



**IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 3, 2022**

On Thursday, Oct. 27, reporters and editors from Cleveland.com and *The Plain Dealer* invited Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose and Democrat candidate Chelsea Clark to an “endorsement interview.” Terpsehore "Tore" Maras, the independent candidate for Secretary of State, was deliberately excluded.

The Friends of Maras for Ohio campaign was never contacted by representatives from either news outlet. In addition to failing to contact Maras’ campaign about an in-person appearance alongside the party-affiliated candidates, Maras was not even supplied written questions so she would have the opportunity to participate in the “interview.” As there are only three certified candidates for Secretary of State, Maras’ exclusion proves the bias and attempted voter suppression of so-called journalists as they continually exhibit unjustifiable favoritism. That should concern every Ohioan.

Unlike the biased media, the Maras campaign extended invitations to both the LaRose and Clark campaigns the week of Sept. 19th to participate in a comprehensive debate. The LaRose campaign never responded to the request. Clark’s campaign offered a delayed response stating that Clark would be willing, then never responded to any follow-up communications. Requests included being offered an opportunity on Oct. 8 to appear at an East Cleveland candidate forum with Maras to discuss the issues relevant to the people of Ohio, despite being in the area the previous evening. Clark instead opted to attend a fundraising event.

In addition, the *Akron Beacon Journal*, which published its 2022 Voter Guide with answers to survey questions from LaRose and Clark, erroneously claimed Maras “did not respond.” The Maras campaign is unaware of any correspondence from the *Akron Beacon Journal*.



Ignoring and thereby silencing only one of the three official Secretary of State candidates on the statewide ballot qualifies as election meddling.

Friends of Maras for Ohio