



# VOTE

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OF GREATER CLEVELAND



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF THE AKRON AREA

## SPECIAL ELECTION VOTER GUIDE



### AUGUST 3, 2021 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 11 SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Do you know which candidate you want to vote for? And why? Do you know you have to choose either a Democratic or Republican party ballot when you ask for a ballot by mail or vote in person early or on Election Day? Look inside to read the responses to five questions from all 15 candidates running to represent us in Ohio's Congressional District 11. If you choose a Democratic Party ballot, you must select ONE candidate from a list of 13. If you choose a Republican Party ballot, you must select ONE of two candidates.

#### **POLLS OPEN ON ELECTION DAY 6:30AM TO 7:30PM**

Vote-by-Mail ballots can be hand-delivered to the Board of Elections offices until 7:30pm on Election Day.

Vote-by-Mail ballots must be postmarked by Monday, August 2.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that 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. The information in this Guide was gathered from a number of League sources. All candidate information has been submitted by the candidates themselves. It includes responses received by June 2, 2021. To view the complete Special Primary Election Voter Guide online, including all questions and candidates' answers, please go to [VOTE411.org](https://VOTE411.org). The League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland (LWVGC) is grateful to Cleveland VOTES, the LWV of Akron Area, and all of the donors who supported the publication of the printed and online Voter Guides with donations to the LWVGC Education Fund. We also thank the LWV of the US and LWV of Ohio.

**Verify Your Voter Registration:**  
<https://voterlookup.ohiosos.gov/voterlookup.aspx>

























## DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY CANDIDATES

### How would you work to lessen the impact of poverty in District 11? Discuss income inequality, access to affordable healthcare, education, etc.

Northeast Ohio has programs to fight poverty. I added \$6 million to the budget. The problem is those programs are not good enough to respond to sustained poverty in post Covid-19 Pandemic. In Congress, Barnes will be about the business of saving lives. Including First Class Constituent Services, Covid-19 Pandemic Recovery, Senior Programs, Job Creation, Health Care Choice, Education focused on Careers, Infrastructure, Criminal Justice Reform, and Fighting Poverty. John Barnes we need leadership to Fighting Poverty. First organize and convene a community intervention of stakeholders, universities, and the institutions of government, businesses and the philanthropic community to understand: 1) where we are; 2) where we want to go; and 3) what actions are necessary to make swift progress for people trapped in poverty. Second, Commence a dialogue with President Joe Biden, to target American's poorest large City (Cleveland) and Akron to promotes individual, community, and regional growth opportunities to establish public and private partnerships based on community intervention discoveries. Third, establish a system of professional services including grant writers for community based organizations, individuals, and small businesses. For example that includes but not limited to a) healthcare, b) vocational training and career technical education skills development.

### Are there national gun safety regulations you would support? If yes, what are they? If no, why not?

Yes. National gun safety regulations should include but not be limited to: 1) gun manufactures liability Insurance; 2) remove assault weapons off streets; 3) require background check before purchases (either in person, mail, or online) to prevent and reduce selling guns to people who have documented laps of mental reasoning. Mental Illness in the 11th Congressional District is a crisis particularly post Covid-19 Pandemic. As a consequence crime is breaking records, people are scared. We've got to find a way to protect and balance health confidentialities with limited access and help people who are sick unaware of certain questionable behavioral realities. This is essential to ensure public safety, which works to defend and protect our children in schools, people in community space, and workplaces.

### National changes in policing policy are being considered by Congress. What changes would you like to see go into effect across the country?

I support the George Floyd Act. I think it is extremely important to have a national database to assist human resource departments to know who they are hiring. Establishing a national database will contribute significantly to provide predictive analytics, geographical personal tracking, and behavioral trends around the Nation for evidence based training focuses. This will contribute significantly to promote positive change, which can help with hiring decision, develop de-escalation training policy based on evidence, that can work toward restoring confidence in the community policing systems. I would like to see more community relations, community policing, axillary police block watch programs, and fund and hire 24/7 de-escalation professional experts to

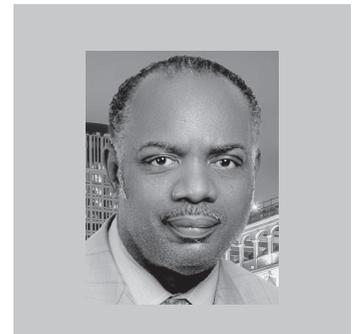
build community relationships that will also at a time of increased community crime help with enhanced neighborhood safety, security, and give people a reason to believe in municipal policing systems.

