



CWA
CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
CONGRESS 2020

This questionnaire contains three sections:

- A. Information about you and your campaign;
- B. A statement of principles; and
- C. Questions related to our legislative and issue priorities.

Please take the time to fill out this questionnaire sincerely and honestly, and then use it as a tool to engage with our union. Our members work to elect pro-worker champions, and this questionnaire helps us determine who those champions are.

Candidates who return the questionnaire will be considered for endorsement by CWA. Endorsed candidates will be notified and considered for campaign contributions.

**EMAIL COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE AND CAMPAIGN MATERIALS TO
ENDORSEMENTS@CWA-UNION.ORG**

Please list the organizations—community groups, unions, issue groups, etc.—that have endorsed you in this race:

Please list any relevant organizations of which you are a member:

What are the main issues that you hope to address if elected?

What are your legislative priorities that would benefit working families in your district or state?

CANDIDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

Cell #:

E-Mail (non government):

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Campaign Name:

Campaign Address:

Campaign Email:

Campaign Phone:

Campaign Website:

Campaign Manager's Full Name:

Phone #:

Cell #:

E-Mail (non government):

Does your campaign accept Labor Political Action Committee (PAC) Contributions? YES NO

SECTION B

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS: **THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE 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 a union should be the free choice of an employee, absent employer coercion. I believe that employers, who interfere with, harass, threaten, or fire workers for trying to form a union – or who deliberately manipulate the legal system to present or delay organizing – are harming not only their employees, but our entire community. Such tactics have the effect of denying workers their basic human right to organize and bargain collectively, and drive down standards for the community.

Printed Name

Signature:

Date

Which of the following actions will you take to support workers?

I will walk on picket lines and attend rallies in support of workers. YES NO

I will directly and publicly promote neutrality and voluntary recognition with decision makers where organizing efforts are ongoing. YES NO

I will directly and publicly urge employers to negotiate contracts in good faith and will offer to serve as an intermediary when requested. YES NO

I will speak out publicly and write letters to employers and workers in support of workers' efforts in forming a union and bargaining contracts. YES NO

Tell us about a time you supported CWA workers during a labor dispute.

*As a labor union, we require campaign material to carry the Union “Bug.”
Please email your campaign materials to us when you submit this questionnaire.*

SECTION C

1) WORKERS' RIGHTS & ORGANIZING

- 1.1) Since the early 1980s, the overall rate of unionization has declined in half. That decline creates problems for all workers—union members consistently earn more than their non-union counterparts, but research by the Economic Policy Institute shows that higher union density increases wages for all workers. Weak laws protecting workers' rights to organize and negotiate for better wages and standards have played a major role in increasing inequality and decreasing wages for average workers.

Protecting workers' rights to organize by enacting H.R. 2474/S. 1306, the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, will help create more good jobs across the country.

The PRO Act:

- Enacts meaningful penalties for violations of workers' rights.
- Ends undemocratic "captive audience" meetings.
- Strengthens workers' ability to stand in solidarity.
- Helps workers who have organized get a fair first contract.

Do you support the Protecting the Right to Organize Act (H.R. 2474/S. 1306)?

YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

- 1.2) Unlike workers in the private sector, the fundamental right to organize and bargain is not provided to public sector workers. There is currently a patchwork of state and local laws providing those rights to public sector workers. As a union representing public sector workers who have the legal right to bargain and those that don't, CWA believes it's critical that all public sector workers throughout the United States have a right to organize and bargain. The Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act (H.R. 3463/S. 1970) will remedy this injustice by ensuring that public employees of state, territorial and local governments have the right to join a union and collectively bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions.

Do you support the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act (H.R. 3463/S. 1970)?

YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

- 1.3) Will you oppose any federal right-to-work (a.k.a. “right to work for less”) policy, and use your platform to oppose any such anti-worker bills in your state and broader community?
- YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

2) GOOD JOBS & OFFSHORING

- 2.1 Over the last decade, call center worker wages have declined by 3% as many of the jobs are offshored to low wage countries where workers are exploited. As U.S. companies offshore and outsource call center jobs, communities across the country lose out. In many places, the closure of a call center means the loss of a pillar of the local economy. The offshoring of U.S. call center jobs has a range of negative impacts – it is a trend that is bad for American workers and communities and could be harmful to the security of U.S. consumers’ sensitive information. The U.S. Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 3219/S.1792) was introduced with a goal of protecting these good jobs by ending grants, loans, tax benefits and public contracts for companies that ship jobs overseas.

The Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection Act would accomplish the following:

- Disclose call center location to U.S. consumers.
- Right to transfer back to a U.S. based call center.
- Create a “bad actor” list of U.S. companies that would prevent them from receiving any form of taxpayer money.
- List removal: If a “bad actor” relocates an offshore call center to the U.S. and brings jobs back, they will be removed from the bad actor list.

Do you support the U.S. Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 3219/S.1792)?

YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

- 2.2 The tax code has for years encouraged companies to move money and jobs overseas—and the Republican tax law that passed last Congress has made the problem even worse. Many of the companies that are among the biggest beneficiaries of the Republican tax bill, such as AT&T, GE and Wells Fargo, have already been closing American call centers and aggressively offshoring U.S. jobs. After shipping jobs overseas, these companies have been gifted billions of dollars in new tax breaks while being encouraged to offshore even more American jobs in the future. The No Tax Breaks for Outsourcing Act (S. 780/H.R. 1711)

would stop rewarding companies that ship jobs overseas and reverse the offshoring incentives embedded in the tax law.

Do you support the No Tax Breaks for Outsourcing Act (H.R. 1711/S.780)?

YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

2.3 Will you fight to defend existing workers' pensions, and pledge to oppose any attacks on these hard-earned benefits?

YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

2.4 Will you support and strengthen paid leave in all places of employment, and use your platform and influence to actively oppose any attempts to cut such programs?

YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

2.5 Will you co-sponsor H.R. 2208/S. 1112, the Cabin Air Safety Act, to establish proper training, monitoring, reporting and investigations to ensure that flight crews and passengers are protected from the effects of toxic cabin air?

YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

3) FAIR ELECTIONS & GOOD GOVERNMENT

3.1 Over the past several decades, corporate special interests have worked to make participation in our democracy harder - from extreme cases of partisan gerrymandering, restrictions on the right to vote, and the flooding of the electoral process with unlimited amounts of corporate and unreported secret political spending. CWA believes we need a

comprehensive approach to fixing our broken democracy through the reforms in H.R. 1/S. 949, the For the People Act.

This bill addresses voter access, election integrity, election security, political spending, and ethics for the three branches of government.

Specifically, the bill expands voter registration and voting access, makes Election Day a federal holiday, and limits removing voters from voter rolls.

The bill provides for states to establish independent, nonpartisan redistricting commissions.

The bill also sets forth provisions related to election security, including sharing intelligence information with state election officials, protecting the security of the voter rolls, supporting states in securing their election systems, developing a national strategy to protect the security and integrity of U.S. democratic institutions, establishing in the legislative branch the National Commission to Protect United States Democratic Institutions, and other provisions to improve the cybersecurity of election systems.

This bill addresses campaign spending, including by expanding the ban on foreign nationals contributing to or spending on elections; expanding disclosure rules pertaining to organizations spending money during elections, campaign advertisements, and online platforms; and revising disclaimer requirements for political advertising.

This bill establishes an alternative campaign funding system for certain federal offices. The system involves federal matching of small contributions for qualified candidates.

This bill sets forth provisions related to ethics in all three branches of government. Specifically, the bill requires a code of ethics for federal judges and justices, prohibits Members of the House from serving on the board of a for-profit entity, expands enforcement of regulations governing foreign agents, and establishes additional conflict-of-interest and ethics provisions for federal employees and the White House.

The bill also requires candidates for President and Vice President to submit 10 years of tax returns.

Do you support the For the People Act (H.R. 1/S. 949)?

YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

3.2 Do you accept corporate PAC money?

YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

For U.S. Senate candidates:

- 3.3 Under the leadership of Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, the Senate rules have been abused in order to prevent even a simple debate - let alone passage - of any legislation that would improve working peoples' lives. Under current Senate rules any legislation can be silently filibustered 4 times in the legislative process - with no requirement that those objecting actually take to the Senate floor to defend their opposition. CWA has long supported reforming Senate rules that would limit the ability to block legislation from even simple debate and would require a talking filibuster for those wishing to block legislation. It is critical that in order to address legislation important to working people Senate rules must be reformed.

