

Detailed Candidate Questionnaires Help Explain Crazy Votes From Officials



DETAILED CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES HELP EXPLAIN CRAZY VOTES FROM OFFICIALS

Voters often ponder how so many elected officials can espouse positions that seem to line up with the most fringe elements on the political spectrum.

Why, for instance, would mainstream politicians jump on board the concept of biological males playing female sports, despite the fact that almost [80% of the population](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2025/02/26/americans-have-grown-more-supportive-of-restrictions-for-trans-people-in-recent-years/) opposes the concept?
<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2025/02/26/americans-have-grown-more-supportive-of-restrictions-for-trans-people-in-recent-years/>

Why would politicians on the right oppose even the most mundane, common sense background checks for individuals seeking gun ownership, even though [86% of the population](https://www.mprnews.org/story/2023/07/25/poll-majority--support-universal-background-checks-gun-licensing-assault-weapons-ban) approves of them?
<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2023/07/25/poll-majority--support-universal-background-checks-gun-licensing-assault-weapons-ban>

Why would those on the left, who might nevertheless be pro-choice, still oppose legislation that would prohibit the killing of a baby as it's exiting the birth canal in the [9th month of gestation](https://www.archbalt.org/poll-big-majorities-of-democrats-young-people-reject-late-term-abortion/), even though almost three quarters of the American public support such a ban?
<https://www.archbalt.org/poll-big-majorities-of-democrats-young-people-reject-late-term-abortion/>

In all these cases, the overwhelming majority of the public, regardless of their political affiliation, take a more centrist, moderate view. It's axiomatic that those running for office would seek not to alienate the average middle of the road voter. But we have, nevertheless, frequently seen officials on both sides of the political spectrum latching onto these more extremist positions.

What could explain it?

Some would say that it's a matter of ideology, given the more recent trend in politics is to nominate Republicans who steer further to the right and Democrats who are pushed further left. This can be a consequence of redistricting efforts that have made candidates far more concerned about a challenge from a more extremist opponent within their party than any fear of losing against the opposing party in the general election.

There is also the impact of cable television that tends to highlight news that “feeds the beast” of their more rabid partisan viewers.

But there is yet another reason that these politicians may be adopting more extremist policies. It has to do with special interest groups cornering politicians when they seek their endorsements.

It has often been said that “money is the mother's milk of politics.”

Candidates on both sides of the aisle seek endorsements from various interest groups for cash and volunteer help. On the right it might be the National Rifle Association or right to life groups. On the left it might be pro-abortion groups or hardcore unions.

These and other special interest groups have wised up and rarely dole out money to someone they think generically might be in their camp. These days, before an endorsement is given by these groups, they will insist that the candidate fill out a questionnaire vouching support to the platform of that special interest.

Abortion and LGBT Issues

One has only to look at the elaborate questionnaires that are put in front of these candidates to understand how committed the candidate must become to the group.

The candidate knows that checking the box for some of these ridiculous measures could hurt them in general elections, but they calculate that it's worth the risk.

Let's look at the questionnaire from Planned Parenthood South Atlantic. A candidate seeking the endorsement will have to answer in the affirmative to the question:

“Will you oppose all legislation that attempts to restrict the person's ability to make their own reproductive healthcare decision including the decision to have an abortion?”

There were no limits within this question. Observers may be bewildered to see a follow-up question which asks:

“Will you oppose all legislative attempts to discriminate against LGBTQ + people in North Carolina including attacks on access to housing, athletic teams, employment, education, healthcare, sexual orientation, and gender identity?”

One would expect an LGBTQ group to ask such a question, but why would Planned Parenthood, whose mission is to maximize access to abortion, veer off into this area?

Intersectionality

We see this intersectionality with other groups as well. The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 2022 Congressional candidate questionnaire has numerous questions not only related to wages, benefits and conditions for their employees, but also to questions that envelop a sweeping leftist agenda.

For example, its questionnaire asks potential candidates:

“If elected, will you support adopting universal voter registration, expanding early voting, using mail ballots, same day and automatic voter registration, ending voter purges, and other measures that increase voter participation/access and combat voter suppression efforts at the state and local level?”

Why would the SEIU be asking candidates to oppose purging the voter rolls of dead people, illegal aliens, and individuals who have long ago moved away from their previous residences?

