

UNITED STEELWORKERS' FEDERAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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.



UNITED STEELWORKERS' FEDERAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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 in the text of the agreement?

YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- b. Will you oppose efforts to reduce Congressional authority in trade agreement negotiations, such as Trade Promotion Authority, which lowers the Senate filibuster threshold for trade agreements, and protect your Constitutional responsibility on trade?

YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- c. 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 supplying significant components and parts, 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 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: _____

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Steel, tires, aluminum, and other industries/products 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? These include efforts like the China 301 tariffs, the steel and aluminum 232 measures, and ongoing negotiations of a “global arrangement” between the U.S. and E.U. to better account for carbon intensive, and non-market materials.

Explain: _____

Digital trade has significant impacts on workers and consumers. Whether it is algorithmic tracking, data localization, digital surveillance, of workers (both on and off the clock) or the regulation of artificial intelligence to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, gender, and other protected categories, the digital trade policy space is still very much in formation. Do you support the right to domestically regulate the fast-moving digital economy?

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) trade policies to prevent carbon leakage (i.e. companies avoiding their carbon obligations by shifting to low regulatory environments) and ensure that 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: _____

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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: _____

Working people are consistently working longer hours, both voluntarily and as required by employers. 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: _____

In the 117th Congress, the key labor legislation was 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 "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: _____

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is an independent federal agency that protects the rights of private sector employees to join together, with or without a union, to improve their wages and working conditions. Due to funding and staffing shortfalls, justice for workers is frequently delayed. Do you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) increased funding for the NLRB to ensure they can promptly address disputes between workers and employers?

Explain: _____

UNITED STEELWORKERS' FEDERAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Collective bargaining addresses many forms of workplace disparities, such as pay differentials between women and men or between people of different races. In short, collective bargaining makes our economy more fair. Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) policies to ensure that federal funding and federal contracts are only awarded to companies that commit to respecting workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain?

Explain: _____

3. Healthcare

Rising health insurance costs are a concern when our members negotiate agreements with their employers. 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 broadly cap prices for prescription drugs, expand Medicare's ability 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: _____

UNITED STEELWORKERS' FEDERAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

The changing energy economy presents opportunity and threats to industrial workers. In order to grow manufacturing of clean technologies, our nation must permit and invest in whole supply chains from mining and processing, to manufacturing and recycling. Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) policies that grow unionized mining and manufacturing operations?

Explain: _____

Tragically, USW members and former members have suffered job loss through no fault of their own due to trade pressures, changes in economic conditions, and “business decisions.” This is particularly impactful in sectors vulnerable to foreign competition and the energy sector. Workers are often left with little support and little economic opportunity in communities where many of their coworkers were also laid off. Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) long-term reauthorization of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program? Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) policies that provide economic support to dislocated energy 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: _____

Veterans and reservists are integral parts of workplaces across America and often have unique needs from serving our country. Will you **support** or **oppose** (circle one) policies that ensure current and former military members in the workplace are treated fairly and informed about resources available to them based on their status?

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 limit public participation and promote 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: _____

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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 disasters caused by chemicals or combustible dust 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: _____

Union members, their families, and their communities require a strong commitment by elected officials to protect the right to vote from infringement, delay, or other efforts to disenfranchise their voice at the ballot box. Will you:

- **Support** or **oppose** access to early voting and no-excuse mail-in ballots
- **Support** or **oppose** same-day voter registration
- **Support** or **oppose** efforts to purge voting roles
- **Support** or **oppose** automatic voter registration
- **Support** or **oppose** burdensome ID requirements that incur a cost to casting a ballot

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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 have led to a decline in legislation passing. Amendment votes as percentage of votes in the Senate have decreased by 46 percent since the early 1990s. 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 the space below for additional comments.

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