

**2018 Washington State Labor Council Candidate Questionnaire**

**Name:** Click here to add text

**Candidate for what office:** Click here to add text

**Party Affiliation:** Click here to add text

**Political Background** *(offices held or currently hold, offices ran for, party positions, etc.)*:

Click here to add text

**Community or Organizational Memberships** *(past and present):* Click here to add text

**Current Occupation:** Click here to add text

**Current Employer:** Click here to add text

**Are you currently or have you ever been a member of a labor organization?** Click here to add text

**If yes, which labor organization?** Click here to add text

**Campaign Information**

**Campaign Address:** Click here to add text **City:** Click here to add text**Zip:**

**Campaign Phone:** Click here to add text **Home Phone:** Click here to add text

**Email Address:** Click here to add text **Website Address**: Click here to add text

**Campaign Manager:** Click here to add text **Phone Number:** Click here to add text

**Treasurer:** Click here to add text **Phone Number:** Click here to add text

**Consultant:** Click here to add text **Phone Number:** Click here to add text

**Printer:** Click here to add text **Mail House:** Click here to add text

**Sign Shop:** Click here to add text

*opeiu8/afl-cio*

**Name:** Click here to add text

**Signature:** Click here to add text

**Date:** Click here to add text

**Union Representation:** Recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings have undermined workers’ abilities to negotiate with their employers. By imposing “Right-to-Work” policies from the bench, the Courts have forced unions to provide services for free to all workers, regardless of whether or not they pay union fees. This undermines unions’ ability to raise funds, and effectively weakens their negotiating power.

*How would you respond to “Right to Work” attacks in Washington State and demonstrate your support for workers to join together to strengthen their voices at work? Would you support innovative reforms to state level employment law to create new avenues for workers to organize? If so what kind of reforms would you propose implementing to protect unions? Do you commit to supporting public employee’s contract fights?*

Click here to add text

**Economic Climate:** Washington is considered a high-skill, high-wage state and has one of the highest standards of living in the country. In 2014, Forbes ranked Washington as the 8th best state in the country in which to do business, and in 2017 CNBC ranked Washington #1, with much of this business coming from the Puget Sound area. But at the same time, may business associations decry our state as bad for business claiming wages are too high and workers’ compensation and unemployment insurance benefits are too generous.

*How do you view Washington’s economic climate? How would you make our economy stronger in office? How would you propose to bolster Washington’s economy outside of the Puget Sound/Seattle area?*

Click here to add text

**Climate Change:** The two greatest challenges we face as humans and as workers on this planet are global climate change, and income inequality. As the average global temperature increases, those of us with the least means will surely carry the greatest burden. Policies to address climate change have the potential to displace workers in the fossil fuel and coal industries. At this critical point in time, workers, communities of color, climate activists, and forward-looking governments around the world have an opportunity to grow jobs, protect the most vulnerable and address climate change.  *As an elected official will you commit yourself to supporting policies to reduce carbon emissions by investing in low-carbon jobs in the much needed green energy, water and transportation infrastructure? How would you ensure that these policies will not disproportionately affect communities that depend upon work in carbon-intensive industries? Would you support a transition program to maintain wages, retirement, and healthcare, and help displaced workers find work in environmentally friendly industries? How?*

Click here to add text

**Protecting Immigrant Workers and Communities:** The AFL-CIO and Washington State Labor Council support working people with temporary protections granted by the executive branch through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Temporary Protected Status programs. By extending relief and work authorization to more than a million people, DACA and TPS have helped prevent unscrupulous employers from using unprotected workers to drive down wages and conditions for all workers in our country. Rather than terminating these successful programs, we need to extend protections that allow people to live and work without fear and afford them the status to assert their rights on the job.

*What role should the Washington State legislature play in helping ensure safer workplaces, building a stronger economic future, and supporting the basic rights and dignity of all working people? Would you support legislation to draw clear lines of separation between immigration enforcement and local and state law enforcement?*

Click here to add text

**Health Care:** The Affordable are Act (ACA) has made great strides to cover the underinsured and uninsured. However, there are still over 500,000 uninsured and underinsured Washingtonians in our state, and about half don’t qualify for subsidized coverage due to immigration status. Additionally, some large employers are pushing their low-wage workers and their dependents onto Medicaid without paying a dime in penalties. Given the shortcomings of the ACA, momentum around the country is gaining for a “Medicare for All” universal health care system that phases in coverage by first lowering the age of coverage to 55 and expanding benefits to cover  vision, dental, and hearing.”

