

## INDIVISIBLE OH12: OHIO 12<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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### CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE- ED ALBERTSON

Thank you for completing this questionnaire for Indivisible OH12, a non-partisan, grassroots organization of 4,000 members living across the 12<sup>th</sup> District's seven counties. Please save the completed document (add your last name to the file name) and return as an attachment to [indivisibleoh12@gmail.com](mailto:indivisibleoh12@gmail.com) by Monday 2/19. Your completed questionnaire is an invitation to participate in our candidates' forum, co-sponsored by Progress Ohio, to be held Monday, 2/26, 7pm at the First UU Church, 93 W Weisheimer Rd, Columbus. All candidates who have filed to run for the 12th congressional seat are being invited to participate. Please feel free to contact us via email us with questions.

Candidate Name: Ed Albertson

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Campaign Committee Name: Albertson for Congress

Campaign Address: P.O. Box 636, Granville, OH 43023

Phone number: 740-973-4849

Campaign Website Address: Albertson4Congress.com

Campaign Manager Name: Vickie Fogarty

Campaign Manager Phone Number: 740-973-0730

Campaign Manager email address: [vfoggie1973@hotmail.com](mailto:vfoggie1973@hotmail.com)

What endorsements, if any, have you received for your candidacy in this race? None

Have you ever run for or held an elective Office?

If so, please list here:

Office	Dates
US House of Representatives, Ohio's 12 <sup>th</sup> District	2016
Dunellen School Board, Dunellen, NJ	1986 (?)

Please answer each of the following questions in **100 words or less**.

1. Which experiences have prepared you to run for and hold the office of Representative for Ohio's 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District? As a US Army Veteran and a business professional, I have leadership and problem-solving skills that are desperately needed to address and solve our nation's most pressing issues. I am willing to negotiate, seek compromise, and build consensus to advance progress for our District, our State and our Country.
2. Understanding that voting is primarily legislated at the state level, how do you see your role in expanding the franchise and protecting voting rights as a member of Congress? As a first step, we need to establish federal voting standards for federal elections. Working with our Ohio legislature and citizen activist organizations, I will then encourage and support adoption at the state and local level to ensure state and local voting rights are protected in the same manner as federal standards require.
3. As an elected member of Congress, how will you seek to protect and expand access to healthcare for all Americans? I support a single-payer option to provide universal access to affordable healthcare. If insurance companies choose to not participate in the healthcare exchange in Ohio, I would support extending Medicare as an automatic exchange option. Additionally, I support phasing in Medicare as an option for all by lowering the eligibility age from age 65 to age 50.
4. What role do you believe science should play in environmental policy? As a member of Congress, how would you support an American role in responsible climate policy? Our science-based environmental policy must follow a process by which research is checked by a group of experts in the same field to make sure it meets the necessary standards before it is published or accepted. I believe climate destabilization is the greatest threat our world faces today and it's our moral obligation to future generations to reduce that threat. As a member of Congress, I support an American leadership role, beginning with a comprehensive national energy policy that focuses on reducing carbon emissions and shifts our current economic incentives from dirty fuels to clean renewable energy industries.
5. What role do you see for the federal government in the public education system? What policies would you support to improve public schools and expand access to higher education for all students? A strong public school system must be a top priority in our society because it is a) an essential foundation for a well-informed electorate, b) it strengthens our mutual interests and values, and c) it provides the critical skills for being individually competitive in a global economy. For those reasons, I believe the federal government has a critical role in funding public education and should establish standards that ensure equal access and opportunity to education for everyone. With limited use and vigorous oversight, some charter schools can provide educational alternatives, but not at the expense of public school funding. Finally, I support targeted student debt cancellation, which recent research indicates would significantly boost our GDP, reduce unemployment, and add up to 1.5 million new jobs per year.

6. How would you describe your stance on gun safety? What ideas could you bring to Congress to push through the gridlock and create safer neighborhoods and schools for Ohio and the US? I support the Second Amendment right to keep arms (I own five firearms) and I also believe in common-sense gun safety solutions which reduce the likelihood of guns getting into the hands of terrorists, criminals, children, and those with mental health issues. Those solutions include expanded background checks, criminal penalties for selling/possessing “bump-stocks” and high-capacity magazines, and increased penalties for the use of automatic weapons.
7. What does comprehensive immigration reform look like to you? What do you see as the key elements of such reform? I would join Senator Sherrod Brown in legislation to A) create a path to citizenship with specific requirements for undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States by requiring them to go to the back of the line, register for legal status, pass a background check, learn English, pay taxes, and work towards citizenship over time; B) establish an effective employment verification system to crack down on the hiring of unauthorized workers, prevent identity theft, and deter illegal immigration. C) secure our borders with better technology focusing enforcement on the most serious security threats; and D) create a rational approach to future legal immigration that promotes economic prosperity and strong families.
8. List and very briefly discuss the two or three other top concerns that would be priorities for you if you were elected. #1) As your member of Congress, one of my immediate priorities will be to return our government to the people through a combination of a) calling for a Constitutional Amendment to overturn Citizens United; b) ending gerrymandering by taking redistricting out of the hands of politicians; c) implementing national voting standards; and d) making automatic voter registration a federal policy. #2) Our current Congress just handed out tax breaks to those individuals and corporations who truly do not need them, leaving the middle class to shoulder the tax burden. Too often, the wealthiest among us pay a lower tax rate than the neediest among us. I would work to simplify our tax code, close the loopholes, and restore a fair, balanced and respected tax code for all our citizens. #3) The brave men and women who defend our country deserve our highest respect and our best care. Too often, our Veterans are frustrated with the services by the very agencies charged with their care. I would modernize Veteran services so every Veteran has access to timely, high-quality healthcare, including mental health and drug addiction services.
9. Have you made public statements, written articles, or taken formal positions on any of the issues covered in this questionnaire? If so, please provide electronic copies or links to the leadership of Indivisible OH12 via email before 2/19. This helps us to provide our members with a breadth of resources on potential candidates. Please visit my web site ([Albertson4Congress.com](http://Albertson4Congress.com)) and my Facebook page ([Albertson4Congress](https://www.facebook.com/Albertson4Congress)) for additional policy positions to help provide your members with a breadth of resources on my positions.