



Dear Maryland State Senator/House of Delegates Candidate,

Enclosed is the 2018 Maryland State Candidate Questionnaire for the Baltimore/ Washington Construction and Public Employees Laborers' District Council (BWLDC), Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA!).

LIUNA! is the most progressive, aggressive, and fastest-growing union of construction workers, and one of the most diverse and effective unions representing public service employees. LIUNA members are on the forefront of the construction industry – a sector that is a powerhouse of 12 million workers producing 5 percent of our country's economic output. A half-million strong, we are united through collective bargaining agreements which help us earn family-supporting pay, good benefits, and the opportunity for advancement and better lives.

The Baltimore/Washington Construction and Public Employees Laborers' District Council includes three locals:

- Local 572, located in Camp Springs, Maryland;
- Local 710, located in Baltimore, Maryland; and
- Local 11, located in Washington, DC.

Combined, our locals represent more than 7,500 members, many whom are Maryland residents.

Annually, LIUNA! spends more than \$20 million supporting political candidates at all levels of government whose vision and objectives align with the union's mission and values. The Baltimore/Washington District Council and its locals contribute thousands of dollars each election cycle to support candidates who support workers and worker rights. Our members also actively lend their support, coming out weekend after weekend to knock on doors for candidates the union has endorsed.

Please complete the questionnaire by **Friday, February 23**. To make it as easy as possible to answer, it is in writable PDF form. Simply check the answer boxes and/or fill in the comment sections, save and email it back to us. Or you can fill it out, print, scan and email. You can also fax it. Please email or fax your completed questionnaire c/o Rick Binetti to Sharon Yupari at syupari@bwldc.org or 703.860.8713.

We appreciate your time and look forward to reviewing your responses.

Sincerely,

The Baltimore/Washington Construction and Public Employees Laborers' District Council

Baltimore/Washington Construction and Public Employees Laborers' District Council, LiUNA! 2018 Maryland State Questionnaire

1. Please tell us about your campaign

Office seeking:	
District (if applicable):	
Campaign committee name:	
Campaign address:	
City, State, Zip Code:	
Phone:	
Fax:	
Email:	
Campaign tax ID (EIN) #:	

Candidate contact information

Phone:	
Fax:	
Email:	

Campaign treasurer contact information

Phone:	
Fax:	
Email:	

Have you ever sought public office before?

Yes No

If yes, please specify:	
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Does your campaign accept PAC contributions?

Yes No

Comments:	
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Have you ever received the endorsement of LiUNA?

Yes No

If yes, please specify:	
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Why are you seeking an endorsement from Laborers' International Union of North America (LiUNA!)? (Please specify below.)

1. PREVAILING WAGE

Prevailing Wage protects local economies by providing a livable wage for construction workers on public works projects. It makes sure they are paid rates that are most common or “prevailing” in specific geographic areas within the state. It has been in place in Maryland since 1969, and helps local workers benefit from government contracts by leveling the playing field for fair contractors who provide good wages and health benefits on building, construction, highway maintenance and other projects. Prevailing Wage makes it harder for unscrupulous contractors from importing workers from outside the state, paying lower wages with no healthcare or pension benefits. It was good public policy then, and it remains good public policy today. In past legislative sessions, there have been attempts to gut this law.

- a. Will you oppose any legislation that seeks to weaken Maryland’s prevailing wage law?
 Yes No Other (explain below)

Comments:

- b. Would you support legislation to expand it, such as lowering the state’s current 50% contribution level threshold on state and local public works projects to 25% so that it matches the school construction prevailing wage threshold?
 Yes No Other (explain below)

Comments:

2. RIGHT-TO-WORK

Even though the phrase “Right to Work” seems like something positive that everyone can get behind, it isn’t. There’s nothing “right” about it. Several states have already passed “Right to Work” laws that impede employee organizations’ ability to negotiate collective bargaining agreements. This means that unions must provide those collectively bargained services free of charge, which is nothing but a union-busting ploy. Right to Work is a lie that ultimate limits employees’ rights to negotiate for fair wages, benefits and workplace safety.

- a. Would you oppose “Right-to-Work” legislation?
 Yes No Other (explain below)

Comments:

- a. Would you also oppose any "Paycheck Protection" legislation, which would disallow labor unions to collect dues electronically from their paychecks?
- Yes No Other (explain below)

Comments:

3. TAX INCRIMENT FINANCING

Tax Increment Financing is increasingly being used to subsidize private development throughout the state of Maryland. Generally, it is used to pay for the construction of infrastructure needed for private developments. Unlike all other types of bond financing the state uses to pay for public works projects, Maryland's enabling TIF legislation currently does not include a requirement that the work it finances pays prevailing wage.

