



**National Union of Healthcare Workers
2020 Presidential Candidate Questionnaire**

To help NUHW assess your candidacy, please complete this questionnaire.

BACKGROUND

Name:

Occupation/Employer:

Campaign Address:

Campaign Phone:

Campaign Website:

Campaign E-mail:

Key Staff and Consultants:

Campaign Contact:

Campaign FEC ID Number:

Political Party:

1. Briefly describe your educational background and work experience, including the various public offices you have held and the private sector leadership roles you have played.

NUHW 2020 Presidential Candidate Questionnaire

2. Have you ever been a union member? If so, to which union(s) did you belong? If you were an officer, steward, bargaining committee member, or activist, describe your leadership role.

3. What notable endorsements have you received from organizations and individuals?

NUHW 2020 Presidential Candidate Questionnaire

4. How much money have you raised to date? What is your primary cycle fundraising target?

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

NUHW 2020 Presidential Candidate Questionnaire

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

Please provide a brief statement of candidacy including the following information:

- why you are a candidate for President;
- why are you seeking NUHW's endorsement;
- what will be your top priorities if elected;
- what distinguishes you as the best candidate for the office.

NUHW 2020 Presidential Candidate Questionnaire

WORKERS' POWER ON THE JOB AND IN THE ECONOMY

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 legion and workers' organizing efforts are crushed more often than not. Private sector union density has fallen to 6.4%, and public sector unions are rebuffing attacks in state legislatures and federal courts that have forced them to reinvent themselves to remain viable. Without increased organization and improved legal structures for workplace representation and collective bargaining, U.S. workers' power on the job and in the economy will continue growing weaker, dooming efforts to address rising inequality and its corrosive impacts on our society. Like Franklin Roosevelt, who fought to pass and uphold the National Labor Relations Act in the face of profound economic inequality that threatened the very fabric of the nation – and in the face of profound antagonism from powerful, moneyed interests – the next President will be challenged to fight for the establishment of a new set of labor laws more favorable to workers. The following are among the potential labor law reforms most frequently cited as having the potential for sparking a renewed and revitalized labor movement. Please indicate which of these reforms you would support as President, why you would support them, and how you would overcome the entrenched opposition of corporate lobbyists and right-wing media and politicians to pass them into law:

- a) requiring employers to recognize a union as their employees' exclusive collective bargaining agent when presented with a petition demonstrating its support by a majority of the workers;
- b) establishing a fast and fair union election procedure that provides the employer and the union equal physical access and equal time to discuss workers' choice of a union with them; bans factually inaccurate representations and coercive kinds of campaign communications, like mandatory "captive audience" meetings and one-on-one discussions of unionization with supervisors; and establishes a short election period prior to a final and binding secret ballot vote;
- c) instituting a sectoral collective bargaining system, with wage boards to set minimum standards;
- d) covering union organizing under civil rights laws, with enforcement by right of private action;
- e) obliging employers to recognize and bargain with minority unions for members-only contracts;
- f) creating federal protections against the firing of workers for any reason other than "just cause";
- g) outlawing the "permanent replacement" of striking workers.

NUHW 2020 Presidential Candidate Questionnaire

Beyond workers' lack of union organization, the increasing prevalence in our economy of low wage, service sector jobs, the persistence of chronic unemployment and underemployment, and the diversion of fiscal stimulus into financial speculation all constrain our fight against inequality. To build a higher floor beneath workers' power on the job and in the economy, do you also:

- support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour or more?;
- propose any programs that would create large numbers of good jobs while increasing our capacity to meet human needs, upgrade our infrastructure, and enhance our environment?
- In particular, do you support the proposed Green New Deal or other plans to spur equitable growth by pursuing a stronger, more comprehensive response to climate change that would accelerate both the transition to renewable energy sources and the implementation of climate resiliency and adaptation plans, while also providing meaningful transition assistance for workers and communities in the nation's most carbon-dependent regions?

