



# Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

760 Capitol Avenue ~ Hartford, CT 06106

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Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_ Party Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Sought: \_\_\_\_\_ Municipality/School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the name of your PAC or Town Committee? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you requested the endorsement of any other labor unions? \_\_\_\_ Which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Union Member? Yes / No      If Yes, what Local?

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## **ABOUT YOU AND YOUR CAMPAIGN**

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1. Why are you seeking elected office? What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What will be your top 3 priorities/actions if elected?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why are you seeking our endorsement?

## **MUNICIPAL AND BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGETS**

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4. If the municipal/board of education budget is not balanced in the next two years, what steps do you propose to balance it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. During an economic recession, municipalities and boards of education ask workers to do more for less. How would you work with the front-line workers and their unions to achieve savings and preserve jobs?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Many municipal elected officials have talked about "property tax reform" to restructure local budgets. What does property tax reform mean to you – and how would you go about achieving it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Will you be willing to work collaboratively with us to secure Municipal Aid, Education Cost Sharing (ECS), and other state funds from legislators and the Governor to support the public services local workers deliver?

## **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING ISSUES**

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8. Would you require, as a condition of procuring a contract to a private entity to provide public services, that the contractor agrees to neutrality and card-check in union organizing efforts?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What would you do to make sure that employee contracts are bargained in good faith and in a timely manner?

10. Do you support binding arbitration?

11. If there were an effort by municipal workers to organize a union within your municipality, would you support that effort?

12. Will you publicly support the right of workers to organize a union and sign the attached statement of principles for public officials?

## **HEALTH CARE, HEALTH INSURANCE**

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13. Do you support pooling municipal and school board health insurance plans with the state health plan to save money and protect employees' health insurance benefits?

14. If your municipality provides direct services, such as school busses, do you support keeping those services "in-house?" If those services are contracted-out, would you require, as a condition of procuring a school bus contract to a company, that the companies bidding on the contract include the cost of affordable comprehensive health benefits?

## **SERVICES AND JOBS**

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15. Private companies and non-profit agencies are increasingly being used to provide public services at both the local and state levels. What is your position on privatization? Should privatized jobs be required to provide comparable wages and benefits including affordable comprehensive health benefits?

16. Would you support a “living wage” ordinance to ensure that contractors and developers doing business with your municipality and school district and receiving public funds would pay their employees a living wage and provide affordable health insurance?
17. Do you support linking economic development assistance for companies with standards that require them to create good jobs, pay fair wages, provide decent benefits and comply with labor, environmental, and other laws? (Development assistance is defined as abatements, loans, grants, contracts, etc.)
18. Smart growth seems to be on everyone’s agenda. What is your position on the regionalization of services? Would you oppose regionalization if it meant reducing pay and benefits for the workers involved to the least common denominator? What role do you envision for the unions that represent affected municipal and schools workers?
19. Many municipalities are looking for ways to become more efficient. Will you be willing to work with your employees to find efficiencies and cost savings rather than seeking concessions?
20. Do you support worker concessions as the sole solution to managing municipal/school budgets?

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS**  
**The Freedom to Form a Union**

As an elected official or candidate for office, I am committed to making our community a better place to live and work. I believe that unions contribute to the economic vitality of our country by playing a key role in making and maintaining good quality jobs that are essential to creating and sustaining thriving communities.

I respect the right of every working person to pursue equality, opportunity, a voice on the job and a better life by forming a union. I understand that the decision to join together in a union belongs exclusively to employees, not their employers. I believe that employers who use tactics that interfere with, harass, threaten, or fire workers for trying to form a union – or who deliberately manipulate the legal system to prevent or delay organizing – are harming not only their employees, but our entire community.

- I fully support the principle that all workers are entitled to form a union and bargain collectively in an environment free of interference, intimidation, coercion, harassment reprisals or delay.
  
- I will publicly support workers who are forming unions by reaffirming the importance of unions to our communities and by taking actions, such as issuing public statements, attending organizing rallies, sponsoring public forums, and the like.
  
- I will urge employers to respect their employees' right to form a union, to remain neutral during union organizing campaigns, to voluntarily recognize a union when a majority of their employees choose to form one, and to bargain in good faith and reach an agreement.

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Held/Sought: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_