



Connecticut Working Families Party
2009 Endorsement Questionnaire

Candidate: _____

Office: _____ Party: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name of your campaign Committee: _____

Are you an incumbent? _____ Do you have a primary? _____

Basic Information

1. Why are you running for this office and what would be your top three priorities if elected?

2. If you are an incumbent, what are your most important accomplishments that are important to working class and middle class families in your town, and how do your policy issues, voting record and agenda reflect the priorities of Connecticut Working Families?

Jobs and Employment

1. A growing number of municipalities throughout the state and throughout the country have enacted Living Wage ordinances that require businesses receiving city contracts and tax breaks to pay employees a living wage and to provide health insurance.

Do you support or oppose a living wage policy?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Not sure
- Oppose

2. Do you support responsible contractor standards that ensure that municipal construction projects and service contracts are performed by contractors that have demonstrated responsible employment practices such as payment of prevailing wages, compliance with state and local labor laws, and not misclassifying employees as independent contractors?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Not sure
- Oppose

3. Do you support the right of all workers to organize unions and bargain collectively for better wages, hours, and working conditions?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Not sure
- Oppose

4. Do you support binding arbitration in its current form?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Not sure
- Oppose

5. Will you oppose any efforts to undermine or abrogate collective bargaining rights of municipal employees?

- Strongly oppose
- Oppose
- Not sure
- Support

Housing

1. Do you support inclusionary zoning legislation that requires housing developments that receive municipal economic development assistance of any kind to include an affordable unit set-aside with income affordability ranging from less than the federal poverty level for a family of four up to the median family income for the county?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Not sure
- Oppose

2. If such a policy were proposed in your municipality, what % of affordable units would you support as the minimum required by the policy?

- 15%
- 20%
- 25%
- 30%

3. Do you support using community development block grants or other city funds for loan counseling and housing counseling services for first time home buyers?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Not sure
- Oppose

4. Do you support using community development block grants or other city funds for outreach services to inform residents in your municipality of the State of Connecticut's foreclosure mediation program?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Not sure
- Oppose

Economic Development

1. Do you support legislation that would require the city to conduct a comprehensive economic impact analysis prior to granting any zoning or other approvals for large retail establishments?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Not sure
- Oppose

2. Do you support legislation that requires any development project receiving city assistance to hire area residents and meet wage and benefit standards for the permanent jobs created at the development?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Not sure
- Oppose

Budget and Tax Policy

1. Will you use your office to speak out in support of more progressive taxation, property tax reform, and a state Earned Income Tax Credit?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Not sure
- Oppose

2. As municipalities struggle with deep budget deficits, what proposals would you be most likely to support in order to balance your municipal/board of education budget? Please explain your answer.

- Layoffs
- Service Reductions
- Negotiated Labor Concessions
- Tax Increases
- Other

Explain: _____

3. Will you earmark city funding to support Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) provide free tax services for low- and moderate-income tax filers?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Not sure
- Oppose

4. Will you support efforts to maintain municipal and/or board of education retiree benefits?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Not sure
- Oppose

5. Will you use your office to oppose efforts to place a cap on municipal budget increases as was proposed by Governor Rell?

- Strongly oppose
- Oppose
- Not Sure
- Support

Education

1. Do you support ensuring that every class has a highly qualified, certified teacher as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001?
 - Strongly support
 - Support
 - Not sure
 - Oppose

2. Do you support establishing a teacher mentor program, including one full-time master teacher/mentor for every twelve teachers to ensure quality teacher retention in public schools?
 - Strongly support
 - Support
 - Not sure
 - Oppose

3. Do you support outreach programs that would increase parental involvement, enable parents to have real input into principal and teacher hiring as well as the school budget and programs, and provide real support to parent-teacher organizing?
 - Strongly support
 - Support
 - Not sure
 - Oppose

4. School district support staff play a critical role in the education system. Do you support requirements that these workers – whether in-house or contracted out – such as school custodians, cafeteria workers, and bus drivers be paid living wages with benefits and have access to training?
 - Strongly support
 - Support
 - Not sure
 - Oppose

Environment/Green Jobs

1. Do you support a “Green Jobs/Green Homes” program that helps residential property owners retrofit their property for energy efficiency, saving money and improving the environment?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Not sure
- Oppose

2. Will you ensure that “green jobs” such as construction, HVAC, and other jobs associated with green buildings and retrofits are also good jobs that pay a living wage with benefits?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Not sure
- Oppose

Other

Please add any other comments about your candidacy and why our organization should endorse you:

Signature

Signature

Date

Note: If you have not been endorsed by Working Families before, you must provide a signed “candidate statement of consent” form (attached) with the office you are seeking in order to obtain nominating petitions required to place your name on the Working Families line on the ballot. If you have questions about this process, please call our office at (860) 523-1699.