Moreover, candidates were asked their views regarding student loan forgiveness:

“Nationally, student loan debt surpassed \$1.7T in 2020, which is greater than both credit card and auto loan debt. The burden of student loan debt is preventing millions of families from pursuing the American dream, including the families of many SEIU members. If elected, would you support efforts to forgive student loan debt?”

Closer to their core mission, the union asks if the candidate will be supportive of in-home care.

“In the near term, will you support efforts to strengthen and expand Medicaid home- and community-based services in order to help seniors and others in need of long term care services remain in their homes and communities, including proposals to address the institutional bias in the Medicaid program?”

This is the very essence of the SEIU in that it represents nurses who lend care to the elderly in their homes to keep them out of institutional care settings. But we also have seen over the last decade an [explosion of fraud](https://www.empirecenter.org/publications/testimony-of-bill-hammond-on-medicaids-consumer-directed-personal-assistance-program/) due to new state programs that permit family members to get paid, sometimes full-time salaries, to care for their relatives.

<https://www.empirecenter.org/publications/testimony-of-bill-hammond-on-medicaids-consumer-directed-personal-assistance-program/> Efforts to clamp down on this fraud have been weak.

Could the commitment obtained by the SEIU be part of the reason why?

Immigration

One would think that a union would want to promote immigration enforcement so as to protect their membership from competition from those who cross the border illegally. However, the reality is that exactly the opposite is true. The SEIU has become one of the largest champions for continued illegal immigration. Case in point is the following question asked to candidates:

“Will you support expanding immigrant access to the government benefits that their tax dollars support and that allows them, their families, and their communities to thrive, including COVID relief, health care, child and other tax credits, access to education, or other basic assistance?”

This may help explain why in the Democratic Primary debate for the 2020 election, every Democratic candidate on the stage in the televised debate, [raised his or her hand](#) claiming that they would support taxpayer funded healthcare for illegal immigrants, something that was [highly opposed](#) by the general electorate.

The SEIU has even gone full throttle to support Sanctuary Cities, asking if candidates:

“Oppose proposals to coerce state and local governments to use their own law enforcement agencies to participate in federal deportation efforts?”

In what appears to be a regurgitation of the most radical part of the Democratic platform, the SEIU asks candidates the following:

4. If elected, will you be willing to support prioritizing structural changes to the government that would unrig the rules against working families including but not limited to:

- a) DC statehood
- b) Puerto Rican self-determination
- c) Expansion of all federal courts
- d) Ending partisan and racial gerrymandering
- e) Universal ethics reforms

☐ YES ☐ NO

If one is wondering why so many elected officials would continue to support ending the cash bail system, despite the fact that it has led to a sharp rise in crime, and is opposed by a large segment of Americans, one might want to look back to question 7 in the SEIU Questionnaire:

If elected, will you support prioritizing measures that include, but not limited to:

d) Ending the cash bail system

YES

NO

If one wants to find out why politicians would be quick to shut down natural gas pipelines that are essential for keeping the lights on, one could look to the Wisconsin legislative candidate questionnaire issued in 2024 by the Sierra Club. The group asked candidates the following:

“Would you support a moratorium on new fossil fuel infrastructure, which would stop the construction of the proposed Line 5 segment, among other proposals?”

Why the Jonas Act is still on the books

Other illogical laws still in effect are kept on the books in large part because of these questionnaires. Take, for instance, the [Jones Act](#) which requires: “That no vessel may transport any merchandise by water, by land and water, or via a foreign port, for any part of the transportation, between points in the United States, unless the vessel is U.S.-built, U.S.-owned, and coastwise endorsed by the U.S. Coast Guard.”

The [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)](#) conducted a study finding that eliminating the law’s restrictions can increase economic output by up to \$135 billion. The [Cato Institute](#) also found that by eliminating the requirement to build ships in the U.S can increase final demand by up to \$22 billion.

The candidate questionnaire from the AFL-CIO asks:

“Would you oppose efforts to weaken the Jones Act, which requires the use of U.S.-flagged, built-and-crewed ships between U.S. ports?”

