

Westchester/Putnam Central Labor Body AFL-CIO Questionnaire for Candidates 2023

Westchester/Putnam Central Labor Body AFL-CIO
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VILLAGE CANDIDATES

- 2/15/23: Questionnaire link is available and sent to the head of each county/town/city/village political party
- **3/3/23: Last day to submit questionnaire for village elections**
(Once questionnaire is received, WPCLB will contact candidate to schedule an in person interview – interviews will take place for *village candidates* on 3/6/23)
- Village Candidates MUST be interviewed by 3/7/23
- 3/8/23: Endorsement for Village Candidates @ WPCLB Meeting
- 3/21/23: Village Election Day

LOCAL CANDIDATES/LOCAL JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

- 2/15/23: Questionnaire link is available and sent to the head of each county/town/city/village political party
- **3/24/23: Last day to submit questionnaire for local elections**
(Once questionnaire is received, WPCLB will contact candidate to schedule an in person interview)
- Primary Candidates MUST be interviewed by 4/19/23
- 4/19/23: Endorsements begin @ WPCLB Meeting
- Remaining Candidates MUST be interviewed by 5/10/23
- 5/10/23: Final Endorsement Vote @ WPCLB Meeting
- 6/27/23: Primary Election Day
- 11/7/23: General Election Day

STATE CANDIDATES/STATE JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

Dates/questionnaires to be shared when confirmed

*** You may type your answers in the fields, save and forward to jennifer@wpclb.org or you may type your answers, print the file and send a hard copy to the address above.**

The Westchester/Putnam Central Labor Body represents over 100,000 union members and working families in both Westchester and Putnam Counties and beyond. 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. Please also attach a resume to your submission (if available.)

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Are you in a Primary? _____

Which lines? _____

Name

Address

City _____ **Zip** _____

Candidate for _____ **District#** _____ **Incumbent ?** _____

Cell Phone # _____ **E-mail address** _____

Campaign Manager's name _____

Campaign manager's contact number and email address

Please provide your social media account names/platforms used:

Party Affiliation _____ **Other lines?** _____

Who are your opponents?

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

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

PATH TO VICTORY

How many volunteers do you have? _____

How many voters are in your district? _____

How many votes are needed to win your election? _____

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

What is your position on workers' right to organize?

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

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

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

EDUCATION

Who should be responsible to fund public Pre-K, K, elementary and high schools?

Do you know the difference between public and private charter schools?_____.

What is your position on charter schools?

Should the number of charter schools be expanded?_____

Should charter schools be subject to the same accountability and teacher certification requirements that public schools are? _____

Would magnet schools within a public school system be a good alternative to charter schools? _____

What do you think can be done to ensure proper funding for our public schools?

What steps can be taken to ensure a quality education for our children?

What is the fairest way to evaluate teachers?

What do you think the reasons are for lower test scores in some inner-city schools?

Do you think that test scores are the only way to evaluate how well a student is doing in school?

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

What is your position on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) training?

UNION ISSUES

What is the Taylor Law?

Do you believe the Triborough Amendment to the Taylor Law should be repealed and why?

Privatization: Are you for or against the privatization of public services and why?

If yes, which services?

Do you support New York State amending the law on training requirements for both Career and Volunteer Firefighters up to and including the rank of Fire Chief so that the requirements are significantly similar?

Economic Development: 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?

Would you support a requirement that contractors providing services offer employment to displaced workers?

Immigration reform is long overdue. What would you like to see in a final law?

Do you think any policy or training changes are needed for police departments?

If yes, please explain:

With the recent passage of MRTA (*legalization of adult-use marijuana), how can workers in that industry be supported in your community?

TAX BREAKS/TAX CAP

Do you support tax breaks for developers, and if yes, for how long and under what conditions?

What do you think should be done to help struggling communities, municipalities and school districts stay within the 2% or less tax cap and still be able to provide adequate services?

BUILDING TRADES

Industrial Development Agencies are an economic development scheme 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. Should IDAs be more closely monitored and do you support adding “clawback” provisions when IDAs do not live up to their agreements?

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

Project Labor Agreements are comprehensive agreements between a municipality and/or developer and a 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. Are you for or against project labor agreements and why?

SOCIAL SECURITY

Do you favor introducing 401Ks as part of the Social Security system? _____
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?

Do you think the monthly payment for recipients of social security should be further raised? _____

STATE YOUR POSITION

Expansion of Westchester County Airport

Accessibility of Mental Health Services

Healthcare for All

Why do you think some industries are struggling to find employees?

Whose responsibility is it to address employee mental and emotional health needs?

How can we reduce the stigma attached to seeking help for mental and behavioral health issues?

What do you know about Tier VI?

Should Tier VI be amended and if yes, in what ways?

Climate change is affecting us all. List some ideas you have as it relates to sustainability measures in your community:

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?

Please list any labor appointments you have made in the past

What are your top three legislative priorities?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Why do you want the Westchester/Putnam Central Labor Body's endorsement?

If/when you are elected, what do you see as the main way you can assist in reviving the economy?

What will you do assist in creating good jobs for those most affected by the recent reductions in available opportunities?

Signature

Date

***REMINDER: Check the deadlines on page 1 – we cannot accept any submissions past the deadline.**