



UNITED STEELWORKERS' FEDERAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CANDIDATE NAME: _____

CAMPAIGN NAME: _____

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: _____

FEC NUMBER: _____

SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE: _____

DATE: _____

Upon completion, this candidate questionnaire should be returned to the appropriate USW District Director for consideration. If you need assistance with returning this to the correct USW District Director, please call 412-562-1671.

PROTECT
WORKERS'
RIGHTS

USW FEDERAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE, PAGE 1

Our union takes political endorsements seriously. We endorse candidates who pledge to work for a better future for USW members and working Americans.

To the best of your ability, please indicate whether you support or oppose the policies listed below and include written comments if necessary.

1. Global Economy and International Trade

The American labor movement and United Steelworkers are committed to improving trade agreements between the U.S. and other countries. All too often workers are the first to suffer from the flaws in trade agreements. Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) reducing monopoly rights for pharmaceutical firms in trade agreements, strengthening climate pollution enforcement and swift and strong labor enforcement mechanisms?

- a. Will you vote against trade agreements that do not contain labor enforcement language included in the text of the agreement?
- b. What other actions will you, as an elected official, take to ensure trade agreements stem outsourcing incentives and reduce inequality? (explain below)

YES NO

YES NO

Explain: _____

How a product is made and assembled matters greatly in trade agreements. Weak "Rule of Origin" provisions mean non-participating countries can benefit from a trade agreement by doing minor assembly or production in a trade agreement zone, undermining both job and production benefits for trade agreement partners. Do you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) strong "Rule of Origin" provisions in trade agreements; examples include requiring "melting and pouring" of steel products and/or domestic content thresholds in automobiles over 75 percent as included in the United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA)?

Explain: _____

American industry and workers have one line of defense against unfair trade: our trade laws. Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) efforts to maintain and strengthen domestic trade enforcement laws?

Explain: _____

The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) highlights that there is 700 million tons of excess steel capacity globally. This overcapacity is often subsidized and dumped into the U.S. market. In the interest of national security, the United States put in place tariffs that have increased steel production domestically and aided the industry in recapitalizing domestically. Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) the 232 tariff relief on steel and aluminum until a global solution is found to address excess capacity?

Explain: _____

Steel, tires, aluminum and other commodities are seeing significant overcapacity thresholds as countries such as China, India, and Vietnam build additional manufacturing facilities, whether the international market can sustain the additional capacity or not. Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) unilateral and global efforts to address commodity overcapacity by other countries ensuring U.S. manufacturing employment is not adversely impacted?

Explain: _____

Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) efforts to curb currency manipulation by countries which undervalue their currency to artificially boost exports?

Explain: _____

2. Collective Bargaining

Will you support or oppose (circle one) legislation like H.R. 842/S. 420, the “Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO)” Act, which expands workers’ collective bargaining rights, closes loopholes that corporations use to exploit workers, includes meaningful, enforceable penalties for companies and executives that violate workers’ rights, strengthens workers’ access to fair union elections and requires corporations to respect the results?

Explain: _____

Will you support or oppose (circle one) efforts to weaken workers’ rights to collective bargaining, or legislation which bars certain classes of workers from having access to collective bargaining? Do you support or oppose the right of workers to organize no matter their employer and will you support or oppose efforts to allow tribally owned commercial enterprises to deny workers NLRA rights? Will you support or oppose giving NLRA rights to farmworkers and other non-covered workers?

Explain: _____

Will you support or oppose (circle one) so-called “Right to Work” legislation – an effort aimed at undermining unions’ ability to fight on behalf of workers? Proponents often say “Right to Work” laws have economic benefits, but studies show that states where these laws have been passed tend to have lower wages, poorer healthcare and educational outcomes, and higher rates of workplace injuries and fatalities.

Explain: _____

Will you support or oppose (circle one) union vote suppression legislation which automatically counts non-voting employees in union elections as “no” votes? Will you support or oppose (circle one) legislation which would prevent employers from creating unnecessary delays in union certification elections and prevent employers from manipulating the determination of bargaining units in order to influence union elections?

Explain: _____

Will you support or oppose (circle one) efforts to weaken the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, which protects workers’ rights to overtime pay and discourages employers from overworking employees by making it more expensive for them to do so?

Explain: _____

3. Healthcare

The high cost of prescription drugs has become a barrier to care for working families and a driver of cost increases in the healthcare system. Efforts to control prescription drug prices can take many forms. Will you support or oppose encouraging Medicare to negotiate drug pricing? Will you support or oppose limiting the data exclusivity periods to follow the WTO standard of 5 years?

Explain: _____

Downward pressure to contain national healthcare costs has been based on the premise that patients can shop around for cheaper care, which has led to higher out-of-pocket costs for consumers. Do you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) healthcare policies that address system-wide change and will slow or stop healthcare cost shifting to working families and retirees through rising deductibles, copayments, and premiums?

