

### General questions

1. Please introduce yourself.
  - a. Native of GNO
  - b. Organizing brought to his attention how many of the issues and traumas he ran into was a result of systems being acted upon (housing, schooling, etc). Interested in electoralism as a Black man able to affect the policies which have major effects on every element of life. Active in VOTE work
  - c. Considers self an advocate for the community rather than politician; using electoralism as an organizing method moreso than Political Career
  - d. Effort to find community leaders who would be willing to stand up to Troy Carter on policy. A lot of people were scared to do so, so he took on this role to push back against the establishment in our city and transform our systems
2. What led you to run for Congress against Troy Carter?
  - a. Prior to Troy Carter, we have dealt with a cycle of politicians who have climbed a ladder from state house to state senate to city council to congress; an idea that you can be gifted a congressional seat doesn't sit right with him. Troy Carter was Cedric Richmond's heir, but he shows interest in dark money in his policy choices; how can you be an elected official representing the people if you're taking money from the companies that have been holding people down for decades?
  - b. Not only running due to this current incumbent but intervening in that cycle. He wants to serve as someone who has pledged not to take the money of corporate interests, to truly represent the community. And this is urgent -- we are a state in dead last in most realms and one of the few states decreasing in population and it's only continuing. There are too many issues that are too dire for our community not to have a fighter in Congress. Need a fighter that will actually advocate for us, both in D.C. and locally.
3. What is your relationship with New Orleans and Louisiana at large?
  - a. Raised in New Orleans

- b. Went to college two hours north of Phoenix. Organized a lot there with Indigenous communities which deepened his organizing skills and understanding of intersectionality.
  - c. During COVID, he got a job offer in California and had to decide between that and returning to New Orleans. He reflected on his purpose and where he can have the most impact and determined he never had a greater impact than when he is at home. Wants to reinvest the knowledge and skills put into him but that community that helped raise him into his home community.
  - d. Did a lot of volunteer work with VOTE when he came back before becoming staff for them
- 4. What does a good congressmember look like?
  - a. Knows how to appropriate funds to communities
  - b. Sees position as more than just a vote/money-appropriator, but an advocate for their people
  - c. There in the streets organizing and standing in solidarity
- 5. What is your vision for accountability to the community? How will you work to be representative of your electorate?
  - a. Starts with how policy is drafted: policy team made up of community members & open to all, determine priorities and draft policies
  - b. Reflected in platform
  - c. Regular town halls, community meetings, pledges eg. Sunrise's, DSA's, to remain in touch w/ community orgs
- 6. How will you work with community groups? What groups or orgs are you looking to when deciding on platform issues and perspectives?
  - a. Sunrise, VOTE, DSA, Power Coalition, Step Up, Jeremiah Group, NOSHIP
  - b. Building broad coalition
- 7. Black communities in the river parishes are the most impacted by environmental injustices and assaults by polluting industries in the state. Indigenous communities, especially those near the coast, are also already facing disproportionately severe facets of climate change threatening their land and way of life. What is your plan for supporting

and staying accountable to these vulnerable marginalized communities in Louisiana who are not in New Orleans?

- a. Family rooted in St. John where petro impact is significant, environmental justice is a top priority
  - b. Health harms need to be addressed - companies need to be held to account, those impacted deserve reparations for negligence - including on part of governments
  - c. Marshall Plan-like initiative to rebuild communities with new green economic opportunities and ladder out of poverty
8. Who will you accept campaign donations from and who will you not accept campaign donations from? Why?
- a. Will: all hard working people who want to donate individually. Grassroots
  - b. Will not accessible contributions from corporations, special interests, any form of dark money trying to influence politics

