

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.

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 industries such as 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? YES NO
- b. What other actions will you, as an elected official, take to ensure trade agreements stem outsourcing incentives and reduce inequality? (explain below)

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. Tools like anti-dumping and countervailing duty (AD/CVD) enforcement must be regularly updated to combat changing tactics by importers and foreign governments. In the 117th Congress, Senators Brown and Portman and Representatives Sewell and Johnson have proposed updates to our trade laws commonly known as the Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0 (H.R. 6121 & S. 1187) Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) efforts to maintain and strengthen domestic trade enforcement laws, like the Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0?

Explain: _____

The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) highlights that there are 478 million tons of excess steel capacity globally (over 4 times U.S. production). 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. 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 others are seeing significant overcapacity thresholds as countries – such as China, India, Vietnam, and others – 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 that U.S. manufacturing employment is not adversely impacted?

Explain: _____

As technology shifts in our economy, it allows for improved tracking of global supply chains. We need to reinforce domestic supply chains in the United States and ensure that U.S. manufacturers and workers are on a level playing field and do not face illegal and anti-competitive labor tactics. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that in 2016, 16 million people were in situations of forced labor in the private sector. Do you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) strict bans on the import of products and materials made with forced labor?

Explain: _____

U.S. manufacturing workers can make the highest quality, most efficient, and most environmentally friendly products in the world. However, investments in facilities and in workers should not disadvantage American manufacturers who compete in a global market. Do you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) a strong carbon border measure to prevent carbon leakage (i.e. companies avoiding their carbon obligations by shifting to low regulatory environments) and ensure that more polluting countries pay their fair share to import into the United States?

Explain: _____

2. Collective Bargaining

Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) the right to collectively bargain, the right for unions to be recognized if a majority of workers sign a card in support of organizing a facility, and increased penalties for employers who illegally terminate employees and/or conduct unfair labor practices?

Explain: _____

Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) efforts to weaken workers' rights to collective bargaining or legislation that 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) 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? Will you **support** or **oppose** efforts to supplant overtime pay with "comp time" or other similar proposals that favor employers at the cost of workers in the private sector?

Explain: _____

In the 117th Congress, the key labor legislation is the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act (H.R. 842 & S. 420). The United Steelworkers has endorsed this bill, which will expand labor protections by eliminating mandatory anti-union meetings, increasing unfair labor practice fines, improving election procedures, creating better paths to getting a first union contract, and allowing workers and companies to set fair share terms regardless of racist "right to work" laws. Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) legislation like the PRO Act if elected?

Explain: _____

The Internal Revenue Code currently allows for employers to take a tax break for union busting activities. This indirect federal subsidy hurts taxpayers by roughly \$71 million a year and incentivizes union avoidance activities. Do you support or oppose (circle one) eliminating the ability of companies to take a tax deduction for union avoidance activities?

Explain: _____

3. Healthcare

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 that will slow or stop healthcare cost shifting to working families and retirees through rising deductibles, copayments, and premiums?

Explain: _____

Prescription drugs have become increasingly expensive for working families. Do you support or oppose (circle one) efforts to lower the cost of prescription drugs including, but not limited to, policies that would introduce price caps for prescription drugs, encourage Medicare to negotiate drug pricing, and limit the data exclusivity periods to follow the WTO standard of five years?

Explain: _____

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

Explain: _____

4. Domestic Issues

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) passed in 2021 was one of the largest investments in domestic infrastructure in decades with roughly \$1.2 trillion dollars in spending. The bill combined regular re-authorizations of transportation programs along with additional spending to upgrade our infrastructure. However, according to the American Society for Civil Engineers, our nation's investment gap in 2021 was roughly \$2.59 trillion over 10 years. Will you support or oppose (circle one) efforts to eliminate deferred maintenance in our nation's infrastructure through public investments?

Explain: _____

American manufacturing workers have the ability to supply the materials needed to rebuild our nation's infrastructure. A recent poll found that four out of five voters favor spending state and federal tax dollars on American-made goods whenever possible, with 67 percent strongly in favor. 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 spending taxpayer dollars to assist in rebuilding our roads and bridges, energy and other infrastructure, and increasing transportation access?

Explain: _____

Will you support or oppose (circle one) a preference for government procurement from bidders who maintain high labor and environmental standards?

Explain: _____

Will you support or oppose (circle one) legislation like the Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 603 & S. 53), which increases the Federal Minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025 and eliminates the subminimum wage for tipped workers?

Explain: _____

Our national security depends on our ability to manufacture the materials we need for defense, energy, transportation, communications, healthcare, and more. Will you support or oppose (circle one) efforts to prevent the offshoring of existing manufacturing facilities? And will you support or oppose comprehensive efforts to rebuild domestic supply chains that include everything from mining to manufacturing investments to recycling?

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, Environmental Protection Agency, and others ensure that workers have a voice and a clean environment in which to live and work. Will you support or oppose (circle one) efforts to reform the regulatory process in ways that will favor big business and deregulation instead of sensible protections for workers?

Explain: _____

Will you support or oppose (circle one) efforts to delay or eliminate 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, continues to rise in our country. Will you support or oppose (circle one) policies to prevent workplace violence? Will you support or oppose efforts to shield employers from liability who fail to protect their workers from workplace hazards?

Explain: _____

OSHA finalized a silica standard to protect workers in 2016. However, miners are still exposed to potentially harmful levels of silica dust without a modern enforceable standard. Do you support or oppose (circle one) the Mine Safety and Health Administration's efforts to protect miners from silica?

Explain: _____

Will you support or oppose (circle one) policies and recommendations from federal agencies, like the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency to prevent catastrophic chemical disasters that impact USW members who work in industrial facilities and the surrounding communities?

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 efforts to raise or eliminate the cap at which high income earners stop paying into Social Security?

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 LGBTQ community, and other marginalized groups? This would include, but is not 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, mail-in balloting, or otherwise?

Explain: _____

Senate Questions – Please answer the following questions if you are running for a U.S. Senate seat.

Senate rules and procedure have changed over time. Historically, the filibuster was used rarely 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. Amendment Votes as Percentage of Votes in the Senate have decreased by 46 percent since the early 1990's. Will you commit to reforming or removing the filibuster?

YES NO

The Senate must meet and confer on the President's nominees.

a. Do you commit to ensuring nominees for Federal Agencies receive timely hearings and votes?

YES NO

b. Do you commit to ensuring nominees for Federal Judgeships receive timely hearings and votes?

YES NO

Please use additional page for written comments.

