

## **Senate Commerce Committee Nominee Questionnaire, 117<sup>th</sup> Congress**

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation asks you to provide typed answers to each of the following questions. It is requested that the nominee type the question in full before each response. Do not leave any questions blank. Type “None” or “Not Applicable” if a question does not apply to the nominee. Return printed answers to Committee. Begin each section (i.e., “A”, “B”, etc.) on a new sheet of paper.

### **A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used):

**Donet D. Graves, Jr.**  
**Don (nickname)**

2. Position to which nominated:

**Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce**

3. Date of Nomination:

**January 20, 2021**

4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):

**[REDACTED]**

5. Date and Place of Birth:

**April 11, 1970**  
**Garfield Heights, OH**

6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

**Melissa Tessmer Graves, Chief Executive Officer, Journey Center for Safety and Healing (formerly known as Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center)**



7. List all college and graduate degrees. Provide year and school attended.

**Williams College, BA (Political Science, History), 1992**  
**Georgetown University Law Center, JD, 1995**

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

**KeyBank, N.A., Executive Vice President & Head of Corporate Responsibility and Community Relations. (2018-2020) - management level**

**KeyBank, N.A., Senior Vice President & Senior Director, Corporate Community Initiatives and Relations. (2017-2018) - management level**

**The White House, Deputy Assistant to the President & Counselor to the Vice President. (2014-2017) - management level**

**Executive Director, Federal Detroit Working Group, (2013-2014) - management level**

**Executive Director, President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness, (2011-2014) - management level**

**U.S. Department of the Treasury, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Small Business, Community Development and Housing Policy, (2010-2014) - management level**

**Graves, Horton, Askew & Johns, LLC Member, (2009-2010) - management level**

**Graves & Horton, LLC, Attorneys at Law, Partner (2005-2009)**

**Business Roundtable, Director of Public Policy (2003-2005) Director of Strategic Partnerships, (2000-03) - management level**

**United States Department of the Treasury, Policy Advisor, 1999-2000 – advised on policy positions relevant to the Commerce Department**

**Graves & Horton, LLC, Associate, (1995-1998)**

**Organization for a New Equality (1995-1998), Director, Washington Office**

9. Attach a copy of your resume. **Attached as Appendix A.**

10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above, within the last ten years.

- **FDIC, Advisory Committee on Economic Inclusion (10/2019 - 9/2020)**

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution within the last ten years.

- **MetroHealth Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors (9/2017- present)**

- **Community Reinvestment Fund, USA, Board of Trustees (10/2017 - 9/2020)**

- **JumpStart, Inc., Vice Chairman, Board of Directors (3/2019 - 9/2020)**

12. Please list each membership you have had during the past ten years or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization. (For this question, you do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution.). Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

- **Bass Center for Placemaking, Brookings Institution, Advisory Board Member (11/2018 - 9/2020)**

- **Commission on Economic Inclusion, Greater Cleveland Partnership, Advisory Board Member (5/2018 - 9/2020)**

- **Cuyahoga Community College, Board of Visitors (9/2019 - 9/2020)**

- **Cleveland Rising, Co-Chair (6/2019 - 9/2020)**

- **Sigma Pi Phi, Tau Boule, member (7/2019 - present)**

- **Leadership Cleveland, Class of 2019 (Cleveland, OH)**

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt.

**No.**

14. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past

ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities.

**Democratic National Committee, 2020 Platform Drafting Committee Member.**

15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$500 or more for the past ten years.

**Peters for Michigan, 10/28/19, \$2000**

**KeyCorp Advocates Fund, biweekly until 9/18/20 (\$115.38), totaling \$4961.34**

**Biden for President, multiple commitments, totaling \$1358.82**

**Ken Harbaugh for Congress, 6/30/18, \$1000**

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

**None.**

17. Please list each book, article, column, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. Also list any speeches that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Do not attach copies of these publications unless otherwise instructed.

