**Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope (ILNH) Questionnaire
for New Jersey CD7 Democratic Candidates**

Candidate Name: Megan O'Rourke

General / Philosophy
1. What are your top three priorities for your first two years in Congress and how do those demonstrate your core values? What do you see as your role in trying to achieve this?
1) Healthcare reform; 2) Protect labor rights; 3) Agriculture & Environment. My core values include providing opportunity and a safety net for the working class and future generations. These priorities are requisite to turn this vision into a reality. As a Congresswoman, I will advocate to serve on committees such as the Agriculture Committee and Energy & Commerce committees. I was a senior advisor in Congress in 2023-2024 and know strategies to introduce bills and build coalitions and submit amendments. Moreover, I will hold constituent services in the highest regard to understand and serve individual needs in the district.
2. What are the two main provisions of the OBBB Act you would roll back, and how would you achieve that?
1. Roll back work requirements for Medicaid eligibility - this provision is designed to kick people off the program 2. Roll back recissions related to clean energy investments and the Inflation Reduction Act. How: This will depend on which party controls the House and Senate in the midterms.

Leadership
3. How would you describe your leadership style, giving an example from your past work, and how would that influence your approach in Congress?
Congressional Representatives are often described as "work horses" or "show horses." I am a work horse with deep policy expertise who prefers to listen and work hard while adhering to the highest ethical standards. This is reflected in my career as a civil servant. I have directed climate change science funding to universities across the country with an annual budget of ~$200 million. My work was grounded in technical expertise, required building coalitions of scientists and stakeholders throughout the country, and was done without personal fanfare while my finances passed rigorous ethical reviews every year.
4. What two measures would you take to address the corruption of the current administration?
1) Ban stock trading by political appointees, the Supreme Court, and Congress 2) Revise campaign finance by providing public finance matches for small dollar donors and banning Super PACs (this would be legally challenged and would force the Supreme Court to re-evaluate Citizens United)

Affordability
5. What changes, if any, would you support to the federal tax code?
Many changes are required to create a more rational system that supports the working class. Two main foci are: 1) revise inheritance taxes to eliminate the step-up in basis and alleviate generational wealth accumulation; 2) increase capital gains tax rates to be at least equal to labor income tax rates.

6. What initiatives would you propose to address housing affordability and food insecurity?

Federal policy should discourage housing as an investment vehicle and encourage housing for shelter. Specific policy options include: increasing taxes on corporate purchases of single-family homes and restricting rental property exchanges and tax exclusions. Moreover, federal policy should encourage new construction of "starter" accommodations that are appropriate to the urbanization level of communities through federal planning grants and guaranteed, subsidized builder and consumer loans. Congress should also expand the Section 8 housing voucher program.

Food insecurity includes not just lack of calories but lack of access to nutritious foods. In the next Farm Bill, SNAP benefits should include "double up" bucks for fresh produce and mechanisms to redeem benefits at farmers markets and for local foods such as community supported agriculture programs.

Public Health

7. What specific legislative language or mechanisms would you back to support federal protections for reproductive justice?

I would support legislation and amendment language that protects not only access to abortion services but to contraception, fertility services, and medical care for pregnant women.

8. What are your proposals to improve healthcare access and affordability?

I believe we have a broken healthcare system that needs an overhaul. Step one is to extend ACA premium tax credits for a limited amount of time as a bridge to a single-payer system similar to a "Medicare-for-all" system.

9. What legislation would you introduce or support to end gun violence?

1) Eliminate background check loopholes for private sales and gun shows
2) Penalize permit holders when firearms are accessed by unauthorized individuals, including household minors
3) Federally mandate gun safety and use training and psychiatric evaluation prior to purchasing firearms

Climate, Energy & Environment

10. What specific actions would you take or propose to protect the climate and the environment? If possible, please name specific ties to New Jersey.

1. Renew Bureau of Oceans and Energy Management (BOEM) permitting of NJ offshore wind development.
2. Reinstate the Inflation Reduction Act provisions that Congress defunded in the OBBB.
3. Tax carbon polluting industries such as oil and gas

Education

11. What is your vision for how the federal government should support education, including childcare, pre-K, public K-12 schools, and higher education, including affordability?

A strong public education system is key to economic mobility and is an engine of economic growth. The federal government should support teachers by protecting union rights and strengthening the National Labor Relations Board. The Department of Education should fund special education in states through federal funding. I do not support publicly funded charter schools or private school voucher programs. Training in trades should be available to all high school students. Community colleges should be free and the cost of public, four-year college programs should be commensurate with what students can earn while working during a year (~$10k/yr).

Immigration & Border Policy

12. What is your vision for how the US government should handle issues around immigration, in terms of both policy and process?

The U.S. is in desperate need of comprehensive immigration reform. This includes a transparent visa quota system, more immigration judges, clear timelines for reviewing immigration applications, paths to citizenship for immigrants already in the country without criminal records, and dismantling the ICE detention centers.

13. What immediate steps would you take to hold ICE, CPB, the attorney general, and others accountable for illegal actions?

I support Congressional oversight and investigation of immigration enforcement. Moreover, when the Dems take the House, we will roll back appropriations for ICE and CBP.

AI, Privacy & Surveillance

14. What legislation would you support related to AI? Please address digital ID and digital currency in your response.

I support AI innovation coupled with a policy framework to leverage productivity gains to reduce average working hours and provide a safety net for displaced workers. AI data centers must also provide clean energy to the grid to offset new energy demands. As data becomes increasingly digitized, we must protect personal privacy, which includes protecting voluntary digital IDs and preserving the use of cash.

Campaign Finance and Coalition Support

15. Do you support public financing or stricter limits on outside (PAC/super PAC) spending? Are there any specific companies, organizations, or individuals you would refuse donations from?

Campaign spending is spiraling out of control and creating an excessively wasteful system that favors rich candidates and incumbents. To alleviate this crisis, I support public financing and fighting Citizens United as I outlined previously. I have not taken any corporate PAC money and would not accept corporate super PAC support. I would only consider modest corporate PAC donations if I were morally aligned with the mission of the organization (e.g. clean energy company).

16. What coalitions and community partners are you currently working with?
I have been doing outreach with numerous organizations including (but not limited to): Political: Indivisible, The Union, League of Women Voters Environmental: Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Defense Fund, Sierra Club, Climate Revolution Action Network, League of Conservation Voters, Raritan Headwaters, Ridge & Valley Conservancy, Climate Reality Project Agricultural: NOFA-NJ, Foodshed Alliance Scientific: American Academy for the Advancement of Science, Union of Concerned Scientists, TriSocieties