### Should Congress step in to create national election regulations regarding voting rights and campaign funding?

Yes. National election regulations should be created based on one person one vote and equal protection under law for all Americans.

### Is bipartisan decision-making possible in Congress? Are there issues on which you are willing to compromise?

Yes. The challenge with reaching bipartisan decisions in our political system is there are too many people who can't stand being in the same room with people they disagree with. President John F. Kennedy said he does "not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer." I say the right answers for People. As State Representative here are some of my bipartisan accomplishments: Supported JobsOhio 19,013 new and sustained jobs and attracted \$738,116,586 in capital investment; \$7.6 billion D12; \$126 million infrastructure & potholes funding; \$60 million for Minority & Female owned businesses; \$6 million budget increase fighting Poverty; \$2 million Harvard Community Services Center to help teen mothers & young men; \$500,000 Warrensville Heights Senior Nutrition Program; \$300 Bedford Historical Society; \$1.9 million Bedford Heights and Maple Heights Northfield Road Resurface; \$100,000 Maple Heights Senior and Young Program; \$2.55 million Mayfield Noise Wall Replacement; \$500,000 Shaker Heights Green Space Development; \$5 million Revitalization Grant Amazon 2000 New Jobs North Randall.



### James Jerome Bell

55, Realtor, Consultant  
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### How would you work to lessen the impact of poverty in District 11? Discuss income inequality, access to affordable healthcare, education, etc.

First and foremost I would give equal opportunity to all of our children. I would make sure that from the federal standpoint all available resources are given to the school district's economically educationally Etc. to do our best to enhance the children's learning from Early Education to graduate level. As far as affordable healthcare it would be my duty as a congressman to make sure that all Healthcare is accessible to All Peoples of all economic and social economic backgrounds that they have a healthy standpoint of living; also I believe that the impact of poverty in our district is something that is seen on a nationwide scale so to alleviate poverty we must have good food to eat clean air clean water lead free housing and so much more that is just the starting point I guess we can say the Tipping Point to a better utopian society.



**POLLS OPEN ON ELECTION DAY  
6:30AM TO 7:30PM.**





## DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY CANDIDATES

### National changes in policing policy are being considered by Congress. What changes would you like to see go into effect across the country?

In Congress, I will proudly support the George Floyd Justice for Policing Act, which increases accountability for law enforcement misconduct, improves data-collection and transparency, and eliminates discriminatory policing practices. In Cuyahoga County, I have sought to develop options so that people who call 911 have a crisis intervention option and don't have to rely on the police. Accordingly, I will champion the Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS) Act. Moreover, in Washington, I will prioritize strengthening civil rights laws, advancing comprehensive criminal justice reform, reducing gun violence, and ending the use of private prisons. I believe Ohio should follow Illinois' lead and ban cash bail.

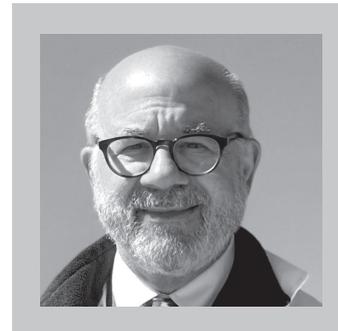
### Should Congress step in to create national election regulations regarding voting rights and campaign funding?

We have to make it easier to register voters, and Congress should and needs to step up. We cannot count on states to do the right thing. What we are seeing in Republican-led states is an all-out assault on voting rights that is a threat to our democracy. Ohio is overly aggressive in purging voters from the rolls, and that happens elsewhere too. As Chair of the Cuyahoga Democratic Party, I am very proud that we saw an increase in turnout and for our collective efforts to register new voters. Our democracy relies

on high participation. In addition, during the 2020 election, I also held the Secretary of State accountable for deliberately making it harder to vote in Cuyahoga County. In Congress, I will champion the For The People Act and The John Lewis Voting Rights Act, which will expand voting rights, limit gerrymandering, create new ethics rules, and reduce the role of money in politics. Additionally, we need to reverse the Citizens United decision that allowed for a flood of dark money in our politics. Money in politics is a significant problem in our democracy. We need real campaign finance reform.