***Publications***

**“Dealing all of our communities into the bargain”, Biden Forum, Biden Foundation, August 8, 2018. (<https://bidenforum.org/dealing-all-of-our-communities-into-the-bargain-199d30cc4906>)**

**"Fostering Innovation Across America," March 2011.**  
(<https://www.treasury.gov/connect/blog/Pages/Fostering-Innovation-Across-America.aspx> )

*Speeches/Interviews*

**During my tenure as an appointed Federal official and while in private life, I have delivered informal remarks in a variety of forums on job creation, economic growth, and other topics related to the work of the Deputy Secretary of Commerce. Below is a list of speeches and addresses which I have been able to identify from my records and electronic searches.**

**CAMEO Summit on Microenterprise, May 2, 2011  
Vermont Business and Industry EXPO, Leahy Business Breakfast, May 25, 2011.**

**POLITICO's Jobs of the Future Event, Washington, DC, July 26, 2011  
(available at <https://www.politico.com/video/2011/07/don-graves-at-politicos-jobs-of-the-future-event-013619?o=48&filterVideo=> )**

**HOPE Global Summit: The Future of Global Jobs, December 11, 2012  
(available at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-JqT\\_kGfNo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-JqT_kGfNo))**

**Association for Enterprise Opportunity, One in Three Campaign Keynote,  
May 29, 2012**

**Annual Meeting, Women Impacting Public Policy, July 18, 2012.**

**Discussion on Microenterprise, Aspen Institute, November 25, 2013.**

**Rainbow Push Wall Street Plenary, February 13, 2014.**

**AI3 in DC: Developing a Policy Framework for Impact Investing, Aspen Institute, February 27, 2014 (speech available at <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/videos/ai3-dc-developing-policy-framework-impact-investing/>)**

**Inclusiv 40th Anniversary Conference, May 14, 2014.**

**Detroit Public Television, Interview, June 3, 2014 (available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SiUtnR1j8Js>)**

**Remarks to the Levine Cancer Institute, Charlotte, NC, November 30, 2016 (available at <https://www.facebook.com/LevineCancerInstitute/videos/mr-don-graves-better-known-as-the-cancer-czar-counselor-to-the-white-house-came-1177310942360459/>)**

**PBS/Frontline, Interview for “The Choice 2020,” July 27, 2020, available at <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/interview/don-graves/>**

**Announcement of Nomination for Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce, Wilmington, DE (speech available at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gi46WiN3M\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gi46WiN3M_8))**

18. List digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the name of an “alias” or “handle” you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

**All of the following accounts are active.**

**LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/don-graves-8668887](http://www.linkedin.com/in/don-graves-8668887)**

**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/don.graves.3158>**

**Instagram: <https://instagram.com/dgravesjr>**

**Twitter: <https://twitter.com/dgravesjr>**

19. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony.

**Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Hearing on Small Business Jobs Act, May 19, 2011.**

**House Committee on Financial Services, Hearing on Diversity in the Financial Services Sector, February 7, 2008.**

20. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

**I have spent the bulk of my career, inside and outside the federal government, focused on ways to support economic growth and development for all of our communities -- urban, rural, tribal and everything in between -- and supporting American workers and entrepreneurs. During that time, I have prided myself on my ability to achieve results and deliver for people, businesses and communities. I led the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness during the Obama administration, bringing together the business community, labor and academia to identify strategies and policies that could drive national competitiveness.**

21. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

**An organization the size and scale of the Commerce Department requires ongoing monitoring and assessment. Ensuring strong oversight and accounting is essential to the functioning of the Department and something for which I have experience through my career. At the U.S. Department of the Treasury, I was tasked with overseeing the creation and stand up of new multiple billion dollar programs as well as oversight of the Community Development Financial Institution Fund for which I developed strong controls to ensure responsible management of taxpayers' dollars. These programs were reviewed by both the Treasury Inspector General and outside, independent auditors who found the programs to have been managed appropriately and effectively. I was also President Obama's lead for the recovery of the City of Detroit, including coordinating the work of a large federal interagency effort and more than \$300M in investments in a variety of agencies in the city. Additionally, I led the development of the**



**Cancer Moonshot on behalf of then-Vice President Biden, coordinating efforts across agencies, laboratories, research facilities and private companies aimed at significantly advancing progress on cures for cancers.**

22. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why?