Saving Social Security

The questionnaire also pigeonholes candidates to oppose common sense tweaks to the Social Security Reserve fund, which would dramatically increase our reserves, thereby [avoiding a crashing of the system](#).

The question is often asked why reforms to the Social Security system are stymied at every turn. Part of it was the demagoguery by those claiming that such investments would wipe out granny's retirement.

Given that we have a far lower worker to retiree ratio than we did at the onset of the Social Security system, it is just a matter of time before the Trust Fund runs out of money. It is estimated that that date is approximately 2032. [If nothing is done to rectify the problem, the average Social Security recipient would see a 20% reduction in their benefits](#).

It has long been recommended by policy wonks that a portion of the Trust Fund be invested in higher returning products as opposed to the safe, but tepid 2% returns that presently come from the purchase of bonds. Indeed, had Congress enacted proposals back in 1996 and again in the early part of the new century to invest at least a portion of the Trust Fund in a Standard & Poor Index Fund, the reserve fund [would be flush with trillions more](#) in revenue than is presently the case.

So why was this common sense, easy fix rejected? Part of it, as noted above, was the grandstanding by the party out of power who would claim that opponents were seeking to risk retirement savings in the volatile stock market. But another contributing factor is the unions who oppose these investments, figuring that the taxpayers could always bail out the fund.

This overreaction, which was not borne out by history, was bolstered by the AFL-CIO. In one question they asked:

“Do you oppose replacing any part of Social Security’s guaranteed benefits with individual investment accounts?”

Thus, candidates seeking the endorsement of the AFL-CIO, are asked to commit to not place any of the fund in equities or to allow individuals more control over their money so that they can create an individualized retirement account

Retirement Security

****. Do you oppose reducing Social Security’s guaranteed benefits under current law, including by increasing the retirement age, changing the calculation for the annual cost-of-living adjustment, altering the benefit formula or instituting means testing?

.**** Do you oppose replacing any part of Social Security's guaranteed benefits with individual investment accounts?

Curtailing the Gig Economy

Strides have been made by leftist organizations to curtail the spread of the gig economy. This would relate to individuals who like the flexibility of driving for Uber or DoorDash, or to provide part-time periodic articles to newspapers and magazines. Various unions and other more progressive coalitions want to unionize these workers and provide them with extensive benefits and higher salaries. The downside is that such actions would place significant burdens on the employers who would have to cut back on the number of gig workers they employ. Additionally, the cost to the consumer for the Uber ride or the DoorDash delivery would increase significantly.

So if the consumers in the gig economy and the workers themselves like the status quo, why are some states such as California succeeding in crushing the gig economy. Part of the answer may be the pressure that is placed upon candidates to agree during the endorsement process, questioning to support the union's quest to stifle gig work.

See, for example,. how the New York Working Families Party makes this a very important issue that they wish their candidates to sign onto.

2026 New York Working Families Party Local Questionnaire

****How would you propose to also strengthen protections for gig workers?

Note as well, many of the other questions asked by this far left party that seek support from candidates for issues ranging from rent control to immigration to opposing the deporting of illegal immigrants, to opposing charter schools, while supporting major tax increases.

Below is just a sample of some of the questions that appear on the Working Families Questionnaire

“Do you support opting into the strongest possible Good Clause policies in your municipality, which would close the loopholes that allow LLCs to avoid being covered by the law?”

“The federal government’s inhumane and oppressive mass deportations are tearing apart whole communities and will devastate New York’s economy. Do you commit to supporting policies to prohibit local law enforcement from colluding with Trump’s mass deportations?”

“How do you intend to use your role to help your local public schools, including supporting local school districts that overlap with your jurisdiction? The charter school industry exists by siphoning resources from traditional public schools. What are ways you can use your role to limit the expansion of publicly funded, privately managed charter schools in your community?”

“New York is facing an ever-growing affordability crisis that is driving working-class people out of the state. On top of that, the federal government has cut tens of billions of dollars in funding to important public programs like SNAP, Medicaid, special education services, and more to pay for tax breaks for the ultra-wealthy. New York’s billionaires are 81% richer than they were in 2016 because of the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans’ policies. New York State can amend its laws to raise taxes on the wealthiest people and the most profitable corporations. Will you support raising taxes on the richest people and corporations in the state?”