NUHW 2020 Presidential Candidate Questionnaire

SINGLE PAYER HEALTHCARE

Despite Obamacare's substantial success in reducing the ranks of the uninsured, much work still must be done to achieve affordable, quality healthcare for all. Even with the expansion of Medicaid to cover the near poor, and the availability of significant subsidies to help low and middle income families purchase coverage through healthcare exchanges, millions of Americans remain uninsured and underinsured, as prices remain too high and continue to rise sharply, especially for those living in high cost areas of the nation. The quality of care received by patients also remains inequitable, with significant differences in services provided and treatment outcomes by race, income, and geography. By bringing so many more people into publicly financed, publicly governed systems of care, Obamacare has set the stage for us to organize for the real reform we need and accelerate the fight for single payer healthcare. Do you support the establishment of a single payer healthcare system – 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? Are you in favor of pursuing such a system at the national level, and if one is not achievable, would you support the establishment of statewide single payer systems in individual states, as allowed for under the Affordable Care Act? What revenue sources would you support to provide the necessary financing for progressive reform? How would you fight and win the campaign to enact a single payer system over the strong opposition of the healthcare and insurance industries? Do you think it necessary or advisable to enact further intermediate steps on the path to a single payer system? If so, which of these steps would you support, which would you oppose, and why? As healthcare reform proceeds, with expanded emphasis on primary and preventive care, reduced reliance on acute care, and new forms of community-based care and care coordination, what steps would you take to support recruitment and retention of new healthcare workers, retraining and redeployment of the existing healthcare workforce, and protection of current healthcare workers' wages and benefits as they move from historically better paid to historically worse paid jobs?

NUHW 2020 Presidential Candidate Questionnaire

MENTAL HEALTH PARITY

Under the Affordable Care Act's expansion of the protections provided by the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, as well as under even stronger legislation in several states, mental health services are an essential benefit required to be made available under the same terms as physical healthcare to the majority of individuals covered by private and public insurance plans. Unfortunately, the reality falls far short, as many individuals continue to experience the same lack of access to timely and appropriate mental health services as they faced before, with shortages of providers, lengthy wait times for both initial and return appointments, and treatment options limited to short-term and group therapy even when longer-term and individual therapy is merited. To cite one prominent example, NUHW members successfully prosecuted a complaint against Kaiser Permanente for failing to provide its plan members with timely and appropriate mental health services that resulted in California's Department of Managed Health Care levying a \$4 million fine in March 2013, yet fully six years later, these deficiencies remain un-remedied. If elected, what would you do to ensure that mental health parity is fully implemented and strongly enforced, with timely access to all appropriate services, both preventive and comprehensive?

NUHW 2020 Presidential Candidate Questionnaire

TAX FAIRNESS

More than a decade since the start of the great recession, our federal budget remains challenged by persistent, large operating and cumulative deficits, our nation's decaying infrastructure grows increasingly outdated, our needs for education and healthcare go chronically underfunded, and we are continually pressured to accept cuts to vital human services, all while corporations and the wealthy continue to benefit from multiple loopholes and tax breaks that allow them to escape paying their fair share and to shift both the costs and the negative consequences onto the rest of us. To break the grip of austerity and to renew the promise of prosperity for working families, we need to restore tax fairness and raise the revenue we need to invest in our people and our future. Where do you stand on each of the following potential items of an agenda to restore tax fairness? Please respond in detail, with specifics regarding each of those measures you would support:

- restoring higher top marginal tax rates for the wealthy (detail proposed brackets and rates);
- instituting a wealth tax (detail proposed rates);
- taxing capital gains and dividends at rates at least the same as earned income;
- restoring appropriate estate taxes (detail exemption levels and tax brackets and rates);
- enacting a financial transactions tax (detail proposed rates and transactions to be covered);
- closing corporate tax loopholes (detail which specific loopholes you would close);
- eliminating private equity managers' carried interest tax break.

Please also detail any other tax reforms your administration would fight to enact.

NUHW 2020 Presidential Candidate Questionnaire

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Despite the enormous positive impacts of immigrants on the United States' economy and society, the current administration is obsessively seeking to divide our nation by imposing a restrictive immigration regime that would increase detentions and deportations of undocumented individuals, deny them due process, and militarize our borders, while restricting further legal immigration in a manner tainted by racial, ethnic, and religious prejudice. Aggressive immigration enforcement and greater restrictions on legal immigration and refugee resettlement will not only cost taxpayers billions of dollars and threaten public health and public safety, but will break apart families and place vulnerable individuals – such as survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in the United States, as well as women and children fleeing harsh violence in their homelands – in peril. What are your proposals to achieve comprehensive immigration reform with a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States, and expand authorized immigration free of racial, ethnic, and religious prejudice? Please specify how your proposed reforms would address issues of family unification, refugee admissions, employment-based admissions, diversity visas, and temporary permissions including DACA, as well as how you would modify border security measures and what if any role ICE would play under your plan. Please also say if your administration would accept the validity of state and local sanctuary laws.

NUHW 2020 Presidential Candidate Questionnaire

MOVEMENT ENGAGEMENT AND MOVEMENT BUILDING

If elected, what steps would you take to remain actively engaged with trade unions and other progressive social movements in making appointments, developing and prioritizing policy initiatives, determining political strategy, and building the power to enact your policy agenda? Beyond supporting various labor law reform measures, how would you use the power of your office to support the organizing efforts and build the power of progressive groups in civil society?