### Is bipartisan decision-making possible in Congress? Are there issues on which you are willing to compromise?

Yes, I believe bipartisan decision-making is possible in Congress. I believe we can work together and I will seek common ground, but I will never compromise who I am or forget about the people who helped get me here. I am committed to working with Republicans to support policies that put people before politics. In 2020, I wrote legislation that classified racism as a public health crisis in Cuyahoga County to address inequality and human rights issues. It passed with bipartisan support. I am committed to continuing that same charge in Washington and making sure the people of Northeast Ohio are a priority when considering all issues.



### Seth J. Corey

65, Pediatric Hematologist-Oncologist,  
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### How would you work to lessen the impact of poverty in District 11? Discuss income inequality, access to affordable healthcare, education, etc.

I would first address the issue of adult illiteracy we are facing in OH-11, which can make filling out a job application impossible for some. Passing prevailing wage laws while attracting new industry and family-sustaining work to the district. Healthcare – we need providers to coordinate care. Not only does this reduce costs; it creates a better outcome when we prioritize patient-centered care. Universal Pre-K and screenings for learning disabilities earlier are essential. Recognizing trauma as a public health crisis and intervening sooner. Tuition-free community college to create opportunity would also be a priority.

### Are there national gun safety regulations you would support? If yes, what are they? If no, why not?

Yes, I would support universal background checks. This gives us the ability to potentially stop someone who has red flags from legally being able to purchase a firearm.

### National changes in policing policy are being considered by Congress. What changes would you like to see go into effect across the country?

I would like to see a ban on no-knock warrants, more training for our officers particularly on mental health issues and a trauma-informed approach to policing. I would also like us to come up with funding to ensure that every single member of law enforcement has a body cam on at all times. Passing the George Floyd Justice Act would help with much of this.

### Should Congress step in to create national election regulations regarding voting rights and campaign funding?

Voting should be accessible to all Americans who are eligible to vote. We should stop making it so hard for people to run for office. It's time to level the playing field with campaign finance reform laws, and to put servant leaders in Washington, not career politicians bought and paid for by lobbyists and special interest groups.

### Is bipartisan decision-making possible in Congress? Are there issues on which you are willing to compromise?

I think too often we have people making decisions who are removed from the situation. As a doctor I have witnessed the consequences of passing or not passing legislation. I understand the impact of poverty, healthcare disparities, and many other issues my patients face on a very personal level – not from some analytical vacuum. I think when you remember real people are depending on you, it forces you to work to get things done for them. That doesn't mean we compromise our values, but certainly we can negotiate terms. I think bipartisan decision-making is a duty, and when you have people who are doing it for the right reasons, your goal should look the same: to make our country a better place for everyone to work, live, and raise your children in.

# VOTE 411

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

From VOTE411, 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. Visit [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) today!



## DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY CANDIDATES

**Is bipartisan decision-making possible in Congress? Are there issues on which you are willing to compromise?**

For many, it is very difficult now to imagine that members of Congress can come together in a bipartisan approach to agree and pass important public policy. But I believe they should take every opportunity to find common ground on governing our nation. I have always understood during my 23 years in elected office as an Ohio State Senator and Cleveland City Councilman that I had to try to find mutual agreement if possible, with the other legislators I worked with so something significant can get done. It was difficult at times and we fell short, but the effort was made. I would not seek compromise for its own sake and will stop if certain principles I hold are at risk. I will always seek to vote for and pass laws that I believe will have a positive impact on my constituents and others even if other legislators are unified in opposition. In the end, for me the proposal I support needs to pass. Also, I don't believe we should require a supermajority in the U.S. Senate to pass a new law. I support removing the filibuster in the Senate or at least begin with requiring members of the Senate to filibuster from the floor of the Senate. For some, compromise in government is bad and should not be attempted. For me, on all issues before the legislature seeking mutual agreement is among the first steps that should be taken as an elected member.



**Will Knight**

48, Contractor, Wrestling Coach  
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**How would you work to lessen the impact of poverty in District 11? Discuss income inequality, access to affordable healthcare, education, etc.**

Create empowerment zones. Work with two of the best hospitals in the country to create better access to underrepresented communities. Support of the Paycheck Fairness Act. Pregnant workers fairness act. And all acts that support fairness in the workplace. Recognize the impact COVID had on women in the workplace and seek to remedy these issues.

**Are there national gun safety regulations you would support? If yes, what are they? If no, why not?**

Enforce the current laws on the books. And am in support of universal background checks.

**National changes in policing policy are being considered by Congress. What changes would you like to see go into effect across the country?**

More inclusion of mental health professionals. Create community engagement programs. And centers for counseling both for law enforcement and community members. Job retraining.