Some have suggested that this is what precipitated a leftward surge from then New York Governor Andrew Cuomo after being challenged by two Working Family Party candidates in 2014 and 2018.

Cuomo, who burnished his fiscally conservative bona fides in the first two years of his administration by putting in effect a tax cap for local schools and governments as well as gaining control over the growth of Medicaid, thereafter shifted far to the left in his next two terms in part because of the pressure placed upon him being challenged by the Working Families Party. Even though Cuomo did not receive their endorsements, he was forced to address the criticisms coming from his left flank.

Why the woke agenda spread

Some leftist questionnaires also seek to get commitments from candidates to support woke, gender neutral wording in State law. This can be seen in a questionnaire, presented to Brooklyn Democrats.

Lambda Independent Democrats of Brooklyn

- How will you support and empower the LGBTQ+ community, particularly at a time when transgender people are under sustained attack from the Trump Administration?
- How will you support and empower Brooklynites being targeted by I.C.E?
- Who did you endorse in the 2025 Mayoral Election, in both the primary and the general election?
- *****Do you commit to using inclusive and gender-neutral language in press releases and other announcements (e.g., “the people of the..” instead of “the men and women of the...”

Many have wondered how the State legislature could have recently passed a new law that defines a father as a “non-gestating parent”. Perhaps this questionnaire can offer an explanation.

The right does it as well

These detailed questionnaires are not only existent on the political left. Special interests on the right practice the same type of strong-armed pigeon-holing as do their leftist counterparts. Take, for instance, some of the questionnaires placed in front of candidates seeking support from right to life groups, and the National Rifle Association.

A moderate voter may wonder why many candidates take extreme positions such as prohibiting abortion, even in the case of rape or incest. Such an extreme position is held by just a small sliver of the American electorate. Yet many conservative candidates feel compelled to check the box. Certainly some may be doing so for personal and ideological reasons. Others may do it for the endorsement.

The George Life Alliance asks specifically if the candidate will oppose abortions even, in the case of rape or incest.

GLA Georgia Life Alliance

Issue: Abortion

1. *****Do you believe abortion should be illegal?

If you answered “Yes” to question 1, do you believe there should be any exceptions to laws prohibiting abortion in any of the following circumstances? (Initial all with which you agree).

- a) To prevent the death of the mother
- b) In cases of rape where the rape is reported to an appropriate law enforcement agency
- c) In cases of incest where the incest is committed against a minor and it has been reported to an appropriate agency.
- d) Other

They also asked the candidate position on whether they will oppose the use of embryos for research or abortions involving genetic abnormalities.

8.***** Would you vote for measures to protect living human embryos from being used for experiments that would harm or kill them, including embryonic stem cell research (regardless of the method used to create the embryo)?

9. Would you support legislation to prohibit selective abortion (where an abortion is performed to terminate a child because of the sex or due to genetic abnormality)?

The abortion pill is very popular among the American public, but the Students for Life questionnaire wants candidates to commit to opposing it.

Students for Life

2024 U.S. Presidential Candidate Policy & Pro-Life Survey

8. *****Will you sign into law federal legislation that would eliminate the production and distribution of chemical abortion pills like RU-486 to protect women from death, injury, infertility, and abusers who may give them drugs without their knowledge or consent and that may be harming the environment?

Yes or No

They also want their candidates to pledge that they will require women to seek an ultrasound of their fetus.

10. *****Will you sign into law federal legislation that offers the mother an opportunity to see an ultrasound image of her child by requiring abortion providers to conduct one before every abortion, both as a precaution against dangerous conditions and for her information, if she chooses to accept it?

Yes or No

Vaccine Mandates

Right wing groups opposed to any mandated vaccinations corner the candidates to commit to this position, which is held by the small minority within the populace.

While there has been great controversy over the COVID vaccine with a large share of Americans opposing that mandate, the opposition to mandates dealing with child related illness, including measles, chicken pox, and mumps is far lower. The questionnaire asks:

I oppose all vaccine mandates in Texas, including those imposed by both public and private businesses, and I will vigorously work for the inclusion of the prohibition of vaccine mandates in both the platform and the list of legislative priorities for 2023.

Little wiggle room on firearms

Firearm enthusiasts want to know very detailed positions of their candidates, including whether the candidates would be supportive or in opposition to background checks, as seen in this questionnaire from a southern firearms group.