Explain: _____

Do you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) policies that move towards a single-payer healthcare system like creating a public option and lowering the eligibility age for Medicare?

Explain: _____

4. Domestic Issues

As a large manufacturing union, the ability to get goods to markets across the country and the globe requires safe, reliable, public infrastructure. Privatization of infrastructure can undermine good public policy and democratic decision making. Turning tax dollars and control of public services over to companies whose overriding incentive is to maximize profits can lead to long-term economic costs and devastating consequences. Ensuring our country's infrastructure moves rapidly into the 21st century requires significant public investment.

Do you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) public funding of our country's infrastructure to ensure tax dollars are used to maximum effect and the public good is the primary focus? What ways do you suggest raising public funds for infrastructure?

Explain: _____

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the degradation of our supply chains for critical medical supplies and personal protective equipment. However, we also have significant reliance on foreign supply chains for other critical products and technologies including energy, transportation, defense, and more. Will you support or oppose (circle one) policies to onshore supply chains? Will you support or oppose (circle one) policies that drive investment in growing US manufacturing jobs and capacity?

Explain: _____

Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) the inclusion of "Buy America" provisions in federal legislation to ensure that goods manufactured in the United States are used when rebuilding our infrastructure?

Explain: _____

Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) a preference for government procurement from bidders who maintain high labor and environmental standards, such as Buy Clean policies?

Explain: _____

Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) legislation like H.R. 603/S. 53, the “Raise the Wage Act,” which increases the Federal Minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2024 and eliminates the subminimum wage for tipped workers?

Explain: _____

Climate change is a global issue which must be addressed. Do you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) efforts to address climate change that will prevent carbon leakage and incentivize cleaner domestic manufacturing as we strive to reach net zero emissions?

Explain: _____

As our economy continues to change rapidly in response to multiple forces, such as automation and the expansion of new technologies, will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) policies that pair incentives for these industries to grow with strong worker and community protections?

Explain: _____

5. Workplace Safety and Health

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Environmental Protection Agency and others ensure workers have a voice and a clean environment to live and work in. Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) efforts to reform the regulatory process in ways that expand access to the process for workers and the public and ensure that rulemaking relies on good science to ensure sensible protections for workers?

Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) increased funding for federal agencies that protect workers, including the Department of Labor, the National Labor Relations Board, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Occupational Safety and Health and Mine Safety and Health Administrations?

Explain: _____

Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) efforts to implement and enforce protections for workers who have been exposed to infectious diseases or toxic substances at the workplace?

Explain: _____

Workplace violence toward healthcare and social service workers, who are primarily women, has risen dramatically in the last decade. Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) policies to prevent workplace violence?

Explain: _____

6. Retirement Security, Social and Workplace Policy

Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) efforts to strengthen and expand vital programs like Social Security and Medicare? This includes policies lowering the age of eligibility, reducing administrative burdens for retirees, and rejecting efforts to “means test” Social Security and Medicare benefits. Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) efforts to raise or eliminate the cap at which high income earners stop paying into Social Security?

Explain: _____

The importance of the Social Security Trust Fund to millions of future retirees, people with disabilities, and retired workers cannot be understated. Average benefits are \$1,543 a month and Social Security reduced the number of recipients in deep poverty, which is defined as half of the federal poverty line, by 47 percent. However, revenues are expected to fall short of outlays by 2031. Will you commit to not reducing benefits to Social Security and work to create solvency in the system?

Explain: _____

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund is projected to be depleted within four years – in 2024 – sooner than at any point in the last 20 years. Will you work to strengthen the trust fund without cutting benefits?

Explain: _____

Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) legislation that bars employers from discriminating against individuals or groups based on their identity including women, minority and ethnic groups, the LGBT community and other marginalized groups? This would include, but not be limited to, efforts to ban discriminatory practices in pay, hiring, promotion, and staffing.

Explain: _____

Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) efforts to promote access to the ballot box, including eliminating unnecessary and burdensome requirements of state-issued identification to vote and rejecting attempts to disenfranchise voters by limiting early voting opportunities, wrongfully removing or purging voters from the voting rolls or otherwise?

Explain: _____

Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) efforts to ensure access to voting opportunities, including but not limited to, efforts such as expanding early voting, offering same-day registration opportunities, automatic voter registration, no excuse mail-in balloting or otherwise?

Explain: _____

7. Additional Questions for U.S. Senate Candidates

Senate rules and procedure have changed over time. Historically the filibuster was rarely used and members had to physically hold the floor to prevent votes on the floor. Changes to Senate procedure has led to a decline in legislation passing. Will you commit to reforming the filibuster?

Explain: _____

The Senate must meet and confer on the President's nominees. Do you commit to ensuring nominees for Federal Agencies receive timely hearings and votes? YES/NO (circle one). Do you commit to ensuring nominees for federal judgeships receive timely hearings and votes? YES/NO (circle one)

Explain: _____

Please use additional page for written comments.