**Should Congress step in to create national election regulations regarding voting rights and campaign funding?**

Yes.

**Is bipartisan decision-making possible in Congress? Are there issues on which you are willing to compromise?**

Absolutely. We need to find more solutions not problems.



**Pamela M. Pinkney**

60, Political Preacher, Published Author, Pastor and Apostle Community Activist  
 Education: Case Western Reserve University, Upward Bound; Cuyahoga Community College; graduated from Central State University; Cleveland Institute of Music; Shaker Heights High School. Also attended Baldwin Wallace College; Bishop College in Dallas, Texas, where I was a Dallas Opera understudy; Oklahoma City University; and Muskegon Bible Institute, where I did post-graduate studies. I am still studying.  
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**How would you work to lessen the impact of poverty in District 11? Discuss income inequality, access to affordable healthcare, education, etc.**

First of all, funding needs to be re-directed. There is too much money spent on alcohol, guns, tobacco, and drugs. In other countries people do not pay for their education or healthcare because they know it is a must. Until we address racial disparity and the abuse and neglect of the disabled, including the mentally ill, we will not correct poverty in any of these areas. More funding and other resources need to be allocated for the victims and over comers of domestic violence and homelessness.

**Are there national gun safety regulations you would support? If yes, what are they? If no, why not?**

I am not certain at this time because I do not believe that anyone really needs a gun to do anything. Guns have had a negative impact on my life both personally and professionally.

LWV MISSION STATEMENT:

**Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**

**The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that 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.**





## DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY CANDIDATES



### Lateek Shabazz

67, Educator

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**Are there national gun safety regulations you would support? If yes, what are they? If no, why not?**

Just keep guns out of the hands of the mentally ill people.

**National changes in policing policy are being considered by Congress. What changes would you like to see go into effect across the country?**

Police should live in the community they work in.

**Should Congress step in to create national election regulations regarding voting rights and campaign funding?**

Congress should make voting easier not harder. Voting day should be a national holiday.

**Is bipartisan decision-making possible in Congress? Are there issues on which you are willing to compromise?**

Yes, bipartisan is possible in Congress. The issues that I am willing to compromise is with the fixing of Infrastructure. Our inner city children are being lead poisoning in high numbers. I will work hard on this issue.

**How would you work to lessen the impact of poverty in District 11? Discuss income inequality, access to affordable healthcare, education, etc.**

I will work for a \$15 per hour wage. Also I will advocate free medical care for children under the age of eighteen. I will also advocate more trade schools.



### Tariq K. Shabazz

27, Political Candidate

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Bachelor's degree in Political Science

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**How would you work to lessen the impact of poverty in District 11? Discuss income inequality, access to affordable healthcare, education, etc.**

As a young man I grew up in poverty, and the majority of things that I have seen still affect me at this current time. I have the life experience that so many people within this district can relate with. OH-11 is one of the most segregated and impoverished districts throughout the country. There are an immense number of things neglected such as human security, economic security, food security, housing security, etc., and these impactful conditions contribute to the continuous trauma that people are experiencing. The government represents the will of the people and it is imperative that it is providing tangible policies to attenuate the conditions addressed. As the next Congressman I will advocate for

Reparations in reference to American slavery which not only addresses the egregious deeds, but also provides the economic restitution necessary to promote progress in reducing the racial-wealth gap. This policy will contribute greatly to increased homeownership, businesses, improved communities and a bolstered American Economy. I will advocate for Medicare for all because no person's financial status should dictate the level of care and treatment that they receive in the United States of America. The US must shift away from its exploitative system that is driven by profit and transcend into a healthcare system that values the lives of the people. I oppose Privatized prison systems because it establishes a precedent that incarceration is based on profit.

**Are there national gun safety regulations you would support? If yes, what are they? If no, why not?**

There are a few pieces of legislation presented within the Congress such as HR1446 and HR8 that have the potential to provide more scrutiny in the process of firearm transfers as well as overall universal background checks. HR1446 offers the element of establishing parameters to measure potential illegal transfers which truly depends on its implementation. HR8 itself amends Section 922 of Title 18 gun regulation in prohibiting the transfer of a firearm to any individual who is unlicensed without a mandatory firearm license dealer present to conduct a background check. These policies provide accountability with the transfer of weapons and preventing illegal purchases. The 2nd Amendment should always be upheld for individuals to protect themselves, loved ones, property, etc. These pieces of legislation do not abridge said right.