2015 MISSISSIPPI NRA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

2. Considering current Mississippi state firearm laws, do you support any additional restrictive state legislation regulating firearms?

a. Yes, on all firearms.

b. Yes, on some firearms. Please specify which firearms:

c. No, current state firearms laws are sufficient.

D. No, current state firearm laws should be improved to benefit Mississippi's law-abiding gun owners and sportsmen.

a. Yes, I would support requiring background checks on all private sales, including those to family members. b. Yes, I would support requiring background checks on private sales, excluding immediate family members.

c. Yes, I would support requiring background checks on private sales at gun shows only.

d. No, I would oppose requiring background checks on all private sales.

CONCLUSION

In today's political world, candidates are in a constant search for political endorsements from various special interests who provide campaign funding, volunteers, and other in-kind contributions.

But those endorsements are not handed out cavalierly. Special interests have learned that the way they get their agenda passed is to make the candidate seeking the endorsement commit to the specific legislation being promoted by the special interest.

This phenomenon helps explain why, once elected, these candidates will vote for bills that are opposed by 80% to 90% of the electorate.

- Biological males playing in women's sports or using women's locker rooms.
- Opposition to abortion, even in the cases of rape or incest.
- Opposition to reasonable background checks before purchasing a gun.
- Supporting open borders and healthcare for illegal immigrants.

In our free society, special interests are free to ask a candidate to answer any questions they wish to pose on a questionnaire.

And they are free to use those responses to judge whether endorsements and donations would be provided thereafter.

But the general public does have a weapon in stopping these special interests from becoming the tail that wags the dog.

Efforts should be undertaken to create a website that posts as many questionnaires from both sides of the aisle as possible, while publishing the answers from the candidates.

In that way, the average voter can find out *before* he casts his or her vote whether the candidate on the ballot is going to side with the special interest in one of these extreme issues, or if they are going to side with common sense.

APPENDIX

Below is a sampling of some of the questions posed in various questionnaires, issued by political action, committees, and or organizations.

SIUE 2022 Cycle Congressional Candidate Questionnaire

YES, long term care and all healthcare jobs should be good union jobs. [Check Box]

YES, I support bold and urgent action to address climate change. [Check Box]

YES, immigrant families should be welcome, safe, and free in America. [Check Box]

2. ENFORCEMENT: If elected, will you

a) Resist efforts to impose harmful “reforms” such as cuts to family immigration, reductions in due process protections for asylum seekers, or militarization of the border in return for a pathway to citizenship for dreamers, people with TPS, or others?

_____ YES _____ NO

b) Support cuts in excess funding for immigration enforcement agents, detention, and border infrastructure that do not comport with rational need and are instead intended to create fear within immigrant communities, and will you support restrictions on any administration’s ability to divert funds appropriated for other line items into immigration enforcement?

_____ YES _____ NO

c) Support legislation to enforce humane detention standards, end the use of private prisons to house immigrants, and reduce immigrant detention by limiting the circumstances in which it can be used?

_____ YES _____ NO

d) Oppose proposals to coerce state and local governments to use their own law enforcement agencies to participate in federal deportation efforts?

_____ YES _____ NO

3. LABOR: If elected, will you

b) Oppose efforts, before comprehensive immigration reform is enacted, to make the flawed E-Verify program mandatory for all or to force layoffs based on Social Security number mismatches that affect many U.S. citizens and authorized workers?

_____ YES _____ NO

4. ACCESS TO BENEFITS: If elected,

a) Will you support expanding immigrant access to the government benefits that their tax dollars support and that allows them, their families, and their communities to thrive, including COVID relief, health care, child and other tax credits, access to education, or other basic assistance?

_____ YES _____ NO

b) Given that access to healthcare for all is critical to the well-being and safety of our communities, do you support eliminating restrictions on healthcare coverage based on immigration status?

_____ YES _____ NO

1. If elected, would you support

a) Enactment of a pathway to citizenship for dreamers, people with TPS, essential workers and other undocumented immigrant workers and their families?

_____ YES _____ NO

2. In the near term, will you support efforts to strengthen and expand Medicaid home- and community-based services in order to help seniors and others in need of long term care services remain in their homes and communities, including proposals to address the institutional bias in the Medicaid program?

