



444 East Main Street, New Britain, CT 06051 (860) 224-4000  
**2019 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](mailto:banderson@council4.org) or [zleavy@council4.org](mailto: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		

<b>Union Experience and Participation</b>			
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.			

<b>CAMPAIGN INFORMATION</b>					
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					

<b>ISSUES</b>		
1	<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 CT's collective bargaining laws?</p> <p>B – Will you support expanding collective bargaining rights for all workers?</p>	
2	<p>Outsourcing (privatization) of public services or programs is more and more frequently proposed as a solution to public sector budgetary problems, despite overwhelming evidence that public employees do the work better and cheaper.</p> <p>Do you support or oppose the outsourcing of services and programs now provided by the public sector?</p>	
3	<p>Municipalities and Boards of Education often pursue privatization or outsourcing of public services, claiming savings or service improvement, without demonstrating how savings and efficiencies will be accomplished. If you oppose outsourcing/privatization, how will you fight against privatization proposals to protect public services?</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 opposing adding tiers to MERS (which undercuts pensions for future generations of workers)?</p>	
6	<p>According to an analysis of Connecticut taxes, the wealthiest 1% pay 5.5% of their incomes in state and local taxes while middle-class families pay between 9.6% and 11.4%. Would you advocate to restore taxes on the wealthy and to close corporate loopholes to help increase aid to 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-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 tried to use regionalization to cut worker pay and benefits. Will you support legislation that prevents municipalities from using these incentives to privatize services, such as police 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. Will you hold these groups responsible when they attack public-sector 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 change or gut collective bargaining under the pretext of education reform?</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>CBIA and CCM have tried to create a legal fiction in which up to 15% of a town's budget would be out of consideration for bargaining if it is put in a municipal reserve fund. Doing this will probably ensure that municipal workers do not get a pay raise that keeps pace with the cost of living, if at all. Will you oppose such tampering with the current collective bargaining law?</p>	
16	<p>Will you support the right of employees to negotiate for their pension and health care?</p>	
<b>Additional Comments</b>		