

National Union of Healthcare Workers Questionnaire for 2018 California State Constitutional Offices

To help NUHW assess your candidacy for state office, we ask you to complete this questionnaire.

BACKGROUND

Name: John Chiang	Candidate for: <u>Governor</u>
Home Address:	Personal Phone and E-mail:
Current Occupation: State Treasurer	Employer: State of California
Work Address:	Work Phone:
Campaign Address: 16633 Ventura Blvd. Encino	Campaign Phone:
Campaign Website: Johnchiang.com	Campaign E-mail:
Campaign Consultants: SG&A	Campaign Contact Name: Kate Chapek
Campaign FPPC Number:	Political Party: Democrat

1. Please list any elected or appointed public offices you previously have held.

California State Board of Equalization (1999-2007)

State Controller (2007-2015)

State Treasurer (2015-Present)

2. Please list any key volunteer organizational leadership roles you have played.

Board member of Planned Parenthood Los Angeles

Big Sisters of Los Angeles

The Ethnic Coalition

Organization of Chinese Americans

Asian Pacific American Labor Allowance

3. Briefly describe your educational background and prior work experience.

I graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in finance, then attended Georgetown University for Law School. After graduating from

Georgetown University Law Center, I began my career as a tax law specialist with the Internal Revenue Service and later served as an attorney in the State Controller's Office.

4. Are you currently a union member? To which if any unions have you belonged? If you have been a union member, were you an officer, steward, bargaining committee member or activist?

I am not currently a union member, but was once a member of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU).

5. What significant endorsements have you received from organizations and individuals? (**Some of these are not public yet, please embargo**)

Speaker Anthony Rendon

Congressman Lou Correa

Congresswoman Judy Chu

Congressman Ted Lieu

Congressman Alan Lowenthal

Congressman Brad Sherman

State Assemblymember Jim Cooper

State Assemblymember Evan Low

Los Angeles Councilmember Jose Huizar

Santa Barbara County Supervisor Das Williams

State Senator Bob Weickowski

Former Congressman Mike Honda

Former Congressman Mel Levine

Operating Engineers Local 12

Operating Engineers Local 39

California Association of Professional Employees (CAPE, AFL- CIO)

Northern California Regional Council of Carpenters

6. How much money have you raised to date? How much do you aim to raise?

GOV Account: \$6,853,169

Treasurer Account COH: \$3,218,983.69

Total: \$10,072,152.69

7. Have you conducted a poll? If yes, please provide relevant information from the findings.
See attachment

8. Beyond our public endorsement, what specific support are you seeking from NUHW?

In addition to the honor of receiving your endorsement I would seek your financial support along with field, communications, and GOTV support to encourage your members, households, and the general public to vote.

OVERVIEW

1. Why are you a candidate for this office and why are you seeking NUHW's endorsement?

My parents were immigrants who came to this country dreaming of a better future for their family. They never dreamed that one day their son might run for governor of this great state. I'm running for governor to make sure the future my parents were able to provide for me and my siblings becomes a reality for the future of all California families. That means fighting for the millions of middle and low-income Californians, the ones who've been left behind in this economy and who wonder in disbelief at how they'll ever afford to go to college, to buy a home, to provide for children or retire with dignity. It means fighting everyday to protect health care as a fundamental right for every man, woman and child. It means working to protect the rights of workers to come together and bargain collectively for a better life. It means fighting for people who don't have a voice in our government—especially people of color, immigrants, low and middle income communities who have experienced the type of bigotry my parents faced when they came to this country so many years ago.

I'm seeking NUHW's endorsement because I truly respect the work your members do every day as leaders in the healthcare industry. From nurses, to service and technical workers, to clinicians to clerical workers, your members are on the frontlines fighting to make sure every person receives the quality health care they deserve. I could receive no higher honor than the endorsement of these heroes who save lives every day.