_____ YES _____ NO

3. Will you support efforts to ensure home care and other domestic workers are protected by employment and labor rights, including the right to join a union, which entails establishing these rights where they do not exist and enforcing them where they do?

_____ YES _____ NO

b) Given that access to healthcare for all is critical to the well-being and safety of our communities, do you support eliminating restrictions on healthcare coverage based on immigration status?

_____ YES _____ NO

1. If elected, will you support bold and urgent action to address climate change by supporting the achievement of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 with strong and meaningful GHG reduction benchmarks along the way?

_____ YES _____ NO

In order to establish fair and effective taxation on the wealthy few and corporations, will you support efforts to raise tax rates, close tax loopholes, end tax breaks, beef up tax enforcement, and tackle racial tax inequities?

_____ YES _____ NO

2. Nationally, student loan debt surpassed \$1.7T in 2020, which is greater than both credit card and auto loan debt. The burden of student loan debt is preventing millions of families from pursuing the American dream, including the families of many SEIU members. If elected, would you support efforts to forgive student loan debt?

_____ YES _____ NO

2. If elected, will you support proposals to automatically restore voting rights for individuals who have previously been incarcerated or impacted by the criminal justice system?

_____ YES _____ NO

3. If elected, will you support adopting universal voter registration, expanding early voting, using mail ballots, same day and automatic voter registration, ending voter purges, and other measures that increase voter participation/access and combat voter suppression efforts at the state and

local level?

_____ YES _____ NO

4. If elected, will you be willing to support prioritizing structural changes to the government that would unrig the rules against working families including but not limited to:

- a) DC statehood
- b) Puerto Rican self-determination
- c) Expansion of all federal courts
- d) Ending partisan and racial gerrymandering
- e) Universal ethics reforms

_____ YES _____ NO

7. If elected, will you support prioritizing measures that include, but not limited to:

- d) Ending the cash bail system

_____ YES _____ NO

8. If elected, will you support fixing our broken judicial system by:

- d) Supporting legislative efforts to expand the size of the Supreme Court

_____ YES _____ NO

2024 Sierra Club - Wisconsin Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Would you support a moratorium on new fossil fuel infrastructure, which would stop the construction of the proposed Line 5 segment, among other proposals?

Would you support legislation that would allow the Public Service Commission to establish a maximum percentage of income a customer would pay on electricity? .

Will you support a transportation budget that re-prioritizes transit, bicycle and pedestrian funding and local road aid instead of highway expansions and funds all transportation, including transit, through the Transportation Fund?

Would you support policy initiatives that will ensure that affirm the people of Wisconsin's right to abundant water, in perpetuity, that is accessible, affordable, and available for all people, plants and wildlife to be used without risk, and to maintain our ecosystems?

AFL-CIO

Protect the Public Sector

- Would you oppose efforts to weaken the Jones Act, which requires the use of U.S.-flagged, -built and -crewed ships between U.S. ports?
- [Jones Act](#): is a federal statute establishing support for the development and maintenance of a merchant marine in order to support commercial activity and serve as a naval auxiliary in times of war or national emergency

Trade

- Would you commit to opposing free trade agreements based on the outdated and corporate model of trade – a model where agreements are negotiated without workers at the table, without enforceable labor standards and without safeguards to prevent a race to the bottom that pits workers in different countries against one another?
- Would you support the use of targeted and strategically applied tariffs as part of a broader industrial policy to support family – and community-sustaining jobs, reshore critical supply chains and grow our economy?
- Would you support a renegotiation of the USMCA that includes provisions to address the continued offshoring of good jobs and strengthen labor and environmental standards and enforcement across North America?

Artificial Intelligence

- Do you support legislation that bans AI systems that undercut U.S. labor and health and safety standards?
- Do you oppose federal preemption laws blocking states' and cities' authority to safeguard their communities against harmful AI applications?
- Do you support robust transparency and accountability standards ensuring that automatic decision systems comply with civil liability insurance for harms to workers caused by automated decision systems?

Retirement Security

****. Do you oppose reducing Social Security's guaranteed benefits under current law, including by increasing the retirement age, changing the calculation for the annual cost-of-living adjustment, altering the benefit formula or instituting means testing?

