

Service Employees International Union

Questionnaire



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Committee Name Dan Malloy for Governor

Treasurer Name Len Miller

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ABOUT YOU

1. Why are you the best candidate and what are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

Because I'm the most experienced candidate and would be the best Governor. On every serious issue facing Connecticut, I have a real, tangible record of success. Being mayor of a large, diverse city like Stamford is a lot like being the governor of a small, diverse state like Connecticut. You have to manage resources, build consensus, and lead from the bottom up. In other words, I've done this job before, and done it well.

On a more personal note, I believe that the challenges I've overcome in my personal life have left me well-prepared for the challenges I'll face as Governor. Early in my life I was diagnosed with a severe learning disability. But through hard work and by focusing on my talents, I was able to thrive and realize success. I think that's the attitude that Connecticut needs in the Governor's office.

2. What will be your top 3 priorities/actions if elected?

Job creation, economic security, and getting the state's fiscal house in order.

3. Why are you seeking our endorsement?

Because I respect your members, the work they do and how they do it, and because I respect your organization and the issues it advocates for. I also believe that Connecticut won't be able to turn itself around without the help of labor, and that we need someone at the state's highest job who treats labor as a partner.

TAXES & STATE BUDGET

4. Connecticut's state budget spending cap limits what additional funding can be provided for public services. The rules determining the spending cap are more restrictive than most states. The Spending cap is also poorly defined – what counts as spending for example. **Would you advocate making any changes to the State-spending cap? What changes?**

The spending cap needs to be revisited because it's too often been used as a weapon, as an excuse, really, and not as a real restraint on wasteful spending. Under my administration, we will access as much federal funding as our state qualifies for, and we'll seek waivers in the spending cap in order to do that.

5. The State of Connecticut faces a massive budget deficit starting in FY 2012. **As Governor what will be your approach towards balancing the budget? What are your ideas for tax reform – including corporate, personal, and property? What is your position on “cutting” state government? Other than maximizing Federal funds and grants to CT, where do you expect to find sufficient revenues to balance the budget?**

When it comes to the budget, I'm confident I can work with the private sector to create jobs and get our budget in order. The reason I'm confident is that I've done it before. As the Mayor of Stamford I proposed balanced budgets every year, while holding the line on taxes and creating thousands of jobs.

When it comes to taxes, I would initiate fair and comprehensive tax reform to ease the burden on local communities, and I would work to provide for a fairer and more progressive sharing of taxation.

I will say that there is one group that should be off limits when it comes to cuts, and that is the non-profit providers that serve as a safety net for Connecticut residents in need. Connecticut's social services safety net has been under continuous assault in recent years. These programs are relied upon by thousands of our State's most needy, and they are already underfunded.

Finally, I would bring other ideas to the table, like consolidating state agencies to save money, such as merging the state's four economic development agencies into one department (to be clear, I have no interest in laying people off). I'd also suggest freezing compensation for all political appointees, and I'd want to look for ways to stop providing cars for state employees other than the five constitutional officers and law enforcement (people can be reimbursed for official use of their personal cars).

SERVICES AND JOBS

6. **What is your position on the privatization of public services currently performed by state and municipal workers (for instance: programs for mental illness, group home care for people with developmental disabilities, information technology etc.)? Should privatization contracts be required to provide comparable wages and benefits; including affordable comprehensive health benefits? If the state provides much of the funding for a privatized service should the employer be required to stay neutral in any organizing efforts?**

I am against the privatization of public services currently performed by state and municipal workers. Yes, privatization contracts should be required to provide comparable wages and benefits; including affordable comprehensive health benefits. Yes, if the state provides much of the funding for a privatized service the employer should be required to stay neutral in any organizing efforts.

As Mayor I de-privatized services such as garbage collection and recycling and they performed at greater savings and efficiencies.

7. 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, of the**

workers involved to the least common denominator? What role do you envision for the unions that represent affected municipal and school board workers?

When it comes to smart growth, state investments should be directed toward economic development projects that create jobs, preserve natural resources, and use green building materials and techniques.

Yes, I would oppose regionalization if it meant reducing pay and benefits of the workers involved to the least common denominator. I believe that when discussions on regional cooperation take place that labor must be represented at the table.

