



**International Union of Operating  
Engineers Local 542**  
**2020 Questionnaire for Pennsylvania  
Municipal and Local School Board Candidates**

Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Party Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_

Official Campaign Committee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Candidate's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Candidate, please initial each of the following six pages at the bottom.)*

Please return the completed questionnaire (including any attachments) to:

**IUOE Local 542  
Political Director  
1375 Virginia Drive  
Ft. Washington, PA 19034**

***Confidential - for internal use only***

## **Prevailing Wage**

The Davis-Bacon Act mandates payment of local prevailing wages on projects funded by the federal government that have federal funding that exceeds \$2,000, which includes federal, state and local public works projects. The Pennsylvania State Prevailing Wage law requires that all workers on **state-funded** construction projects that exceed \$25,000 be paid the State Prevailing Wage.

These Prevailing Wage laws prevent competition for federal construction contracts from artificially depressing local labor standards. The prevailing wage is not a “union” wage. The Davis-Bacon prevailing wage is based upon surveys of wages and benefits actually paid to various job classifications of construction workers in the community, without regard to union membership.

Studies show that subverting prevailing wage laws often leads to shoddy construction and substantial cost overruns. Productivity is so much greater among high-wage, high-skill workers that projects using them often cost less than those projects using low-wage, low-skill workers. This is largely due to lengthy delays while subpar work is repaired or redone. In fact, data from the Census of Construction shows that the added value per worker in states with prevailing wage laws is 13% to 15% higher than in states without prevailing wage laws.

Further, the overwhelming majority of peer-reviewed research conducted over the last 15 years forms the consensus view that construction costs are not affected by prevailing wages. For example, 80% of peer-reviewed studies find that the wage policy does not affect the cost of building public schools. In two studies, which examine costs of over 4,000 schools built in the United States, researchers fail to find any statistically significant cost difference between schools built in states with and without prevailing wage laws.

***If elected, will you support the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage law on local and school board projects and oppose any efforts to raise the funding requirement or otherwise negatively impact the law?***

**Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_\_\_

***If No, why not?*** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Project Labor Agreements**

A project labor agreement (PLA) is a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement that establishes the terms and conditions of employment on one or more construction projects and are open to all contractors.

Timely construction of projects requires substantial numbers of workers from many crafts possessing skills and qualifications vital to its completion. PLAs ensure a level playing field for both union and non-union contractors, which guarantees a steady flow of highly trained construction labor. PLAs provide better trained workers, so the job is done right the first time, which is more cost effective.

The positive impact of a trained workforce extends beyond the integrity of the project and also has positive implications for the safety culture on site. PLAs provide a safer work environment, which reduces lost time, insurance premiums, and property damage. PLAs also provide for drug testing and background checks.

PLAs can also be used to meet various social needs. Today, many building trades councils across the country are structuring PLAs to include what are known as "Community Workforce Agreements," or CWAs, in order to build ladders of opportunity into the skilled construction trades for local residents, women and veterans. PLAs with Community Standards, and contractors who agree to work under these agreements, acknowledge that economic development of the local region, development of local workers for construction careers, as well as the timely completion of projects without delay, with skilled workers and agreed-upon procedures, is of benefit to contractors and owners, as well as the general public.

***If elected, will you support the use of Project Labor Agreements for public construction projects in your municipality or school board?***

**Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_\_\_

***If No, why not?*** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Responsible Contractor Ordinances**

Related to PLAs, Responsible Contractor Ordinances (or RCOs) cover project construction, renovation, operation and maintenance. **Under these Ordinances, done at the local level, projects must meet certain criteria**, which can include:

- A bidding process that is competitive and includes responsible contractors, including signatory contractors;
- Selected contractors must demonstrate a history of providing fair wages and benefits, compliance with federal, state and local laws including, but not limited to, wages, insurance benefits, occupational health and safety, and non-discrimination;
- Promotion of Project Labor Agreements;
- Recognition of employee training and safety and protection of workers' rights;
- Certain advanced notification to national and local building trade organizations of project and bidding opportunities and reasonable time to seek union labor for various functions; and
- The firm and sub-contractors must participate in a registered Class A Apprenticeship Program for each trade involved and must have graduated apprentices to journeymen within the last five (5) years in each trade involved (*proof must be available*).

