Sept. 14 Mayoral Primary you must be registered to vote by Aug. 16.

- If you have voted recently, you are probably already registered, but it is a good idea to verify your registration, especially if you have moved recently. You can verify your registration on either the BOE (boe.cuyahogacounty.gov) or the Ohio Secretary of State (use QR code) websites.
- Many organizations register voters and update registrations at street fairs, in schools, and at other public locations. You can also download a voter registration form from the BOE website, print, and mail the completed form to the BOE.
- Voters can register or update their registration online at olvr.ohiosos.gov if they have been issued an Ohio driver's license or state ID.
- Check the Ohio Secretary of State website at voteohio.gov for requirements for voter registration, or call the BOE at (216) 443 8683 for assistance.



VOTER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To vote in Ohio you must:

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Be at least 18 years old on or before the day of the General Election. Young people who are 17 now, but 18 on November 2, can register and vote in this primary.
- Be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days immediately before the election.
- Not be incarcerated (in prison) for a felony conviction under the laws of the United States, Ohio, or any other state of the United States. Those who have served their terms can vote.
- Not have been declared incompetent for voting purposes by a probate court.
- Not have been permanently disenfranchised for violating the election laws.

ID NEEDED FOR IN-PERSON VOTING

Ohio accepts a wide variety of documents for voter ID purposes, including:

- An unexpired Ohio driver's license or state identification card with present or former address so long as the voter's present residential address is printed in the official list of registered voters for that precinct.
- A military identification.
- A photo identification issued by the United States government or the State of Ohio that contains the voter's name, current address, and an expiration date that has not passed.
- A current (within the last 12 months) piece of mail or email with your name and current address of a:
 - Utility bill (including cell phone)
 - Bank statement
 - Government check
 - Paycheck
 - Other government document, such as fishing and marine equipment operator's license, court paper, or grade report or transcript.

If you have none of the above, you may use the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. You will have to vote a provisional ballot, but it will be counted as long as the number matches your voter registration. Be sure to complete all fields on the provisional ballot form.

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland

Email: president@lwggreatercleveland.org

Web: lwggreatercleveland.org

Ohio Secretary of State

(614) 466-2655; Toll-Free: SOS-Ohio (877) 767-6446

TTY: (614) 466-0562, TTY Toll-free: (877) 644-6889

Web: www.ohiosos.gov/elections

Online voter registration: olvr.ohiosos.gov

Cuyahoga County Board of Elections

2925 Euclid Avenue Cleveland, OH 44115

Web: boe.cuyahogacounty.gov

General Inquiries (216) 443-8683

Bilingual Information (216) 443-3233

Hearing Impaired -Ohio Relay Service 711

VOTE BY MAIL (VBM)

Voting by mail, also referred to as absentee voting, is available and no excuse is required. VBM is convenient but should be requested and implemented as soon as possible. It is a two-step process:

First Step — Request your VBM/Absentee application from the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections (BOE) online at boe.cuyahogacounty.gov or by phone (216)443-8683. Alternatively, complete and print a VBM application from the Secretary of State's office at www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-ballot. Completing the application online before printing it can reduce the chances of an incomplete or incorrect application.

- Aug. 17 – Cuyahoga County Board of Elections (BOE) begins mailing VBM ballots for anyone who requested a ballot before this date.
- Sept. 11, noon (3 days before the election) is the last day to request a VBM/Absentee ballot. Note, this is very late for use of USPS mail. The sooner an application is sent, the better.

Second Step — After receiving a ballot, the voter must complete and submit the ballot either by mail or in person.

- Sept. 13 – Ballots mailed to the BOE must be postmarked on or before this date and received by the BOE by Sept. 24.
- Sept. 14 – Ballots can be hand delivered to the BOE building on 30th St. and Euclid Ave any time after August 17 and before 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.

More VBM information

- A drop box at the BOE allows voters to return their VBM/Absentee ballot requests and absentee ballots in-person. The drop boxes are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and are safe and secure.
- Under Ohio law, you are permitted to deliver only your own ballot and the ballots of immediate family members to the drop box at the BOE. You may deliver anyone's ballot application.
- Identification for VBM is either the last four digits of your SSN or your driver's license number.
- Note that a privacy envelope is included with all absentee ballots and requires a signature. Voters should follow instructions carefully.
- In Ohio, early in-person and VBM/absentee ballots are the first to be processed on election night after the polls close at 7:30 p.m.
- Voters who did not receive requested ballots can vote provisionally at the polls.
- Voters who requested a VBM/absentee ballot, but now want to vote in person on August 3, can vote provisionally at the polls. A provisional ballot enables election workers to check that voters aren't voting twice. Note that provisional ballots aren't counted until days later, and aren't reported to the public until even later.
- Track your VBM/Absentee ballot request and ballot delivery on the Secretary of State website (see below).

Candidate Forums for Cleveland Heights, University Heights

See local election candidates in person. Audience members can submit questions for Q&A.

Aug. 12 — Cleveland Heights Mayoral Primary Election race
7 p.m., Cleveland Heights Community Center, 1 Monticello Blvd.

Sept. 23 — Cleveland Heights Mayor and Council General Election races
7 p.m., Cleveland Heights Community Center, 1 Monticello Blvd.

Sept. 30—University Heights Mayor General Election race
7 p.m., University Heights Library, Cedar Center

Oct. 7—CH/UH School Board General Election races
7 p.m., Cleveland Heights Community Center, 1 Monticello Blvd.

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Please direct your contribution to the CHUH Chapter.



Use this QR code to access the Ohio Secretary of State (SOS) Voter toolkit, where you can:

- Track your VBM ballot
- Find your polling location
- View sample ballot
- Check your voter registration