.**** Do you oppose replacing any part of Social Security's guaranteed benefits with individual investment accounts?

Immigration

· Would you support a road map to citizenship for all those whose labor helps our country to prosper, including workers with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and temporary status?

· Would you oppose enforcement only immigration policies that increase fear in our workplaces and communities?

· Would you support expansion of our refugee asylum systems, including resources to help newcomers safely integrate into our communities and workplaces?

· Would you support community trust policies that promote public safety by maintaining new separation between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement?

Health Care

· Would you support a permanent, clean extension of ACA enhanced premium tax credits?

· Would you support lowering the Medicare eligibility age from 65 to 50?

· Would you oppose efforts to restrict access to FDA-approved birth control or limit access to reproductive care?

· Would you support single-payer proposals that recognize the important role that unions play in securing comprehensive coverage for working place?

· Would you support single-payer proposals that recognize the important role that unions play in securing comprehensive coverage for working people?

Education

****. Do you oppose vouchers and other proposals that allow taxpayer dollars to be used for private and religious schools at K-12 level, whether as a limited experiment or a full-scale program?

Civil Rights

Voting Rights

- ***** Would you co-sponsor the For the People Act?
- Would you support legislation to allow the delegate elected by District of Columbia residents to vote in the US house of representatives?

Criminal Justice Reform

- *****. Would you support legislation to reduce the “three strike” penalty -- which mandates life sentences for certain individuals -- to a term of 25 years, is shortened and previously mandated 20 year sentence for certain individuals to 15 years?
- Would you support giving judges more discretion to sentence below prescribed mandatory minimums by expanding the existing “safety valve” and creating new authority for judges to depart from certain mandatory minimums?
- ****. Do you support legislation that would ban questions regarding prior convictions on employment applications?
- ***** Would you support restoration of the right to vote after incarceration.

The New York for All Act (S2235A Gounardes / A3506 Reyes) is a bill that prohibits state and local officers from enforcing federal immigration laws, funneling people into ICE custody, and sharing sensitive information with ICE. As the federal government continues its immoral attack on innocent families, this is an urgent public safety issue that will help protect all New Yorkers. Will you stand up for your immigrant neighbors and ask your state legislators to pass the New York for All Act?

The United States continues to be the only industrialized country without a universal healthcare system. If the federal government is unable to guarantee basic care to all Americans, we need Albany to do so for all New Yorkers. Will you support the New York Health Act (S3425 Rivera / A1466 Paulin), the only comprehensive plan that would enact a universal single-payer system for all New York State residents, ensuring everyone can access high quality healthcare when they need it? More information on the legislation is below.

New York State currently serves fewer than 20% of children eligible for subsidized child care, leaving working families without the crucial support they need. Many childcare educators also make poverty wages and rely on government assistance for survival. Will you call on the state to

provide universal, free, high quality child care for all New York children while paying all childcare educators a living (thriving) wage?

The labor movement plays a crucial role in providing security for working people. Unfortunately, unions have been under attack by right wing activists for decades now. What will you do to help strengthen protections for working people and help increase the strength of unions and the labor movement in your community? Will you commit to supporting local efforts to organize by joining picket lines, sending letters to employers, etc, and have you done so in the past?

What policies would you work for to ensure that immigrants (including undocumented immigrants) are made welcome in your jurisdiction and their personal information is not shared with federal agencies who intend on deporting them? Do you support protecting the personal data of local residents from federal agencies?

Public safety is of paramount concern to every family and community in our state. Yet, rather than investing deeply in the resources needed to keep us safe (housing, mental healthcare, education, jobs), our cities and states rely almost exclusively on systems of policing, jails, and prisons that often fail to address the root causes of harm. The result is a criminal justice system that is ineffective, unjust, and often racially biased. What is your vision for achieving public safety in your community? What steps have you and will you take in office to address the deep racial inequities and white supremacy in systems of policing and incarceration, and to transition to a model that prioritizes community investment and public health?

In 2024, New Yorkers overwhelmingly passed Proposition 1, protecting the civil rights of women, the LGBTQ community, and all New Yorkers. But the right wing has rebounded its coordinated efforts to target transgender adults and children through hateful media crusades and legislative campaigns to erode their social and medical rights. How will you support or advocate for LGBTQ+ people, especially the trans community, which continues to be under attack?