Additionally, an RCO should contain enforcement mechanisms designed to ensure strict adherence to the policy provisions.

***If elected, will you support and encourage the passage of Responsible Contractor Ordinances in your local municipality and/or school board?***

**Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_\_\_

***If No, why not?*** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Infrastructure**

IUOE Local 542, together with North America's Building Trades Unions, supports a broad based, aggressive investment strategy to meet our infrastructure needs and provide for sustained job opportunities for our members. We strongly believe that, in order for the United States to achieve its maximum economic potential in the 21st Century, the U.S. must have an infrastructure system that provides the foundation for a dynamic 21st Century economy.

This strategy calls for: greater investment in physical infrastructure; a modern permitting process to ensure timely project delivery; and the preservation and expansion of labor standards.

Specifically, NABTU and its affiliates call for:

- Addressing the funding mechanism of the Highway Trust Fund to achieve long-term stability, either through increasing the user fee or moving toward a Vehicle Miles Traveled based system
- Increasing funding for our nation's airport infrastructure through the Airport Improvement Program and other existing funding streams which provide critically needed funding for the planning and development of public-use airports across the United States
- Increased funding for water projects through existing programs by fully funding WRDA and WIFIA, as well as increasing funding for both the Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds
- Increased investment in public buildings by providing for energy retrofits of federally owned public buildings and grant programs for school construction
- Strengthening our energy infrastructure through increased investment in nuclear power and the creation of an Energy Infrastructure Finance and Innovation program modeled after TIFIA and WIFIA
- Increased investment in public infrastructure through innovative financing mechanisms such as Public-Private Partnerships and a National Infrastructure Bank
- Preserving Labor Standards that strengthen the construction workforce with the consistent application of Davis-Bacon and preserving the use of Project Labor Agreements in federal procurement.

***If elected, will you support legislation to address the infrastructure needs of Pennsylvania and local communities?***

**Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_\_\_

***If No, why not?*** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

As part of our evaluation and assessment process, IUOE Local 542 members would like to know a little more about how you have designed and are running your campaign.

Please give us as many of these details as possible:

**Campaign Profile**

1. Campaign Staff

Manager \_\_\_\_\_

Finance Director \_\_\_\_\_

Field Director \_\_\_\_\_

2. Campaign Consultants

Media \_\_\_\_\_ Direct Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Pollster \_\_\_\_\_ Fundraiser \_\_\_\_\_

3. Anticipated Campaign Budget

General \_\_\_\_\_

Money Raised to Date \_\_\_\_\_

What is your planned allocation of resources between paid media and voter contact operations? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Voter Registration of District

Democrat \_\_\_\_\_ Republican \_\_\_\_\_

Independent \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

5. Presidential Performance of District in 2016:

Clinton (%) \_\_\_\_\_ Trump (%) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Party Performance (%) in 2018: Democratic \_\_\_\_\_ Republican \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

7. What elected office(s) have you held or do you currently hold? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Please list all previous campaigns for elective office: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What are the top three issues or themes for your campaign? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What are (or you believe will be) your major sources of funding in your campaign?  
i.e., endorsements, elected officials, community leaders: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11. What is your PA AFL-CIO voting record (if applicable) for 2018, 2016, 2014 and 2012?

2018: \_\_\_\_\_ 2016: \_\_\_\_\_ 2014: \_\_\_\_\_ 2012: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Is there anything else you would like us to know as we consider whether to support your campaign?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return the completed questionnaire as noted on page 1.

After we review the questionnaire, we will contact you to schedule a candidate interview.

Thank you for taking the time to share with us your ideas and critical campaign information.

**This questionnaire is for internal use only. Its contents will not be shared with any other candidates or political parties or political organizations.**