2. Briefly describe what will be your top legislative priorities and issue areas of focus if elected.

It's time for California to take a different road. It isn't enough to just fight back and resist the policies coming out of the Trump administration. California must continue to be the trailblazers, to foster economic innovation and build a stronger middle class for our children and grandchildren. As governor, I'll not only fight to protect the Affordable Care Act and its key protections for consumers, but to work toward universal healthcare that is affordable and accessible for everyone. We need to lead on housing affordability so families can actually afford to buy and live in a home in California. That's why I've been leading a broad coalition of advocates and housing providers to promote a statewide affordable housing effort. As governor, I will make sure that California continues to be not only a domestic leader, but an international leader in the fight against climate change. And finally, we need to lead on education. I firmly believe that strong public schools are the basis for our state's prosperity, and I will continue fighting to make community college tuition-free and help families afford a higher education.

3. What do you believe distinguishes you, over your opponents, as the best candidate for this office?

I get the job done.

My record speaks for itself and is based on the principles of accountability and transparency, and I've always done what was right for the people of California. As California State Controller, I held my own party accountable by withholding the pay of state legislators when they failed to pass a balanced state budget on time. During the great recession, I restructured our state debt to generate billions for schools, infrastructure and public safety. As a vigilant watchdog of taxpayers' money, and the most successful state Controller in California history, I identified \$9.5 billion of taxpayer dollars in waste, fraud and abuse. As Treasurer, when Wells Fargo began ripping off California families of millions of dollars, I issued sanctions against the bank. Through the Treasurer's office, we are providing millions of dollars to help build and finance thousands of affordable housing units.

Being fiscally responsible matters. I dedicated my two decades of public service to fighting for fiscally responsible policies and concrete solutions that improve the lives of and create opportunities for all Californians. When we don't balance our checkbook, Californians lives are at stake. In 2009, when California didn't balance the budget and pass it on time, we couldn't pay our health care providers in time, or in full. California needs a fiscally responsible leader, now more than ever, who has a proven track record of balancing a checkbook.

WORKERS' FREEDOM TO CHOOSE A UNION

Workers are regularly denied the freedom to choose a union due to intimidation, harassment, and other forms of coercion by their employers, and sometimes even by labor organizations. Legal remedies for such violations of workers' rights are far too little, far too late, with the result that these violations are legal and workers' organizing efforts are squashed more often than not.

4. Would you urge employers to respect workers' freedom to choose a union by:

a) remaining neutral on the question of unionization and recognizing a union as their employees' collective bargaining representative when presented with a petition demonstrating its support from a majority of the employees (frequently referred to as "card check neutrality"); or

b) agreeing to a code of conduct for a fast and fair union election that prohibits both the employer and the union from disparaging each other's motives; requires them both to make only factually accurate statements when seeking workers' support; provides them both equal physical access and equal time to discuss workers' choice of a union with them; bans inherently coercive kinds of communications, like "captive audience" meetings and one-on-one discussions with supervisors; and establishes a short election period prior to a final and binding secret ballot vote?

I strongly support the rights of workers to choose to form and join a union without fear of intimidation or retribution. I would urge employers and unions to come to the table and agree to a code of conduct that protects the fundamental rights of workers and creates a fair process for union elections to occur.

[2]

Have you ever interceded with employers to urge their adoption of one of these methods for workers to choose a union? If so, describe your experience and what you learned from it.

I have participated in multiple labor disputes. As State Treasurer, I serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of CalPERS. I was informed that one of CalPERS's health care providers was interfering in the right of workers to form a union and there appeared to be little recourse for CalPERS to meaningful remedy the situation. I asked President Feckner and the CalPERS staff to research broadening the application of the CalPERS Responsible Contractor Policy (RCP) to address this situation. Ultimately, the Board adopted language to encourage our contractors and business partners to remain neutral when their employees are determining whether collective bargaining is in their best interest. It is an important step in ensuring that companies exhibiting reasonable and responsible behavior when it comes to allowing workers to self-determine collective bargaining.

