



QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CALIFORNIA CANDIDATES

The Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO (TWU) represents workers in the public transportation, aviation, railroad, university, utility, services and gaming sectors across the country. In California, TWU's Transit Division consists of approximately 2,200 men and women through out the city and county of San Francisco. Local 250-A Members work as Municipal Transit Operators, Transit Fare Inspectors, Automotive Service Workers, Museum Conservators, City Department Health Inspectors, Disease Control Investigators and Curators. TWU's Air Transport Division represents approximately 3,800 Members working as Fleet Service Employees and Ground Service Mechanics at American Airlines; as Ramp Agents, Cargo Agents, Operations Agents and Flight Attendants at Southwest Airlines; as Flight Attendants at Virgin America; and, as Fleet Service Employees at Envoy Air.

Visit www.twu.org or www.facebook.com/transportworkersunion for additional information about TWU.

Please contact Matt Hettich for questions about this questionnaire.

Matt Hettich
TWU California State Conference Chairperson
Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO
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CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

Candidate Name: _____

Campaign Committee Name: _____

Campaign Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Campaign Phone Number: _____

Campaign Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Website Address: _____

Campaign Manager: _____

Campaign Manager's Phone Number: _____

Office Sought: Senate/Assembly District #: _____

Party Affiliation: Democrat Republican Other

Filing Deadline: _____

Do you have Primary Election opposition? Yes No

Primary Election Date: _____

Run-Off Election Date: _____

Primary Opponent's Name(s): _____

Have you received an endorsement from any TWU Local(s) or State Conference for your current campaign? Yes No

If yes, which TWU Local(s) or State Conference: _____

What is your campaign budget? _____

Primary: _____ General: _____

Have you ever run for or held an elective office? Yes No

If yes, which office and when? Office _____

Dates Ran/Held _____

LABOR STANDARDS AND INEQUALITY

Freedom to Choose a Union

The right to form a union and engage in collective bargaining is enshrined in U.S. law, but for many workers it is a right that exists only on paper. Workers who want to join together to form unions typically face intense employer opposition aimed at suppressing their freedom to unionize and bargain collectively. As a result, wages have stagnated, especially for workers on the lowest rungs of the job ladder—many of them women, minorities and immigrants—and fewer and fewer workers have secure pensions and decent health care coverage. Disparities in income and wealth have reached levels not seen since the Great Depression, as workers blocked from access to collective bargaining lack the power to redress rising economic inequality.

If elected, would you co-sponsor and vote for legislation that would restore the right to organize and engage in collective bargaining by (1) streamlining the process for allowing workers to choose whether to join a union, and protecting workers from intimidation and coercion; (2) strengthening remedies for interference with workers' rights; and (3) establishing first contract mediation and arbitration?

If elected, would you publicly affirm the importance of unions to your communities and urge employers not to interfere when workers are deciding whether to form or join a union? Would you be willing to issue statements, attend rallies supporting organizing campaigns, and sponsor public forums to support the rights of workers to form a union?

Wages and Income Inequality

America's working people have lived through decades of stagnant and falling wages. TWU seeks to support candidates who have concrete plans to reform our economy so that working people share in the wealth their hard work creates.

What is your comprehensive approach to raising wages? What is your most important, detailed economic policy idea?

Do you support modernizing American labor law so that workers and their employers could bargain collectively to raise wages? What other steps would you take to increase workers' bargaining power?

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Transit Privatization

TWU opposes efforts to mandate or encourage privatization of public transportation. For almost 50 years, federal policy has dictated that local authorities are allowed to make decisions involving the choice between public and private transit operators without federal interference. In recent years, at the urging of multinational corporations, some policymakers have attempted to mandate or encourage the privatization of public transportation services. As federal funding has dried up, policy makers are increasingly looking to public private partnerships (P3s) and other innovative financing tools to expand public transportation. In some circumstances P3s can play an important role in financing highway transportation projects, but TWU has serious concerns with any effort to use P3s to fund private transit operations and maintenance contracts at the expense of workers' rights. P3s are only suitable for a limited number of projects and they are not a substitute for a significant increase in federal funding. These financial instruments should not be used to revoke collective bargaining agreements, weaken worker protections, lower wages and benefits, or in service of a business model that extracts savings at the expense of workers.

If elected, would you oppose efforts to privatize public transportation by publicly affirming opposition to privatization?

Would you be willing to issue statements, attend rallies supporting the opposition to privatization, and sponsor public forums to support the effort against privatization?

Transit Health and Safety

TWU supports efforts to improve safety and health conditions for transit workers. Violent assaults on bus and rail operators have become commonplace. The best solution to this problem is the installation of barriers and/or driver's side doors to protect operators from assaults. Also, many public transit agencies do not provide employees with regular bathroom access. Bus routes often operate in areas that lack any type of restroom facilities. TWU supports guaranteed access to bathroom facilities for public transportation workers. These two issues are not only dangerous to the people who operate the vehicles, they also place riders, motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians at risk from assault or distracted driving.

If elected, would you support the creation of state guidelines to improve health and safety conditions for public transportation workers?

Aircraft Repair Stations

Today, U.S. air carriers contract out 70 percent of aircraft maintenance. This outsourced work, much of it performed overseas, should be held to the same safety standards as maintenance performed in the U.S. All employees working on aircraft should meet the same training and oversight requirements regardless of their employer or the nation in which they work.

If elected, would you publicly affirm TWU's efforts to ensure aviation maintenance work is held to the same safety standards regardless of whether it is performed in-house or under contract and irrespective of the country in which the work is performed?

Airline Bankruptcy

Filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy has become a popular way for struggling companies to renege on their commitments to their workers. In recent years this has become especially true of airlines. At the same time executives receive payouts and bonuses, they attempt to reduce wages and terminate healthcare and pension agreements. By filing for bankruptcy, many of these companies hope to sidestep the bargaining table and gain an unfair advantage in the courts. The U.S. Bankruptcy Code needs to be modified to ensure workers are treated fairly if their employer files Chapter 11.

If elected, would you publicly affirm measures that would ensure that airline workers are protected if their employer files Chapter 11?

Safety and Security for Flight Crew and the Travelling Public

Congress should ban knives in aircraft cabins to protect the flying public. In recent years, federal agencies have considered allowing knives in aircraft cabins. These ill-advised proposals would put the safety of passengers and flight attendants at risk and force TSA screeners to sort out “good” knives from “bad” by measuring the length of every blade passing through security. TWU also supports the FCC prohibition on mobile phone calls during flight, due to the potential interference with crewmembers’ ability to perform their duties when responding to an emergency.

If elected, would you publicly affirm and support our efforts to ban knives and cell phone calls from commercial aircraft?

PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

Public Health and Environmental Safety Issues

TWU Local 250A represents Disease Control Investigators and Environmental Health Inspectors. With the emergence of serious public health situations in recent years such as Zika, Ebola, and foodborne illness outbreaks (shigella, ecoli, salmonella), both of these job classifications are the core of local public health departments in disease prevention and control and environmental inspection and enforcement.

If elected, would you be willing to support and/or sponsor legislation and budget policies to ensure these critical positions have minimum staffing and funding levels similar to public safety employees such as fire and police personnel? These levels will ensure standard and effective emergency and preparedness responses for local public health departments.