



444 East Main Street, New Britain, CT 06051 (860) 224-4000
2021 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Instructions: Thank you for your interest in Council 4’s endorsement. Please fill out and return as an attachment by email to: banderson@council4.org or zleavy@council4.org. Council 4 has SPAM blocking software, so to minimize the chances of a failed transmission please rename the completed form using this format for the filename: last name first name initial AFSCME2018 (e.g., Debs E AFSCME2019.doc). *If you do not receive a confirmation of receipt of your email within a day, please notify Brian Anderson at 860-690-2597 or Zak Leavy at 860-989-9116.*

The reply boxes are unshaded. Font type and size has been set for all the reply boxes; we would appreciate it if you would not change it. Some of the questions are fairly complex and require explanations. Please try to keep replies as brief as possible.

Council 4’s delegate body will consider candidate endorsement requests submitted in a timely fashion. We do not take action in all races. In order to be considered for an early endorsement please submit a completed questionnaire ASAP. We rarely take positions in primary elections. The best interests of our members, our communities and available resources will dictate our decisions. We are a large union with hundreds of affiliated local unions. Our endorsement process is complex and we ask that you please return the questionnaire in a timely manner to allow full consideration of your candidacy. While filling out a questionnaire will not guarantee an interview or endorsement, we will not make an endorsement without a questionnaire.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION							
Name	Formal				Used in Literature		
Street & No.						Appt. No.	
City, Town				ZIP	06	-	
Contact Information (Use * to indicate preferred contact numbers)							
Home Phone					Bus. Phone		
Cell Phone					Fax		
Email				Email			
Previously Held Offices							
Office				# of Terms	From	To	
Union Experience and Participation							
Are you a member of a union? Have you previously belonged to a labor union?							
Titles of any elected/appointed union offices held.							

Job title and union name for any paid union positions.	
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CAMPAIGN INFORMATION					
Office Sought and District Number		Terms Served in Office Sought.			
Do you anticipate a primary election?					
Campaign Committee Name.					
Campaign Mgr.		Phone		Email	
Campaign Treas.		Phone		Email	
Campaign Treasurer Address					

ISSUES		
1	Why are you seeking the endorsement of AFSCME Council 4?	
2	<p>Connecticut's collective bargaining laws have brought continuity and fairness to contract negotiations for the state and municipalities, while providing workers a voice. Despite this process working, we have seen groups like CCM and CBIA push to weaken collective bargaining laws and change binding arbitration laws.</p> <p>A – Will you oppose any attempts to weaken public employee collective bargaining laws?</p> <p>B – Will you support expanding collective bargaining rights for all workers?</p>	
3	<p>Outsourcing (privatization) of public services or programs is more and more frequently proposed as a solution to public sector budgetary problems, despite evidence showing it raises costs and reduces quality of services.</p> <p>1. Do you support or oppose the outsourcing of services and programs now provided by the public sector?</p> <p>2. Will you work to bring outsourced services back in-house?</p>	

4	<p>Municipalities continually face challenges from reductions in state aid which have led to service cuts, layoffs, and regressive property tax increases. Will you advocate with your state representative/senator to support increasing municipal aid?</p>	
5	<p>If your municipality has a pension plan, will you oppose any attempt to switch municipal employees to risky 401(k) plans? Will you oppose adding tiers to MERS (which undercuts pensions for future generations of workers)?</p>	
6	<p>Will you advocate to your state legislative delegation to restore taxes on the wealthiest in Connecticut in order to provide more state revenue for municipalities?</p>	
7	<p>The CT Partnership 2.0 plan allows municipalities and Boards of Education to join forces with the State of Connecticut's health plan for state employees to reduce costs and provide their employees with, in many cases, better health care options. Will you support healthcare pooling to help reduce costs and encourage municipal and board of education leaders to join?</p>	
8	<p>MERS (Municipal Employee Retirement System) is a properly-well funded, state run-pension plan for municipal employees. Many of the employees in MERS are not eligible to receive any Social Security payments in retirement. There have been attempts to cost shift from the employers to the employees. Will you oppose shifting costs onto these workers?</p>	
9	<p>The General Assembly has created incentives to encourage municipalities to join regional organizations. However, municipalities and private companies have tried to use regionalization to cut worker pay and benefits. Will you oppose regionalization attempts that use the reduction of employee compensation and benefits? Will you oppose privatizing services such as emergency dispatchers or trash collection?</p>	

10	<p>Do you support or oppose the existing law regarding prevailing rate for municipal public works projects? Please explain your position.</p> <p>Will you support the use of project labor agreements on municipal contracted projects? Please explain your position.</p>	
11	<p>Municipal lobby groups and well-funded anti-worker organizations routinely advocate for changing the binding arbitration system and weakening worker protections. How will you hold these groups accountable when they try to weaken the rights of workers?</p>	
12	<p>AFSCME believes that every student deserves a quality, public education. We believe school reform should be a collaborative effort between teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, support staff, parents and the community. Every district and every school has a different population of students.</p> <p>Will you oppose any attempts to expand charter schools?</p>	
13	<p>Recently, legislation that would violate the basic due process and collective bargaining rights of police officers has been proposed as a remedy for alleged excessive force use. This includes the seizing of police officers' pensions and rendering a guilty finding against officers prior to a trial. Would you support or oppose such legislation?</p>	
14	<p>Public employees are consistently mandated to work overtime. Overtime is often part of the pension calculation, as it reflects a worker's true income. If applicable to your community, will you oppose efforts to take overtime out of pension calculations?</p>	
15	<p>Will you support the right of employees to negotiate for their pension and health care?</p>	

16	The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act that President Biden signed into law ordered \$2.6 billion for use by Connecticut's cities, towns and local school districts. Will you support providing premium pay to your municipal front-line workers who served through the COVID crisis?	
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Additional comments

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