I would intercede to push for the adoption of a code of conduct when workers' freedom to choose union representation is violated.

INDUSTRY STANDARD WAGES, BENEFITS, AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Over the first years of this century, organized hospital workers throughout California established a set of industry standard wages, benefits, and working conditions that brought these caregivers, who are predominantly of women, people of color, and recent immigrants, solidly into the middle class, while also creating a stable and experienced workforce in adequate numbers to protect the wellbeing of acutely ill patients and improve the quality of care they receive.

5. In the quickly upcoming round of collective bargaining, will you publicly support NUHW members in their efforts to restore the industry standard wages, benefits, and working conditions that made California's hospital workers among the very best compensated of any in the nation?

Specifically, will you join workers in calling upon employers to restore:

- fully employer paid family health benefits
- defined benefit pensions
- a real voice in staffing levels with the right to arbitrate any disputes
- employment and income security for displaced workers
- a ban on subcontracting;
- scheduling policies that allow workers to live stable lives and maximize full time jobs?

Yes

SUPPORTING COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGNS

In order to secure the best results for workers, patients, and communities from recalcitrant employers, NUHW members often must wage comprehensive campaigns that build power in multiple venues through multiple means. Such campaigns are undertaken both to help unorganized workers assert their right to choose a union and to compel employers' agreement to industry standards. Elected officials are frequently called upon to play important roles in these efforts.

6. To support comprehensive campaigns aimed at recalcitrant employers, would you be willing to:

- meet with union organizing committee and bargaining committee members;
- sign public letters of support for the union's organizing rights or bargaining proposals;
- place phone calls to and meet with employer representatives on the union's behalf;
- attend negotiations with employers to support and help present the union's position;
- conduct facility walk-throughs to engage both workers and employers on disputed issues;
- participate in town hall meetings to highlight the union's organizing and bargaining campaigns and build support for union proposals in the press and with the public;
- participate in picket lines, marches, rallies, and vigils;
- assist in outreach to community-based organizations and faith based groups?

Yes.

Single Payer Healthcare Reform and Public Financing for Healthcare Services

Obamacare represented a critical step forward in the long struggle to win affordable, quality healthcare for all, but much work remains to be done. Even with the expansion of Medi-Cal to cover the near poor and the availability of significant subsidies to help low and middle income families purchase coverage through the state exchange, millions of working Californians will remain uninsured as the price of coverage remains too dear, especially for those living in high cost areas. Now the Washington Administration is threatening these gains and millions are likely to lose their health insurance.

7. Do you support the establishment of a single payer healthcare system as prescribed in SB 562 Californians for a Healthy California Act a publicly financed system of healthcare for all with a uniform standard of coverage that reduces costs by eliminating the profiteering, administrative waste, and marketing expenditures that accompany private insurance? Do you support the Sales Tax and revenue measures in the SB 562

financing report? How would you participate in the campaign to enact a single payer solution to our healthcare crisis?

Fundamentally, I believe that healthcare should be universal and affordable, and I wholeheartedly support establishing a single payer healthcare system in the state of California. As a progressive who can balance a check book, I believe it continuing the explore options for universal coverage but through a fiscally responsible lens. We have to be able to pay for it. First, we must fight to protect the Affordable Care Act, and we need to strengthen the Affordable Care Act to expand coverage to all. It's critical we preserve funding from the federal government to provide and protect existing healthcare provided through the ACA.

8. As you may know, NUHW members over the past several years successfully prosecuted a complaint against Kaiser Permanente for failing to provide its plan members with timely and appropriate mental health services. In prosecuting the complaint, we learned that the Department of Managed Health Care interprets current law not to require any specific timeliness standard for the scheduling of return appointments, even in mental health services where in many cases the close spacing of return appointments is necessary for the provision of clinically sound care.