Position questions from members

9. What role should the federal government play in eliminating racial disparities in investment, discipline, and access to quality learning opportunities and well-paid, qualified teachers in schools?
- a. Federal government definitely has a role to play in education across the country. We can't leave parts of this to "states rights" especially when theres already such educational disparities between states. Need clear regulations to ensure equitable schools and good teaching practices. Get private interests out of schools
10. As a candidate for Congress, how would you better target federal education funds to students and schools with the greatest need?
- a. Incentivize rebuilding of schools especially in heavily neglected schools. There's clear pockets especially within our city that have shown a drop in graduation rates and standardized testing schols. Especially in rural, river parish areas -- funding is very low. Afterschool programs, art programs; not only more funding but also a roadmap, framework outside of charter school systems. Public schools ftw
11. What are your views on ESAs (education savings accounts) in relation to public schools?
- a. Thumbs down

12. One of our chapter's primary campaigns is the Make Entergy Pay campaign, which calls for an end to residential shutoffs, a cancellation of all residential debt, and an end to fee increases, with a long-term vision of having municipalized, people-controlled utilities. Do you support this campaign and the fight for municipalize utilities?
- a. 100% - basic utilities should not be held by private interests
13. Should the federal government have a role in reducing gun violence and imposing gun control regulations? Why or why not? What policies would you advocate for regarding gun violence and gun control?
- a. Background checks: universal & automatic on federal level, in all cases
  - b. Not in favor of blanket restriction of firearms to people w/ felony convictions - people change
  - c. Don't have all the answers - will work with community groups, including formerly incarcerated, to develop solutions
  - d. Assault rifles, high-magazine weapons should be banned
  - e. Right to bear arms should be protected outside of these limits
14. What are your thoughts on NOPD, their funding, and the ongoing proposals to end the consent decree?
- a. Generally, funding should be directed towards more constructive channels: after school programs, rebuilding communities, intervention programs
  - b. NOPD shows inability to operate adequately, Troop NOLA as well
  - c. Consent decree should remain in place, Troop NOLA example of what happens w/o such restrictions
15. We are currently facing a fascist alt-right governorship and state legislature hellbent on taking away people's rights and one that has been making moves to try to control New Orleans, such as when the governor suggested withholding infrastructure funding unless troopers were permitted to prosecute women seeking abortions. Despite this, state forces have still been invited into the city such as for the violent suppression of protestors at Tulane last month. What is your stance on state interference in the city and do you condemn the suppression and usage of state violence against protestors?
- a. Condemns use of state violence against protestors - expression of freedom of speech should be praised not suppressed

- b. Free-speech absolutist, rather see community address unwanted speech than state
- c. Free speech infringements on palestine protestors is a threat to democracy, threat to country
- d. State interference with gun-free zones and AirBnB regulation - contrary to stated commitment to small government - "small government"/"nonintervention" never applies to NO, used for wrong reasons. Eg S&WB needs overhaul, but putting in hands of state wouldn't be good

#### DSA-centered questions

16. What does running as an endorsed member of DSA mean to you?
  - a. Running as a DSA member means running as someone who believes we can do better than the racialized capitalism that has been with us. Sees a vision for a collective future that prioritizes our people and community over corporations. It's a message that we as a people are moving beyond politics as usual and people demand real solutions from our politicians.
17. Will you be openly identifying yourself as a socialist in your campaign materials? Why or why not?
  - a. I proudly identify as a democratic socialist because the current capitalist system we have holds us down and does not liberate us. Our futures are collectively intertwined and there's a path towards liberation we have an obligation to build.
18. How are you positioning your campaign to win a larger overall mass movement of socialists?
  - a. Utilizing the space and influence he has over the next several months he has to expand our message, grow our base, reach new groups, with the goal of a position on the national stage. Utilizing the community and base we're building here to elevate and build up candidates who are likeminded to support them in running next year in local elections. Building a larger presence in various areas of government.
19. Will you be openly supporting and amplifying positions broadly held by our chapter and national organization, including, but not limited to: the universal right to abortion, universal healthcare and housing, the abolition of the carceral state, the abolition of white supremacy, a powerful labor movement, economic justice (defined by regulation,

nationalization, and social ownership), a Green New Deal, anti-imperialism, and a free Palestine in our lifetime?

- a. Fully aligned!

## 20. Closing

- a. Clarification: not accepting Corporate PACs (if Sunrise is called a PAC they're still allowed lol)
- b. Devin's happy to have longer conversations about any topics in the future