

2021 SEIU Municipal Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire

Service Employees International Union – Connecticut State Council
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Must be completed in full and submitted by July 31

After you have completed the questionnaire, you must click the "Submit" button at the bottom of the page. If you do not click the "Submit" button, your questionnaire will not be received.

* Required



Name, Contact, and General Information

Name *

Your answer



Address *

Your answer

Municipality *

Your answer

State *

Your answer

Zip Code *

Your answer

Office Sought *

Your answer

Cell Phone Number *

Your answer



Email Address *

Your answer

What is your occupation? Who is your employer? *

Your answer

Who is your campaign consultant or firm? *

Your answer

Campaign Manager Name *

Your answer

Campaign Manager Cell Phone Number *

Your answer

Campaign Manager Email *

Your answer



Campaign Website *

Your answer

Campaign Social Media Handles (Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, etc.) *

Your answer

PAC Name *

Your answer

Treasurer's Name *

Your answer

Treasurer's Address *

Your answer

About You and Your Campaign



Why are you the best candidate and what are your qualifications for the office you are seeking? (Please include a brief bio of yourself and submit a photo(s) of yourself that can be used on campaign literature and advertising to cgeisman@seiu1199ne.org) *

Your answer

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

Your answer

Why are you seeking our endorsement? *

Your answer

What will you do to build a strong citywide team to win? *

Your answer

If you have a primary, will you support the winner of the primary if it is not you, or will you continue your candidacy on a different line (e.g. petitioning candidate)? *

Your answer

City Budget



As we continue to deal with challenges of the deadly, global COVID-19 pandemic, what is your vision of how to balance the budget of your municipality while maintaining staffing levels, pensions and healthcare? *

Your answer

Throughout the pandemic, cities and towns are asking workers to do more for less. How would you work with the front line workers and unions to find and implement savings and to preserve jobs? *

Your answer

How will you ensure that frontline workers are partners in the formulation of municipal budget proposals? *

Your answer

Would you support a municipal resolution calling for progressive tax reform in Connecticut that asks our state's wealthiest residents to pay more while also lowering taxes for poor and middle class workers? *

Yes

No

City Services and Jobs



Private companies and non-profit agencies are increasingly being used to provide public services at both the city and state levels. What is your position on privatization? *

Your answer

Would you support forming joint labor-management committees to develop plans to insource work? *

Yes

No

Should privatized jobs be required to provide comparable wages and benefits including affordable comprehensive health benefits? *

Yes

No

Smart growth seems to be on everyone's agenda. What is your position on the regionalization of services? *

Your answer



Would you oppose regionalization if it meant reducing pay and benefits, of the workers involved, to the least common denominator? *

Yes

No

What role do you envision for frontline workers in the development and implementation of any plans for regionalization? *

Your answer

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? Additionally, will you promote energy efficiency operations and maintenance training for building service workers? *

Your answer

When the city spends money or other resources on economic development activities, it should ensure that the benefits of economic development extend into the community. It is important to ensure that the permanent jobs created for the servicing and maintenance of subsidized developments are union jobs with good wages and benefits. Do you commit to ensuring that businesses that receive subsidies provide workers with standard wages and benefits and /or hire responsible contractors that provide workers with standard wages, benefits and paid leave? *

Yes

No



Do you support Project Labor Agreements for City construction projects? *

Yes

No

Do you support the State Law of Prevailing Wage? *

Yes

No

SEIU members know that rapidly rising income inequality – the widening gap between the top 1% and the rest of us - is the key economic and social problem facing our state and nation. This inequality has been exacerbated as a result of the pandemic as we have seen the super rich accumulate even more wealth and working people struggling to make ends meet.

Would you support a “living wage” ordinance to ensure that contractors and developers doing business with your town and receiving public funds would pay their employees a living wage and provide affordable health insurance? *

Yes

No

As a state with one of the highest rates of income inequality in the nation, what role do you see elected municipal officials playing in addressing this issue state wide? *

Your answer



Contracts, Negotiations, and Collective Bargaining

Would you require, as a condition of procuring a contract to a private entity to provide public services; that the contractor agrees to neutrality and majority sign-up in union organizing efforts? *

Yes

No

What would you do to make sure that employee contracts are bargained in good faith and in a timely manner? Do you support any changes to binding arbitration, and if so, what are those changes? *

Your answer

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? *

Your answer

Will you publicly support the right of workers to organize a union and sign the following statement of principles for public officials? *

Yes

No



COST and CCM have become ideologically anti-union and anti-public employee organizations, in recent years. Is your municipality a member? Would you support canceling your town's membership? *

Your answer

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 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 community.

· 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.

Electronic Signature *

Your answer

Immigration and Diversity

Immigrants are a growing portion of Connecticut's population and workforce. Initiatives to require local law enforcement to cooperate in enforcement of Federal immigration laws have a chilling impact on immigrant communities, undermining efforts at fostering community-police cooperation and undermining civil and labor rights. In 2013, Connecticut became a national leader and passed a state TRUST Act to restore trust between communities and local law enforcement. In 2019, the law was amended and strengthened. In order to ensure local resources are not wasted on costly lawsuits and that police-community relations are strengthened, would you support a local TRUST policy that closes any gaps that exist in the State law? *

Yes

No



In response to the deaths of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and countless others, Connecticut residents have collectively mobilized to say, "Black lives matter." Communities of Color deserve accountability, transparency, and respect from the police -- the people who are charged with serving and protecting all Connecticut residents. All over the country and in Connecticut as well, communities are calling for an end to police brutality, an end to the over criminalization of communities of color and transparency and accountability in policing practices. Will you support community led initiatives to guarantee safety and freedom from harassment for communities of color? *

Yes

No

Education

Paraeducators are some of the most important workers in our public schools. Unfortunately, they are also often among the lowest paid workers in a municipality. What will you do to help improve wages, benefits, and the overall career development opportunities for paraeducators? *

Your answer

Healthcare

Do you support your municipality joining the Connecticut Partnership Plan to lower healthcare costs while expanding access to vital benefits? *

Your answer



Will you commit to submitting a Partnership Plan application to determine the cost of joining? *

Yes

No

Electronic Signature *

Your answer

Submit

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