### August 3, 2021 Special Congressional Primary Election Important Dates & Deadlines

Voter registration Deadline July 6

Early In-Person voting begins July 7

Last day to postmark absentee ballot August 2

Last day to return absentee ballot August 3 by 7:30 pm

**To register to vote, request an Absentee Ballot application, and more, visit your county's Board of Elections.**

### EXTENDED INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

The League of Women Voters has extended election information available at

[www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)



## DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY CANDIDATES



### **Nina Turner**

53, Former State Senator, Political Consultant, Former Cleveland City Council Member

*Education:* Cleveland State University, Bachelor of Arts in American History and Master of Arts in History with a concentration in American History; Cuyahoga Community College, Associate of Arts

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*YouTube:* Nina Turner for US

**How would you work to lessen the impact of poverty in District 11? Discuss income inequality, access to affordable healthcare, education, etc.**

I will champion policies that lessen the impact of poverty by supporting an Opportunity Agenda of a living wage, the Green New Deal, Unions, Canceling Student Debt and Medicare for All. Almost two-thirds of workers who would benefit from a

minimum wage increase are women and almost a quarter are women of color. The Green New Deal will create millions of good paying union jobs for every skill level across industries as we work to transition away from oil and gas and address environmental injustice across our district and our nation. We need federal jobs guarantee to ensure that everyone has access to living wage employment and we must strengthen the labor movement across the nation to protect workers and keep jobs at home. Full student debt cancellation would stimulate the economy, close the racial wealth gap, and enable young people to graduate without crippling debt, just for going to college. Medicare for All ensures healthcare is a human right and not tied to employment.

**Are there national gun safety regulations you would support? If yes, what are they? If no, why not?**

Yes. Sweeping gun safety regulations are absolutely essential to our communities. We must pass common-sense gun laws and promote responsible gun ownership. As the next Congresswoman of Ohio's 11th District, I will work to pass sweeping reforms such as "red flag" laws, closing gun show loopholes, and requiring permits and universal background checks. I believe that we can, and we must, find a balance between the Constitutionally-guaranteed right to bear arms and the rights of people who feel safe in the absence of firearms and we must end gun violence and mass shooting in our country through these reforms.

**National changes in policing policy are being considered by Congress. What changes would you like to see go into effect across the country?**

Our country urgently needs reforms to our law enforcement system, including ensuring officers that mental health of our officers is strong with regular psychological testing. We must demand accountability by making it a felony for an officer to lie on a police report; mandate both implicit and explicit bias training; create a universal database that chronicles police-involved shootings; require background checks so officers cannot commit an offense or get fired from one force and then go and work for another undetected. These policies are crucial and would have real and immediate impacts. These common-sense reforms are long overdue and we must fight to enact these policies, along with supporting ongoing national efforts such as the George Floyd Policing Act and Ohio efforts such as the first of its kind bi-partisan Task Force on Community and Police Relations, of which I served as co-chair.

**Should Congress step in to create national election regulations regarding voting rights and campaign funding?**

Yes. I have seen firsthand a corrupt system that works to undermine the people's voices while instead favoring the ultra wealthy and big corporations. That's why I am a firm believer that it is essential to both ensure voting rights at the ballot box, but also

through campaign finance reform. I am devastated by the dominance of money in politics and its profound impact on both our current leaders and our future leaders who need funds to be viable in our political arena. As candidates, we should be able to focus our campaigns wholly on addressing the concerns of our constituents, and as a leader in Congress, I will fight to support legislation like the John Lewis Voting Rights Act that protects the right to vote for all and policy change that ensures the focus of our politics is on the people.

**Is bipartisan decision-making possible in Congress? Are there issues on which you are willing to compromise?**

Yes. We can find common ground on many issues if we can first center the poor, working poor, and barely middle class as the priority. Not corporations, not ultra wealthy donors, and not huge lobbyists. I will continue to work with anyone on the justice journey to build a coalition focused on getting things done for the people. The people deserve leaders who understand how to achieve progress and will continue to press toward the very best our country can do for the most vulnerable in our nation.



## FOR RESIDENTS OF CLEVELAND:

**DON'T FORGET THE UPCOMING CLEVELAND PRIMARY ELECTION**

**(including Mayoral race and City Council races  
in more than half of the city's 17 wards)**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021**

**Voter registration deadline: August 16, 2021**

**Early in-person voting begins August 17, 2021**





