



## Maine AFL-CIO 2018 State Legislative Questionnaire

### INTRODUCTION

#### About the Maine AFL-CIO

Founded in 1956, the Maine AFL-CIO is a federation of more than 160 local unions representing about 40,000 workers. We represent all kinds of workers -- nurses, papermakers, truck drivers, construction workers, letter carriers, firefighters, shipbuilders, corrections officers, office professionals and many more. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families—to bring economic justice to the workplace and social justice to our community, state and nation.

The Maine AFL-CIO has three major roles in accomplishing that mission:

- Labor Solidarity** - The Maine AFL-CIO supports Maine workers when they come together to join a union, as they bargain with employers, and when they engage in campaigns to improve their living conditions and workplaces.
- Legislative Advocacy** - The Maine AFL-CIO and its affiliates fight for public policies that improve the lives and working conditions of our state's union members and all working families.
- Political Advocacy** - The Maine AFL-CIO endorses electoral candidates that stand up for Maine's workers.

#### Endorsement Process:

To receive an endorsement from the Maine AFL-CIO, candidates must complete and return a Legislative Candidate Questionnaire for the current year. All questionnaires and voting records are reviewed. The Maine AFL-CIO Convention will make final endorsement decisions.

**Deadline:** Candidates must return this questionnaire by Wednesday, June 6, 2018.

Survey Monkey allows you to begin the survey and then return to it at another time, if re-open it in the same browser.

If you would prefer a paper copy of this questionnaire, please call 622-9675 and we can mail one to you.



## Maine AFL-CIO 2018 State Legislative Questionnaire

### CANDIDATE INFORMATION

\* 1. First Name:

\* 2. Last Name:

\* 3. What chamber are you running for?

House

Senate

\* 4. District Number

5. Address:

6. City:

7. State:

8. Zip:

9. Home phone:

10. Cell phone:

\* 11. Email:

12. Occupation:

13. Union affiliation (if any):

14. Political party affiliation:

15. Current office and previous office(s) held, if applicable:

16. Candidate's comments are welcome:



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**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS**

**The right to organize a union is a basic human right and a public good. Unions raise wages, increase benefits & retirement security, and improve workplace safety and working conditions for union members and for all workers. Unions helped build a middle class in this country. Unionization helps close gender and racial wage gaps and continues to be one of the most effective tools to fix an economy that is out of balance. Unions also increase respect on the job, and they bring democracy and basic constitutional rights into the workplace.**

\* 17. Will you support the right of all working people to form a union and negotiate collectively over wages, benefits and workplace conditions and oppose any efforts to repeal the rights to negotiate collectively for Maine workers?

YES

NO

Comments

\* 18. The right of workers to organize and to negotiate collectively seeks to address the fundamental power imbalance between employers and an individual worker. For that system to work there needs to be a fair set of rules. Current public sector labor law tilts the rules against working people by not allowing public sector workers the right to strike and by not having binding arbitration on economic issues in the public sector. This means that even after an arbitration decision a public sector employer can simply impose on economic issues.

Will you support leveling the bargaining playing field by making arbitration binding on economic issues like salary, insurances and retirement in the public sector?

Yes

No

Comments

\* 19. Will you support public sector workers having the right to strike just like private sector workers ?

Yes

No

Comments:

\* 20. If elected, would you publicly support working people who are forming unions or seeking a negotiated contract by reaffirming the importance of unions to our communities through actions including:

	Yes	No
<b>Publicly speaking, attending rallies, or writing in support of union organizing drives and contract campaigns?</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Contacting employers and urging them not to interfere with workers' freedom of association?</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Honoring (refusing to cross) picket lines?</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Have you ever crossed a picket line? If yes, please explain.</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments

**\* 21. So-called "Right to Work" laws:**

Under current law, no one can be required to join a union, but unions are legally required to equally and fairly represent members and non-members alike--or risk being sued. In some collectively negotiated agreements labor and management agree to include a "union security" or "fair share" clause, which requires all working people in a bargaining unit to share the costs of collective bargaining & representation. A "right to work" law would make it illegal for workers and employers to include this clause in a contract.