**First, the combined crises of the ongoing global pandemic and its impact on the department's ability to carry out its mission at the same time as an economic crisis affecting communities, families and businesses across the country is the top challenge facing the Department.**

**Second, we must also recommit ourselves to ensuring science is at the core of Department of Commerce's actions and policies, without regard for politics.**

**Finally, protecting our national security and American access to global markets in a time of growing global competitiveness will be a key challenge facing the Department.**

## **B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts.

**In September 2020, I resigned from my position with KeyBank, N.A. which is the primary subsidiary of KeyCorp. I currently hold restricted stock. I do not own stock, unvested restricted stock units, unvested restricted stock or stock options in KeyCorp. (KEY). As soon as practicable but not later than 120 days after confirmation, I will divest my unrestricted stock. I will forfeit any stock in KEY that remains restricted 120 days after my confirmation. I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of KEY, until I have divested it, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). In addition, pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for a period of one year after my resignation from KEY, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know KEY is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).**

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain.

**No.**

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

**In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with Department of Commerce ethics officials and the Office of Government Ethics to identify any potential conflict of interest. Any potential conflict of interest will be resolved according to the terms of the ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Commerce Department's Designated Agency Ethics Official, I understand will be provided to this Committee. I am not**

**aware of any potential conflict of interest other than those identified in my ethics agreement. In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with the Commerce Department's ethics officials and take the actions necessary to resolve the conflict.**

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

**Any potential conflicts of interest have been identified in my ethics agreement, which will be provided to the Committee, and will be resolved in accordance with the terms of that ethics agreement.**

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest, and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

**I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest that may arise other than those identified in my ethics agreement. However, should a conflict arise during my appointment, I will consult with the Commerce Department's ethics officials and take the actions necessary to resolve the conflict.**

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy.

**On April 8, 2020, I provided comments (on behalf of my employer, KeyBank) on a proposed rulemaking from the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency regarding revisions to the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977.**

**A copy of those comments are available at <https://www.fdic.gov/regulations/laws/federal/2020/2020-community-reinvestment-act-regulations-3064-af22-c-715.pdf>**

## C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, the Office of Special Counsel, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If yes:
  - a. Provide the name of agency, association, committee, or group;
  - b. Provide the date the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action was issued or initiated;
  - c. Describe the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action;
  - d. Provide the results of the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action.

**No.**

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

**No.**

3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain.

**No.**

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

**No.**

5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain.

**No.**

6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination.

**None.**

## **D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE**

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority?

**Yes.**

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistle blowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures?

**Yes.**

3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee?

**Yes.**

4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so?

**Yes.**

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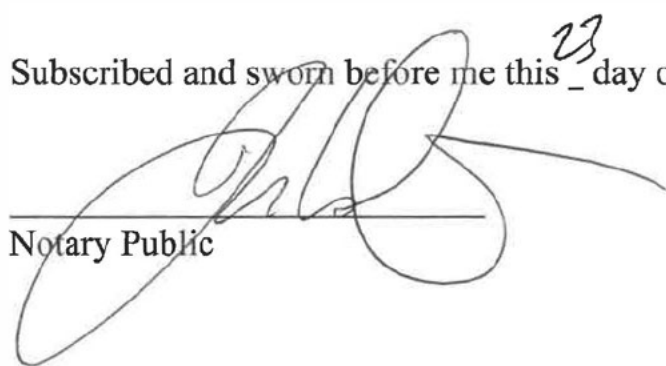
(Nominee is to include this signed affidavit along with answers to the above questions.)

**F. AFFIDAVIT**

Donet Graves being duly sworn, hereby states that he/she has read and signed the foregoing Statement on Biographical and Financial Information and that the information provided therein is, to the best of his/her knowledge, current, accurate, and complete.

  
Signature of Nominee

Subscribed and sworn before me this 23 day of Feb, 2021

  
Notary Public