*Do you support the ACA, which has helped nearly 9 million Americans gain coverage? Do you support improving it to expand access to affordable health care coverage for even more? Do you support moving towards a “Medicare for All” health care system? Why or why not?*

Click here to add text

**Retirement Security:**  For several decades, Americans’ ability to retire with dignity has been eroding. As employers have taken defined-benefit pensions away, and high-fee 401(k) plans have become increasingly common, workers have found themselves without the means to retire decently.
*As an elected official, how would you address the retirement crisis? Would you commit to opposing efforts to cap existing pensions and replacing them with savings plans that guarantee no benefit at retirement? What policies would you propose to ensure that our elderly can live with security after retirement?*

Click here to add text

***Yes/No Section:*** In this section, please respond with either **“Yes” or “No”** regarding your stance on these important policy issues.

1. **Revenue:** Washington has faced a structural budget deficit for more than a decade. Our system of taxes and tax exemptions doesn’t raise sufficient revenue to cover the social, educational, health, public safety and infrastructure needs of our growing population. In addition, our tax structure is considered to be the most regressive in the nation. Yet, the most common tax policies passed by the Legislature have been to create special tax breaks for big businesses. Most egregiously, the 2003 and 2013 aerospace tax incentives created record setting tax breaks for Boeing and its suppliers, while failing to secure job growth – or even job maintenance – in this sector in Washington State.

*Would you support tying tax incentives to job creation here in Washington?* **[ ] Yes or [ ] No**

*Would you support a more progressive tax structure?* **[ ] Yes or [ ] No**

**Contracting of Public Services:** Some argue that state government should be reduced in size. They support privatizing certain state functions such as the state printing office, state prisons, centers for the developmentally disabled, and more. In general, unions have opposed these efforts because they replace family wage public service jobs with low-paid private sector jobs, don’t necessarily save the state money once private profits are added to the cost of services, and in addition the quality of service is lower.
*Would you oppose the privatization of public services?* **[ ] Yes or [ ] No** *o

Would you support government workers and work to protect their jobs?* **[ ] Yes or [ ] No**

1. **Prevailing Wage:** The Office of Financial Management - State Human Resources (State HR) is required by law (RCW 41.06.160) to conduct a salary survey to determine the prevailing pay rates for jobs that are comparable to state classified general. According to the 2016 Survey conducted by the Office of Financial Management, 99% of surveyed state salary positions are below the market value, with 66% being more than 25% below.

*As an elected official, will you work to ensure state employees are paid a prevailing wage reflecting fair market value for their services?* **[ ] Yes or [ ] No**

1. **Wage Theft:** It is illegal to not pay or to underpay workers, but many times workers are forced to work off the clock and are not paid their owed wages. The state is also shortchanged in unpaid taxes, unemployment insurance, workers’ compensation premiums, and general revenue. There is currently no administrative remedy to protect workers who were retaliated against for speaking up about wage theft.
*As an elected official, would you commit to addressing wage theft and enforcing the minimum wage?* **[ ] Yes or [ ] No**

*Have you ever experienced wage theft?* **[ ] Yes or [ ] No**

1. **Gig/Task Based Economy:** The National Labor Relations Act excludes workers classified as “Independent Contractors” from organizing under the NLRA. Increasingly though, more and more employers, especially in the emerging task based economy are misclassifying workers as independent contractors. This misclassification exploits workers, weakens Unions, severely hinders worker’s rights, and limits workers access to Union representation.
*Would you support legal and political efforts by these workers to form and join a labor organization***? [ ] Yes or [ ] No**
2. **Rest breaks:** Under state rule, an employee may not be required to work more than three hours without a paid rest break. The current rules stipulate that workers should receive at least a ten minute, uninterrupted rest break unless the nature of the work permits the use of intermittent breaks that add up to ten minutes. Widespread evidence across industries reveals that workers are not getting ten minutes of uninterrupted breaks and that the intermittent break rule has resulted in workers simply not getting breaks at work.
*Would you propose policies to ensure workers are not being exploited and are getting their mandated 10 minute break every three hours?* **[ ] Yes or [ ] No**
3. **Apprenticeships:** Washington State has more than 300 occupations with apprenticeship standards in fields ranging from construction to health care to aerospace manufacturing to the culinary arts. Apprenticeships are 2-5 year programs – commonly funded by employers and employees, not the state – that combine on-the-job training with classroom hours. New workers (“apprentices”) work under the supervision of experienced (“journey level”) workers.  *Would you promote union apprenticeship opportunities?* **[ ] Yes or [ ] No**

**Please explain why the Washington State Labor Council and its members should endorse you. This statement may be shared with affiliates and members in internal election materials.**

Click here to add text