These laws are designed to drive down wages and working conditions for all workers, union and non-union. Workers in states that have passed so-called 'right to work' laws earn on average \$1,558 less annual wages than in non-right to work states.

Will you oppose any "right to work" law in the private or public sector?

YES

NO

Comments:



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**HEALTH CARE**

**Maine and American workers are facing a healthcare crisis. Many workers are one sickness or injury away from financial ruin or bankruptcy; many workers are underinsured or lack insurance and skyrocketing healthcare costs dominate contract negotiations and erase wage increases. Many workers are unable to retire or change jobs because of healthcare and lack real health security.**

**The Maine AFL-CIO strongly supports a Medicare for All universal healthcare system that guarantees the human right to healthcare. We support a system where everyone is in and no one is out and where workers are covered cradle to grave.**

\* 22. Do you believe health care is a human right?

YES

NO

\* 23. Although it is a federal solution, will you publicly support – and speak out publicly for – a Medicare for All health system that provides healthcare as a public good to everyone?

YES

NO

Other (please specify)



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## RAISING WAGES

**The labor movement has fought for more than a century to raise wages and improve working conditions by establishing standards like a minimum wage, the eight-hour day, overtime pay, and the prohibition of child labor.**

\* 24. Maine's minimum wage of \$10 an hour is not enough to live on, much less raise a family or plan for the future. The minimum wage will raise to \$11 an hour in 2019 and \$12 an hour in 2020 and will be indexed to the cost of living after 2020. This voter approved raise will put money in workers' pockets and boost Maine's economy and local communities. Will you oppose any efforts to rollback any provisions of Maine's minimum wage law?

YES

NO

Comments



## Maine AFL-CIO 2018 State Legislative Questionnaire

### **BUILDING AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR ALL**

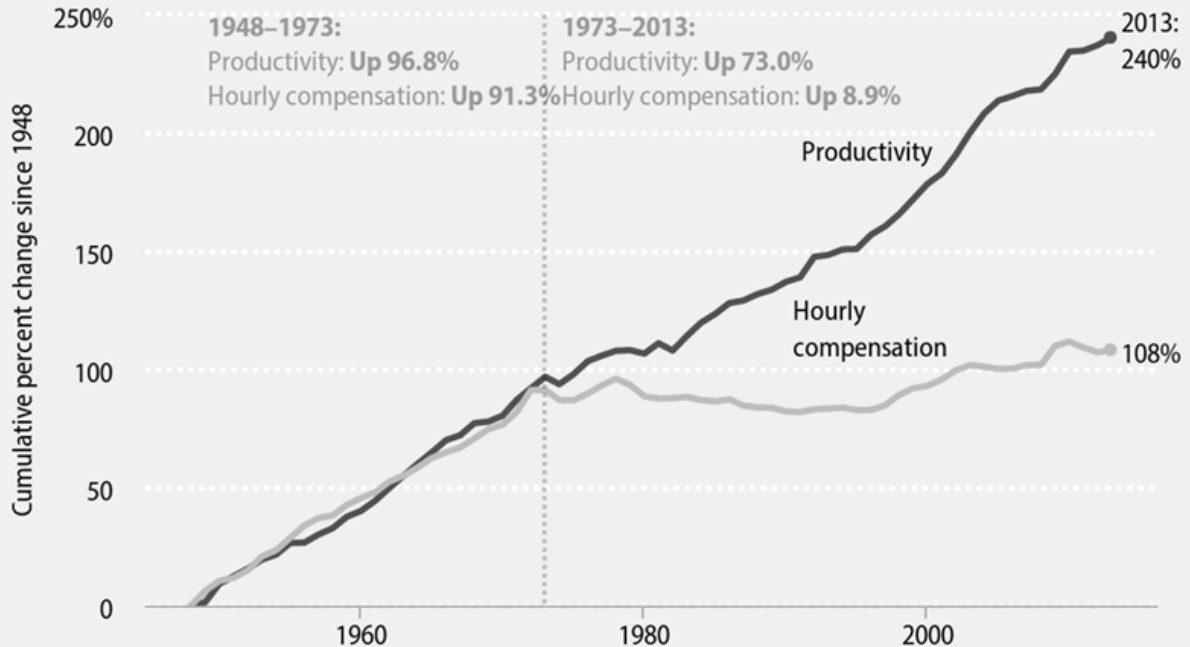
**Wages for working people have been stagnant for decades. Families are getting ahead by working longer hours and more jobs. Workers in the United States now work more hours per year than any other industrialized country. Despite working more hours, workers are not reaping the benefits of their labor.**