Rent stabilization is a proven tool that municipalities across the state have used to prevent egregious rent hikes, prevent displacement, and strengthen neighborhoods. However, strict statewide restrictions make it difficult for local lawmakers who want to participate in the system to opt-in. Both tenants and local lawmakers are left with little-to-no recourse as corporate landlords take over our cities and rents skyrocket. A statewide bill being introduced in Albany would make it easier for local governments to enact rent stabilization protections for its residents. Would you support a bill (S4659A Kavanagh / A4877 Shrestha) to give more latitude to local government, and would you write letters to your state representatives, local op-eds, and/or pass resolutions indicating that support?

Students for Life

5. Will you sign into law federal legislation that would direct the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to require stringent controls given their black box approval to control the distribution of deadly chemical abortion pills like RU-486 to protect women from death, injury, infertility, and abusers who may give them drugs without their knowledge or consent?

Yes or No

11. Will you sign into law federal legislation that prohibits the government from requiring businesses, churches, private businesses, and organizations to offer healthcare options that cover the cost of an abortion, which in effect requires an opt out in for such coverage?

15. Will you sign into law federal legislation prohibiting taxpayer funding of abortion and prohibiting funding of any organization that performs or markets abortion services, nationally and internationally, including Planned Parenthood?

Yes or No

16. Will you sign into law federal legislation to repeal or limit the FACE Act, which has weaponized the federal government against peaceful pro-life activists?

Yes or No

19. Will you only nominate candidates to serve as the Secretary of Health & Human Services who will seek to undo the pro-abortion activism by the current HHS Secretary & Administration and seek to prioritize life-affirming policy as well as do an assessment of how widespread abortion policy and funding is throughout the agency for consideration by Congress?

Yes or No

23. Will you nominate judicial candidates to the U.S. Supreme Court and every federal court who are committed to protecting Life in Law by defending & upholding the right to life of the preborn as reflected in the 14th Amendment?

Yes or No

25. Will you sign into law the Heartbeat Protection Act (H.R. 175) to prohibit abortions from occurring after a fetal heartbeat is detected, the universal sign of life?

<https://texasscorecard.com/state/texans-for-vaccine-choice-releases-voting-guide/>

Cleveland Heights Democrats

Restrictions on Health Care Choice - Will you support repeal of House Bill 68, and similar legislation, which bans gender affirming health care for minors and prohibits transgender girls and women from participating in sports that align with their gender identity?

☒ Yes ☐ No

FOR THE FULL QUESTIONNAIRES SEE THE LINKS HERE.

League of Conservation Voters Questionnaire

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MKJgkFS4uT54YPRauv7RRPrNjAei7EFb/view?usp=sharing>

SEIU Questionnaire

- https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-R5wfu4C2kStk7-2ErXpoyTwyhjtMkN&usp=drive_copy

AFL-CIO Questionnaire

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OAWOqREjhrfEhVSkfjbvDu1HOYa9AWuC/view?usp=sharing>

Metro DC-DSA Questionnaire

- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OiBUgo1DccZeiZLSNJ_1U0hLCH97ESeq/view?usp=drive_link

Planned Parenthood Questionnaire

- https://drive.google.com/open?id=1r1BzPHBrn_OFtdb7Rpds6NZtp0zqzEOQ&usp=drive_copy

Teamsters Questionnaire

- https://drive.google.com/open?id=1etggf9Z2MzUxqHLKDkOppVMxRf_8F3TR&usp=drivecopy

Sierra Club Questionnaire

- https://drive.google.com/open?id=10UD8Ds-ZNlsAUImbVDk-Q-U3RDQcVLfe&usp=drive_copy

Georgia for Life Alliance Questionnaire

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/16DivDUOf57wL7JgGlh5kbOOj9DyBggzW/view?usp=sharing>

Students for Life Questionnaire

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KXl0YIae1BLwafOABlwk3at3AEtbkUrx/view?usp=sharing>

National Rifle Association Questionnaire

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rhzW71xkxOFYHsKeCzM-HQVRq1Tpy6JB/view?usp=sharing>