Will you support NUHW members if we seek to close this loophole in the state's timely access law?

Yes, timely and accessible mental health services need to be mandated and protected for every person under a healthcare plan.

Will you support NUHW members in demanding that all members of the public have equal access to quality and affordable mental health care?

Absolutely, I think we can only move toward mental wellness for all Californians when we can guarantee equal and timely access to quality and affordable care.

Will you support NUHW members in their contract disputes to improve the quality of care?

Yes.

9. **SANCTUARY CITY AND NUHW**

NUHW recently declared itself a 'sanctuary union' and a member of the growing network of sanctuary institutions that will do everything within our power to ensure the safety and security of all members of our community regardless of their immigration status.

As a result, NUHW will:

- protect the rights and safety of every member of our union, our community and all patients including undocumented people and their families;
- will not voluntarily cooperate with federal agents to enforce immigration laws;
- pledge to stand up for, support and defend the most vulnerable among us; those deliberately targeted in the lead-up to the election; and those who have become victims of hate in its wake;
- urge its members to help address the social, emotional, medical and mental health needs of our patients and community members and to promote diversity and inclusion;
- declares its support for the following Legislation: The California values Act, which would prevent the use of public resources to aid federal immigration agents in deportation actions; the Due Process for All Act, which provides legal representation for noncitizens facing deportation; and the Stronger Public defenders Act, which would create state-funded centers to train defense attorneys and public defenders on immigration law and the consequences of criminal convictions.
- will request that our nation's hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare providers declare their support for and protection of undocumented people and their families, affirmatively create a welcoming environment for them, and declare themselves to be "safe zones" so that no member of our community feels threatened when seeking medical care.

Please state whether you agree with NUHW's sanctuary union action and the 'Sanctuary State' movement. And state what you will do to protect our communities from hate and possible federal action.

I will protect our communities. The order singling out states and cities with punitive threats and withholding federal resources on sanctuary cities is unconstitutional. It is not the job of our local, county and state law enforcement to turn the cogs on President Trump's deportation machine. We will explore all legal routes. Cities know how important local control is, because we are in touch with the people we represent most closely.

California has long paved the way in the national battle for rights for both documented and undocumented immigrants, from workers' rights guaranteed to farmworkers, who are mostly undocumented immigrants, to Governor Brown's recent announcement of an extra \$15 million in the state's budget to expand legal defense services for immigrants battling deportation. In continuation of California's legacy of leading the country on rights for immigrants, California should approach possible federal action and protect immigrants.

Housing and Homelessness:

Californians are seeing one of the worst housing crises in recent memory. Working people are being priced out of their homes by increased rents and mortgages.

Homelessness is increasing due to a lack of affordability and a lack of social services for wrap around care.

What is your definition of affordable housing? How do you propose to increase the affordable housing stock/inclusionary zoning? What do you propose to do to curb evictions? What actions have you taken so far to help fix the current housing and affordability crisis? Do you support the repeal of Costa-Hawkins?

I think affordable housing is housing that costs less than 30 percent of one's income--and that should be the case, no matter what one's income is. Everyday Californians are confronted daily with the problems of growing with the lack of affordable housing. Working Californians can't live, work, and pray in the communities in which they grew up. CA has 12% of the nation's population, but 22% of its homeless. There is a major problem when one third of our state's renters spend more than half of their earnings to cover housing expenses. I'm currently addressing the housing crisis by organizing a coalition measure on the ballot. As demonstrated by the number of local housing initiatives passed by voters this past November, there is a strong appetite for solutions in how to make these investments. Just for the populations targeted by my office's affordable housing programs--the homeless, disabled, seniors, working poor--CA needs 1.5 million units. That hole gets deeper by 60k per year.

Building more housing is the answer--more housing decreases market pressures and helps moderate rent prices, a phenomenon already at play in the Bay Area.

I would review the repeal of Costa-Hawkins.