**Below is a look at productivity and wages. Productivity is how much a worker produces in an hour, and it grows when workers are healthier, better educated, and when they work with better machinery or technology. Through the early 1970s, workers shared the profits from increased productivity, but then, the lines began to diverge. Productivity soared, but wages leveled. This gap between wages and productivity is one key factor in soaring income inequality. Flat wages mean that working families began to borrow more -- to buy cars, homes, computers, and to pay for college.**

**The nation's wealthiest 1% has more wealth than the bottom 90% of the US population (Saez & Zucman, "Wealth Inequality in the United States Since 1913: Evidence from Capitalized Income Tax Data," NEBR Working Paper, October 2014) and the top 1% are taking in a greater percentage of the nation's income than at any time since the 1920s.**



## Disconnect between productivity and typical worker's compensation, 1948–2013



**Note:** Data are for compensation (wages and benefits) of production/nonsupervisory workers in the private sector and net productivity of the total economy. "Net productivity" is the growth of output of goods and services less depreciation per hour worked.

**Source:** EPI analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics and Bureau of Economic Analysis data

Updated from Figure A in *Raising America's Pay: Why It's Our Central Economic Policy Challenge*

ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE

### \* 25. Economy out of balance:

Too much wealth is in the hands of too few people. What would you do at the state level to close the staggering wealth and income inequality gap and to push the economy back into balance?

\* 26. **Universal Homecare**

This November there will be a question on the ballot to help seniors and people with disabilities stay in their homes through a progressively financed universal homecare system.

Do you support closing the tax loophole that allows those making more than \$128,400 to avoid paying Social Security payroll taxes in order to establish universal access to homecare for more than 10,000 seniors and Mainers with disabilities and increase wages and training for home care workers and professionalizing home care careers?

YES

NO

Comments:

\* 27. **Plant Closures & Good Faith Offer of Sale:**

Communities across the state have been devastated by the closure of mills and manufacturing facilities. Often companies close factories and refuse other businesses the right to purchase and keep them open. Owners of these factories have often made significant financial gains from the labor of working people and have benefited from state and local tax breaks. We believe large corporations have a responsibility to the communities they operate in. **In order to keep businesses running and jobs in our communities, will you support legislation that would require companies that are closing to accept a good faith offer of sale from any business or employee organization that wants to buy and pay fair market value for the plant, equipment and inventory?**

YES

NO

Comments:

**\* 28. Prevailing Wage Laws/Public Investments in Maine's Workforce:**

Public investments that are made in construction projects, state purchasing or tax breaks should be tailored so that they benefit Maine working people and our economy as a whole.

That was the principle set forth when Maine, like the federal government and most states, passed a prevailing wage law requiring that employees in public works construction projects – such as roads, bridges, public buildings, sewers, etc. – must be paid the “prevailing wage” for public works construction. The rationale behind prevailing wage laws is that state and federal governments, as major buyers in the construction sector, should not act to drive down wages. Research shows that prevailing wages help to stimulate the economy and do not add to the costs of public construction projects.

Maine's prevailing wage law has a loophole that does not include public school construction.**Will you support requiring that any public school construction project that receives state funding should be required to adhere to state prevailing wage laws?**

YES

NO

Comments

**\* 29. Project Labor Agreements**

A project labor agreement is a type of contract used in the construction industry to set the terms and conditions of employment usually on large projects of longer duration and design complexity. A Project Labor Agreements is a pre-hire, project wide negotiated agreement for a construction project that sets standards for wages, benefits, local hiring and training, covering all contractors and all construction workers on a project.

Would you support Project Labor Agreements on larger state funded public construction projects?

Yes

No

Comments:

**\* 30. Revenue Sharing:**

Maine's municipalities are struggling to fund education, public works, and other crucial local services. Recent state budgets have lessened the amount of revenue sharing between the state and our cities and towns which has resulted in cuts of vital services, job loss, and a shift to increased property taxes for Maine citizens.