I would also focus on transit oriented development, as I did in Stamford, to better connect public transportation to everyday life.

- 8. The State and many municipalities are making moves to become more energy efficient. Will you ensure that “green jobs”, such as constructing green buildings and making existing buildings more energy efficient and environmentally safe, are good jobs that pay a living wage with benefits? How?**

As the Mayor of Stamford, I made environmental improvement a fundamental goal of the way Stamford does business. By promoting the use of green building materials and techniques, we can ensure that green jobs are in demand.

As Governor I would also ensure that the State plays a role in the green retrofitting of existing buildings, and that we update building codes to reflect innovations in green technology.

- 9. Would you support standards that would link economic development assistance to companies that create good jobs, pay fair wages, provide decent benefits and comply with environmental, labor and other laws? Development Assistance is defined as abatements, loans, grants, contracts, etc.**

Yes. Instituting benchmarks and greater accountability would be a key to my economic development strategy. For example, I believe it’s wrong that to this day, and despite repeated attempts by the Auditors of Public Accounts to get this policy changed, the State still refuses to release a comprehensive list of companies that have received state aid and their respective records on job creation and wages paid. That would change with me as Governor.

HEALTH CARE, HEALTH INSURANCE AND PENSIONS

- 10. Do you believe Connecticut should have a universal health care system? If so, what measures would you advocate to move the state in that direction? Would you sign the “pooling” bill passed by the General Assembly?**

Yes. As Mayor of Stamford, I implemented Every Child Matters, a program that extended health insurance to more than 2,200 uninsured HUSKY eligible children. Four years ago I was the first candidate for Governor to propose a comprehensive plan to extend health insurance coverage to every child in the state. I have been a vocal supporter of state legislation to expand health insurance pools for municipalities – a cost saving measure that would have greatly reduced the impact of health insurance on municipal and board of education budgets.

- 11. How would you address the unfunded liability in the state employees’ pension system?**

My proposal would be to fully audit and actuarially value the assets in pension system, and then establish a 20-30 year plan to see that they are fully funded and that contributions are made on yearly basis. That way, we can fully pay our obligation each year while also paying off a portion of the deficit.

CONTRACTS, NEGOTIATIONS, AND ORGANIZING

12. Collective bargaining is intended to be a process through which workers and employers can come together and, on equal footing, reach agreement on wages, hours, and working conditions. Because public employees are not permitted to strike, binding arbitration is intended to expedite settlement through a neutral third party. **A. What changes, if any, would you make to the current laws regarding collective bargaining process and binding arbitration? B. Will you oppose measures that would eliminate or reduce the effectiveness of binding arbitration by further tilting the process in favor of municipalities?**

A: None.

B: Yes

13. **Will you oppose efforts to cut benefits that were negotiated in the 20-year health care and pension agreement for active and retired employees? Will you oppose efforts by the General Assembly to unilaterally legislate changes in the agreement? What is your position on the state employee health insurance plan spending money on wellness and disease management programs?**

Yes, I would oppose efforts to cut benefits that were negotiated in the 20-year health care and pension agreement for active and retired employees. Yes, I would be opposed to efforts by the General Assembly to make changes in the agreement.

I fully support wellness programs and believe they are an important part of cutting costs when done in cooperation with employees and retirees.

14. Janitors in CT provide a vital function in the public sector yet their jobs are dependent upon outside contractors. When a contractor is changed, workers who may have cleaned a building for years can be fired without notice by the new contractor. **Would you support legislation that would allow janitors to remain on the job for 60 days after a contractor is replaced by another? Will you actively support “Justice for Janitors” campaigns aimed at protecting jobs that are at risk and creating good jobs for those without a union?**

Yes, I would you support legislation that would allow janitors to remain on the job for 60 days after a contractor is replaced by another. Yes, I would support “Justice for Janitors” campaigns, and have a long history of supporting it – including organizing in Fairfield county. I stood with janitors in that area and directly negotiated with building owners and operators on behalf of 32BJ.

