

Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation AFL-CIO
Dutchess Central Labor Council, Hudson-Catskill Central Labor Council,
Rockland Central Labor Council & Upper Hudson Central Labor Council

Questionnaire for Candidates 2019
Return Questionnaire to: soxford@hvalf.org

The Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation AFL-CIO represents over 113,000 union members and working families in Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan and Ulster Counties. We are non-partisan and our only goal is to represent the interest of our members, their families, and the thousands of working men and women who strive for good jobs, a healthy economy and a secure future. When reviewing this questionnaire, please feel free to call on us for background on an issue that you are unfamiliar with or need clarification on. Please also attach a resume and campaign literature to your submission (if available.)

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Candidate for _____ District# _____ Incumbent? _____

Home Telephone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

E-mail address _____

Profession/Occupation _____

Employer _____

Are you a union member? _____

If so, which International? _____ Which Local? _____

Are you currently endorsed by any unions; if so, which ones? _____

Please list union leaders that you have sought/will seek input from when developing legislative goals and priorities

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION:

Address of Campaign Headquarters

Campaign Manager's name _____

Campaign manager's contact number and email address _____

Party Affiliation _____ Other lines? _____

Are you in a primary? _____ If yes, which lines? _____

Have you run for political office before? _____

Who are your opponents? _____

Do you know your "win number"? How many vote do you need to win. _____

How much money do you foresee that you will need to raise? _____

RIGHT TO ORGANIZE:

1. What is your position on **workers' right to organize**?

2. How do you feel about each union member being required to pay their **fair share to their union** since the union represents them in bargaining and in contract enforcement?

3. What is your position on **collective bargaining rights** for public employees?

4. What is your position on **collective bargaining rights** for private sector employees?

5. What actions would you personally take or have you taken to **support workers organizing to form a union** or seeking new collective bargaining agreements?

6. Have you ever **walked on a picket line** in support of workers if so, with which unions?

PREVAILING WAGES:

Do you support a prohibition on contracting for goods or **services unless a bidder pays for the prevailing wage** and why?

FARM WORKERS:

Do you believe that **farm workers** deserve the same protections under NYS labor laws as other workers, one weekly day of rest, overtime pay, collective bargaining rights, etc. and why/ why not?

IMMIGRATION:

Immigration reform is deadlocked at a national level what can you do at a local level to protect the rights of all workers.

HEALTHCARE & HOSPITAL SERVICES:

1. As we transition to modernize our health care system what can we do to support healthcare workers' wages, benefits, rights and standards?

2. How would you help support an equitable rate for reimbursement of hospital services?

SAFE STAFFING:

Would you support legislation to regulate and enforce **nurse-to-patient ratios** to maintain quality of care standards? Why?

COUNTY MEDICAID FUNDING:

Are you aware that for every dollar spent by the County on Medicaid that there are both NYS and Federal matches that increase the amount of funding available through Medicaid for our communities. Given this Medicaid funding match formula, what is your view towards local funding for Medicaid and how it supports access to quality healthcare for the residents living in our communities?

EDUCATION:

1. What do you think can be done to ensure **proper funding for our public schools** while still living within the mandated tax cap? Do you support a real 2% tax cap?

2. Do you support repealing the supermajority override with a simple majority of 50%?

3. Do you think that **standardized tests**, produced by for profit organizations, are the best way to evaluate how well a student is doing in school?

4. What is your stance on **Charter Schools**?

TAYLOR LAW:

1. What is your understanding of the **Taylor Law**? Do you support it?

2. What is your understanding of the **Triborough Amendment**? Do you Support it?

PRIVATIZATION & SHARED SERVICES:

1. Are you for or against the **privatization of public services** and why?

If yes, which services?

2. What would you do to ensure that wages, benefits and workers' rights are not reduced through privatization?

3. Do you support responsible contract language that restricts municipalities, or public intuitions from hiring contractors involved in wage theft or contract disputes?

5. Do you support Shared Services? Why or why not?

PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS:

Project Labor Agreements are comprehensive agreements between a municipality and/or developer and jurisdictional Building Trades Council that set requirements for a building project. PLAs save money by guaranteeing no strikes or picketing, that correct wages are paid, and that unscrupulous contractors won't victimize the project. PLA projects guarantee unions will work together so the project is of higher quality are usually finished on or before schedule, use community labor and are often below budget. What will you do to support local project labor agreements in your municipality?

TAXES:

1. When is it inappropriate to give **tax breaks** to large corporations and developers? For how long and under what conditions?

2. Do you support tax breaks or other benefits for **volunteer emergency services** workers and why?

3. What do you think should be done to help struggling communities, municipalities and school districts stay within the cap and still be able to provide adequate services?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

1. Do you support, as a condition of receiving economic development assistance, requiring companies to make commitments to provide good jobs (jobs that pay a living wage, provide benefits, etc) and commitments to stay in the community for a certain period of time?

2. Will you support local hiring as a priority for companies who receive economic benefits and incentives?

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES:

Industrial Development Agencies are an economic development program that should promote job creation and business retention in our communities. When abused, however, IDAs waste taxpayer dollars and do not provide a good return on our public investment, while placing local property taxpayers at risk for questionable business ventures.

1. Should IDAs be more closely monitored and do you support adding “clawback” provisions when IDAs do not live up to their agreements?

2. Will you promote for prevailing wages, benefits and NYS approved apprenticeship language on private and public projects that receive IDA monies?

3. On county and municipal projects, will you seek advice of the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation unions before taking a stance?

COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND STATE COLLEGES:

1. Who should be responsible to pay for a public higher education?

2. What is your position on full time vs. part time teaching positions in the public colleges?

SOCIAL SECURITY:

1. Do you favor introducing 401Ks to replace the Social Security system?

2. Do you think it would be better to raise the retirement eligibility age or raise the annual salary cap in order to strengthen social security?

3. Do you think the monthly payment for recipients of social security should keep up with the cost of living?

PLEASE GIVE YOUR POSITION OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. Labor Appointments Would you appoint or have you, appointed representatives of organized labor to boards and commissions to ensure working people have a full voice in public policy decisions and will you seek the input from this Central Labor Council in making choices for members of these boards and commissions?

2. Please list any labor appointments you have made in the past

3. Do you have a plan for both infrastructure improvements and appropriate funding sources, (e.g. road and bridge repairs, improving broad band and internet access in some of the more rural areas?)

4. Do you have a plan for Urban Renewal, Economic Development, and Revitalization of the urban and rural areas within the area you are hoping to serve?

5. As candidate or elected official do you have a response to **Janus decision** for public workers?

What are the top three legislative priorities for the community you hope to represent? How will you achieve your vision and/or priorities? Who would you involve in the planning process.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Why do you want the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation and the Central Labor Council endorsement?

What else would you like our members to know about you?

Candidate Signature

Date