**Do you support fully funding revenue sharing at the longstanding, statutory rate of 5% of sales tax to fund schools, roads, and to keep property taxes from rising?**

YES

NO

Comments:

**\* 31. Privatization:**

The State provides many important and critical services for the people of Maine. The trend of privatization of these public services frequently leads to worse service and results for Maine people, lower wages and benefits for workers, and less accountability of taxpayers and legislators over these operations. **Will you oppose privatization, sub-contracting, or outsourcing of public services?**

YES

NO

Comments:

**\* 32. Unemployment Insurance:**

According to US Department of Labor data for the most recent quarter available, only 1 out of 3 unemployed Maine workers are actually receiving unemployment benefits. Unemployment benefits help workers make ends meet when they lose their jobs through no fault of their own. They are also spent directly in communities where they support the local economy.

Maine's unemployment insurance system currently discriminates against low wage workers. Eligibility for unemployment insurance is determined by the amount a worker earns, not the number of hours she or he works. This means that a worker earning \$10 per hour must work twice as many hours as one that earns \$20 per hour to qualify for Unemployment benefits."

	YES	NO
<b>Would you support legislation to increase access to these vital benefits to more unemployed workers who need them and oppose efforts that restrict access?</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**In order to equalize access to unemployment insurance for low wage workers would you support adjusting the unemployment eligibility requirements so that the system does not unfairly disadvantage low wage workers?**

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Comments



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**\* 33. Workers Compensation:**

Despite the best efforts from workers and their employers, workers get injured on-the-job. Workers' Compensation systems were formed nearly 100 years ago in a grand compromise--employers were exempted from any liability in civil trial for workplace injuries and workers were provided with "guaranteed" medical care and wage replacement for on-the-job injuries. In Maine, employers' immunity from civil trial remains completely intact but the "guaranteed" medical care and wage replacement for injured workers has been badly eroded.

Workers' Compensation benefits include two parts -- medical benefits to cover treatment and wage replacement benefits that cover a portion of the wages a worker lost because of their on-the-job injury. While many workers recover quickly from an injury, other severely injured workers will never realize the same earning potential that they had prior to the injury. Currently, these wage replacement benefits do not factor in increases to the cost of living which makes it more difficult for the most severely and long-term injured workers to make ends meet. **Will you support an annual cost of living adjustment for injured workers receiving workers' compensation benefits?**

YES

NO

Comments:

**\* 34. RN-to-Patient Ratios:**

Registered Nurses, like most other working people, have been tasked with an increasing amount of work to complete in fewer hours. But for RNs, the dangers of an unreasonable workload can be a matter of life and death. Staffing ratios ensure that each nurse is caring for a safe number of patients. Research demonstrates that the ratios increase patient safety and dramatically lower turnover of nursing staff. **Will you support patient safety legislation that requires hospitals to follow minimum safe staffing levels?**

YES

NO

Comments:



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### WORK AND FAMILY BALANCE

\* 35. Most working people find themselves working full or part-time and caring for their families -- their children, their parents, or sometimes both. With the increasing number of hours that working people log, the struggle to “burn the candle at both ends” has become even more difficult.

Right now, nearly two in five private sector workers lacks a single paid sick day to use when they get sick. Among low-wage working people, the number is even higher: 80% of low-wage workers are forced to work through illness, or lose needed pay--even lose their jobs--just because they get sick. According to research, sick employees are less productive and this loss in productivity costs our national economy an estimated \$160 billion annually. **Will you support legislation guaranteeing a minimum standard of at least 7 paid sick days for all Maine working people?**

YES

NO

Comments:



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### ACTION

\* 36. For the measures above that you have agreed to support, would you be willing to:

	YES	NO
<b>Sponsor legislation</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Work with our affiliated unions and allies to pass the bill</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Lobby relevant legislators in support or opposition of a bill</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Testify at a committee hearing in support of Legislation</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Speak at public events in support of legislation</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

COMMENTS

37. Do you want the endorsement of the Maine AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education (COPE)?

- YES
- NO

38. Please indicate whether you are running as a Clean Election Candidate or a Traditional Candidate.

- Clean Elections Candidate
- Traditionally Financed Candidate