If elected to the US Senate, would you support reform efforts to limit the use of the current silent filibuster?

YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

4) TAKING ON WALL STREET

- 4.1 Hedge fund and private equity billionaires charge a fee for investing other peoples' money. Under federal and state tax laws, this fee can be considered as "carried interest." Carried interest is taxed at a much lower capital gains tax rate, as opposed to the income taxes that other taxpayers typically pay. This "Carried Interest Loophole" is the reason that Warren Buffett famously pays a lower tax rate than his secretary, because working people pay income taxes, which are set at higher rates than capital gains.

Do you support closing the carried interest loophole?

YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

- 4.2 Wall Street speculators do not pay a sales tax on their trades of stocks and bonds. Congress should close this loophole to make the tax code fairer, raise needed revenue to invest in working families, and discourage dangerous short-term speculation. The Inclusive Prosperity Act of 2019 would impose a very low Wall Street sales tax of as little as 0.03% or 0.10% on trades of stocks, bonds and derivatives that could raise over \$700 billion, which could then be used to reinvest in working families. At the same time, it would discourage the sort of short-term speculative trading that caused the 2010 "Flash Crash," while having extremely little impact on long-term investors.

Do you support the The Inclusive Prosperity Act of 2019 (H.R.2923/S.1587)?

YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

- 4.3 In recent years, corporate executives have rapidly increased their use of stock buybacks as a tool to enrich themselves—corporations now use over half of their overall profits on buybacks.

Stock buybacks are the practice of companies using profits to buy back shares of their stock on the open market, rather than investing in workers or equipment. Companies use buybacks to manipulate their share price—by reducing the number of shares available, the company’s value per share will automatically increase. If this kind of market manipulation seems like it should be illegal, it once was. Until 1982, buybacks were considered a form of market manipulation, but a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) ruling that year gave companies free reign to buy back stocks. The Reward Work Act (H.R. 3355/S. 915) would reverse the 1982 SEC ruling and would ban companies from buying back their stock on the open market.

Do you support The Reward Work Act (H.R. 3355/S. 915)?

YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

- 4.4 Do you support ending “Too Big to Fail” by breaking up the Wall Street mega banks and separating depository banking from risky investment banking?

YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

- 4.5 Do you support ending predatory lending and expanding access to fair consumer banking services through “a public option” like public banks or postal banking?

YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

- 4.6 Will you defend the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) from any corporate-sponsored attacks and use your platform and influence to strengthen the Bureau and empower it to further protect consumers?
- YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

- 4.7 Predatory private equity firms have developed a business model of buying up companies, loading them up with debt, and then charging them extreme management fees. In doing so, they greatly increase the risk of job cuts or driving the firm into bankruptcy. This creates a “Heads I win, tails you lose” dynamic, in which private equity billionaires benefit greatly from any profits, but are not liable for debt when things go wrong. The Stop Wall Street Looting Act (H.R. 3848/S. 2155) would fix this problem by increasing transparency, ensuring that these funds are liable for major debts they impose on the company, and closing tax loopholes for private equity firms.

Do you support the Stop Wall Street Looting Act?

YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

5) TRADE

- 5.1 Corporate-written trade and globalization deals like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) have led to the offshoring of millions of good jobs in industries like manufacturing and call centers. These bad deals have also caused a race to the bottom in labor, environmental and public health standards that has weakened our protections and undermined American workers’ wages, benefits, and working conditions.

Will you oppose any free trade agreements that do not include strong enforceable labor and environmental protections?

YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

- 5.2 Will you support ensuring that countries come into compliance with basic standards protecting worker rights, the environment, and human rights before Congress votes on a trade agreement with those countries?
- YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

- 5.3 Deals like NAFTA and CAFTA have given multinational corporations special rights to sue in undemocratic “Investor-State Dispute Settlement” tribunals that put our basic laws at risk and make it easier for corporations to offshore jobs.
- Will you oppose any free trade agreements that include Investor-State Dispute Settlement provisions?**
- YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

6) HUMAN/CIVIL RIGHTS

- 6.1 Do you support comprehensive immigration reform that will grant lawful status to individuals eligible for DACA/DAPA and TPS?
- YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

- 6.2 Do you pledge to oppose any form of workplace discrimination against LGBTQ workers, in all industries?
- YES NO

Please explain why or why not:

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