15. Currently employers can require employees to attend meetings about politics, religion and union organizing. If an employee chooses not to attend he or she can be disciplined or fired. **Would you support legislation allowing workers to opt out of any “captive audience” meetings?**

Yes.

16. **What is your position on workers’ right to form a union? What role, if any, do you think the chief elected official should play in local organizing efforts? Will you publicly support the right of workers to organize a union and sign the attached statement of principles for public officials?**

I am a strong and lifelong supporter of workers' right to organize and form a union. As Governor's I would promote policies that make that organization easier. Yes, I've signed the attached statement.

17. During an economic recession the State is asking workers to do more with less. How would you work with the front line workers and unions to save the state money and to preserve jobs?

First, I'd call the legislative leaders into a negotiating session and allow members of the media to sit in. I'd put my ideas on the table, and I'd ask each of them to do the same. I'd see how far apart we are and then I'd start trying to move us to consensus, and I'd do it in public.

I'd bring to the table the ideas state employee labor leaders have been carrying around for the last two years, and where I think the efficiencies and cuts make sense, I'd propose them so the legislative leaders wouldn't have to. I'd be willing to take that heat. Then I'd put some other ideas on the table, like merging the state's four economic development agencies into one department (again, to be clear, I have no interest in laying people off). I'd also suggest freezing compensation for all political appointees, and I'd want to look for ways to stop providing cars for state employees other than the five constitutional officers and law enforcement (people can be reimbursed for official use of their personal cars). Finally, I would seek the removal of 15% of non-unionized, non-civil service employees from state government – in other words, positions traditionally held by political workers brought in from outside state government during administration changes.

PUBLIC SERVICES

18. Home care and consumer-driven services are becoming the preferred method of caring for the elderly and people with developmental disabilities and child care. But wages, benefits, and training standards in home care and child care are far lower than in other health care industries. Will you support a process that will help home care and child care workers form a union, get recognition, and engage in collective bargaining?

Yes. I have a very personal connection when it comes to health care workers, specifically those who work with children – my mother was a school nurse who helped organize her fellow nurses when an employer began the practice of dividing full time jobs with benefits into part time jobs without any benefits.

19. The State has chosen to rely on private providers to deliver ongoing public services, such as nursing home care, non-profit group homes/day programs for people with developmental disabilities, mental health treatment, etc. But every year, extensive time and money must be spent lobbying the Legislature just for a basic cost-of-living funding increase. Will you support legislation instituting an automatic cost-of-living increase for these employees?

Last fall I laid out a detailed plan for supporting non-profit providers, called "Helping Those Who Help." The plan would establish a Community Non-Profit Human Services Cabinet to help ensure funding for nonprofits and also reform the procedures the state uses to reimburse and fund nonprofits to ensure that all providers are funded in a timely manner.. The full plan can be found on my website.

20. The number of public employees has declined during the current economic crisis. Public money that supports nursing homes and group homes has also been flat or declined. There are now short staffing situations in many departments, agencies, nursing and group homes. At the same time managerial positions have not decreased at the same rate. How would you address the short staffing situation?

I've taken a very strong position when it comes to Connecticut's social services safety net, which is that they should be off the table in terms of any further budget cuts. The institutions that help our state's most needy, including and especially nursing homes, need to be fully funded at a level that enables them to function safely and provide benefits for workers.

21. CEUI represents more than 1,500 Department of Transportation highway maintainers. Over the years, several have been killed while performing their duties in highway work zones. Dozens more have been injured. **Will you support legislation to protect highway workers by providing adequate funds to conduct state police work zone traffic enforcement within selected DOT work areas?**

Yes.

EDUCATION

22. **Will you support additional funding to improve the full-time/part-time staff ratio at Connecticut Community Colleges?**

Yes.

23. Each year many long time Connecticut students who do not have documentation graduate from high schools around the state. Unfortunately, their immigration status prevents them from qualifying for in-state tuition and as a result many of them are unable to afford higher education. **Would you support state legislation that allows undocumented immigrant students, who meet certain eligibility requirements, to pay in-state tuition?**

Yes. I believe every individual who graduates from a Connecticut high school with at least one full year of time at that school should have access to in-state tuition, and I would sponsor legislation to that effect.

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 state and 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 society.

- 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: _____