

**UFCW LOCAL 655 QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR
MISSOURI STATE 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 U.S. to organize a union, both in the private and public sectors, and help build public support for improving our nation's labor laws?

YES _____ NO _____

Do you support the current "employee free choice act" right to become a Union members with out going through the election process?

YES _____ NO _____

2. **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 ineligible, 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 firms of 10,000 or more employees to pay 80 percent of the cost of family coverage for their employees, or cover the cost to the state of any employees who are forced to seek publicly-funded health coverage such as Medicaid?

YES _____ NO _____

3. **"Right to Work for less" Laws**

The National Labor Relations Act was created in 1935 to govern private sector labor/management relations related to union organizing and collective bargaining. A vital part of that Act included the right of a union to negotiate a union security clause with an employer; requiring all workers who are covered by the agreement to share in the costs of union representation. A union must represent everyone in a bargaining unit and all receive the negotiated benefits, so Congress found it fair that everyone should contribute financially to the organization.

"Right to Work" laws don't create a single job or grant entitlement to employment. It doesn't take long for a "right to work" law to translate into lower wages and benefits, a diminished standard of living, and weaker labor rights and protections for workers. All of this has been documented in states with such laws.

Would you vote against so-called "right to work" legislation in Missouri?

YES _____ NO _____

4. **Public Education**

School Voucher Proposals: Public Education remains the fundamental right of every citizen and tax dollars should not be diverted to subsidize private schools. Public schools are for everyone. The solution is not to abandon public schools but rather to establish adequate funding sources for quality schools.

Do you oppose school vouchers funded with taxpayer dollars that are used for private school education?

YES _____ NO _____

5. **Wages**

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) was enacted in 1938 to ensure that American workers receive a basis minimum wage and overtime. The FLSA was also created to prevent the 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 raise the minimum wage from its current rates?

YES _____ NO _____

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 _____

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 costs burden to the American taxpayer as their workers are forced to get their healthcare coverage through state Medicaid programs. Wal-Mart further drains community 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 legislation 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 smart growth policies which promote retail diversity and community development over large national chain big box retailers?

YES _____ NO _____

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

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: _____

Missouri District # _____ Campaign Name: _____

E-mail: _____ Staff Contact: _____

Address: _____ City _____ Missouri Zip Code: _____

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