



UFCW LOCAL 655 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES

WORKER RIGHTS

1. **Right to Organize**

The right to collectively organize is enshrined in federal law. Working people can no longer count on the fundamental freedom they were guaranteed in 1935 by the National Labor Relations Act. The rights of workers to organize a union did more than build a labor movement – it promoted the growth of the American middle class and became an essential underpinning of our democracy.

Will you speak out and act in support of the right of workers in Missouri and the U.S. to organize a union, both in private and public sectors, and help build public support for improving our nation’s labor law?

YES _____ NO _____

Do you support the current “Employee Free Choice Act” right to become a Union member without going through the election process?

YES _____ NO _____

2. **Neutrality Agreement**

Many municipalities have taken the approach that any development that receives a tax subsidy or tax credits for building must be built with a Project Labor Agreement (PLA).

Would you favor an ordinance that any retail development receiving a tax subsidy or tax credits must enter into a Neutrality Agreement which would allow Labor Unions access to their retail employees and agree to recognize and negotiate with a Labor Union if a majority of their employees signed an authorization card?

YES _____ NO _____

3. **Healthcare**

Some large, profitable companies like Wal-Mart shirk their responsibility to provide affordable, quality health insurance for their employees. They encourage employees, who are eligible, due to low wages, to sign up for publicly-funded health coverage and expect Missouri taxpayers to foot the bill to cover healthcare costs for a substantial number of their employees and family members.

Would you support Fair Share Health Care legislation that requires large employers to pay a portion of the cost of family coverage for their employees, or cover the cost to the state of any employees who are faced to seek publicly-funded health coverage such as Medicaid?

YES _____ NO _____

4. **Board and Commission Appointments**

Many decisions in local municipalities have dramatic effects on members of Local 655 and working men and women. In the past, there has been little or no voice for labor and the working class on municipal boards and commissions.

Will you support appointing members of UFCW LOCAL 655 and/or members of other Labor Unions to boards and commissions such as Park Board, Planning and Zoning, Library etc.?

YES _____ NO _____

5. **Wages**

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) was enacted in 1938 to ensure that American workers receive a basic minimum wage and overtime. The FLSA was also created to prevent exploitation of workers by withholding their pay, making illegal deductions, or forcing them to work without compensation. It was also intended to prevent exploitative child labor, as our nation made education the priority for our children.

Will you support efforts to index the minimum wage to prevent diminishing its value?

YES _____ NO _____

Will you support legislation to prohibit the U.S. Department of Labor from promulgating regulatory changes which would reduce overtime protection for workers?

YES _____ NO _____

Will you support a living wage bill ordinance in your Municipality (where employers employing over a certain number of employees are required to pay a living wage)?

YES _____ NO _____

6. **Wal-Mart**

Wal-Mart, the world's largest private sector employer, has been a primarily negative influence in the workplace, the marketplace, the local community and the global community. The issues are numerous and instances may be provided showing the negative economic impact to local businesses, to the community and to the people. Wal-Mart must be governed to accept their corporate responsibility at the workplace. Wal-Mart shifts the cost burden to the American taxpayer as their workers are forced to get their healthcare coverage through state Medicaid programs. Wal-Mart further drains communities of their tax dollars by fighting for and demanding subsidies in the construction of their stores. The facts are available.

Congress strives to ensure that the division between commerce and banking remains unbreakable. In spite of this, Wal-Mart persists in their efforts to enter banking despite the opposition of; bankers, consumers, small business, and union. It has also been criticized by the Federal Reserve. If elected:

Will you support an ordinance that would require large employers to pay their fair share for healthcare?

YES _____ NO _____

Will you oppose efforts to permit the mixing of commerce and banking?

YES _____ NO _____

Will you oppose sweetheart deals between agencies and corporations which undermine workplace law enforcement, particularly child labor laws?

YES _____ NO _____

Will you support an ordinance that requires large corporations to report what they are spending on healthcare costs for their employees?

YES _____ NO _____

Will you support an ordinance banning big box operators such as Wal-Mart in your community?

YES _____ NO _____

Will you support an ordinance that would require environmental and/or economic impact studies prior to the approval of big box operators such as Wal-Mart?

YES _____ NO _____

Candidate: The questions included in this survey are representative of issues and concerns to members of United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local 655.

Thank you for your responses to these questions. Please feel free to add additional comments on added paper or feel free to contact UFCW Local 655's Legislative & Political Representatives at 636-394-6500 or 1-800-882-6560 should you have questions or need additional information.

Candidate Name: _____ Signature: _____

Position Filed For: _____

Campaign Name: _____

E-mail: _____ Staff Contact: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____