- a. Would you introduce and/or support legislation to close that loophole and require that all TIF-financed projects pay prevailing wage?
- Yes No Other (explain below)

Comments:

- b. And/or would you support legislation that would clarify the MD's enabling legislation to allow local jurisdictions to require prevailing wage as a part of a local TIF project?
- Yes No Other (explain below)

Comments:

4. STRENGTHENING PRO-WORKER, PRO-ECONOMY PROCUREMENT STANDARDS

The federal government and many states around the country have moved towards performance-based and responsible contracting procurement standards rather than simply using bid price as the main selection variable. More often than not, capital projects awarded to the lowest bidder, can result in subsequent default, late delivery, and substandard work. Delayed and/or unsatisfactory performance greatly escalates contract costs and can cause serious administrative and logistical problems. These problems, plus excessive claims and change orders common on low-bid projects, translate into "total project" costs that end up exceeding the original "low bid" quoted.

The responsible contracting approach enables contracting officials to closely examine, evaluate and rate contractors on their respective qualifications and performance capabilities and choose the best-qualified contractor who offers the best price. As they set standards for a bidder's ability to deliver contracts on time based on past performance, many state governments have also set responsible contracting standards regarding

contractors' wages, benefits, and records of complying with workplace, tax and other laws, through responsible contracting policies. These policies establish a basic set of qualifications that all firms must meet in order to bid on public construction or private construction projects that receive public funding and/or benefit from public investment.

Responsible contracting policies help governments reduce the risk of contract failure and ensure that contractors have a track record of providing employees with living wages and benefits. This approach leads to better quality construction, more reliable services for the community, increases the return on taxpayer public works investment, and reduces the dependency on public assistance that results when workers don't receive livable wages and benefits. In practice, firms that meet responsible contractor standards typically would be able to show that they:

- Are fully licensed and bonded
 - Have a good record of past performance
 - Have had no wage/hour violations for the past three consecutive years
 - Provide OSHA 10-hour safety training
 - Participate in a certified joint labor-management apprenticeship program Pay prevailing wages and offer health insurance
 - Provide all benefits of employment to their workforce (including social security, workers comp, and unemployment insurance)
 - Comply with all other federal and state regulations
 - Have no history of violating this policy in previous public contracts
- a. Would you support legislation to enable the state of Maryland to utilize best value contracting on construction projects valued at \$1 million or more?
- Yes No Other (explain below)

Comments:

- b. Would you be in favor of providing a procurement preference on state capital projects when bidders/contractors provide healthcare benefits to their employees?
- Yes No Other (explain below)

Comments:

5. PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS

Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) are privately bargained contracts that stipulate, wages/fringe benefits, hours, conditions, safety practices and construction deadlines. PLAs have been proven to bring efficiency to construction projects. PLAs ensure a highly qualified and skilled workforce, training and apprenticeship opportunities for MD and local residents. More importantly, PLA's provide skilled workers a pathway to middle-class and family-sustaining careers, rather than just a job. In virtually every instance, public works

projects done under these agreements have come in on time and/or under budget, representing cost savings to taxpayers.

Across the DMV area, LiUNA has been successful securing PLAs on a wide range of projects, including the Purple Line and the Cheltenham Youth Detention Center, both in Maryland; the DC United Soccer Stadium, the Wizards Practice Facility, the Northeast Boundary Tunnel, and the South Capitol Street Bridge in Washington, DC; and the 395 HOT Lanes in Virginia, among others. This pipeline of projects enables laborer apprentices to move from project to project as one ends and another begins, accumulating the hours they need to graduate and become journey workers earning family-supporting wages.

- a. Would you support Project Labor Agreements on state projects, particularly transportation, school construction and other public works?
 Yes No Other (explain below)

Comments:

- b. Would you urge developers receiving public tax abatements and their contracting companies to adopt PLA language in their bid documents?
 Yes No

- c. Please explain your answer, specifically what strategy you would use to see that PLAs are incorporated on public and tax-subsidized private development?

Comments:

6. MD NATURAL GAS AND ELECTRIC UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVMENTS & EXPANSION

Energy and utility-related construction work is the pathway to the middle class for many LiUNA members. In the DMV region, this work accounts for a significant share of our manhours. We have a solid history of working with MD utilities to maintain a safe and modern energy distribution infrastructure, critical to MD's security and economic health. For example, LiUNA partnered with BG&E and Washington Gas to achieve passage of Maryland's Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement Plan (STRIDE), which allows gas companies to recover the costs of gas distribution infrastructure replacements or improvements through a surcharge mechanism. The purpose of the law is to accelerate gas infrastructure improvements in the state. In 2016, House Bill 546 would have expanded gas infrastructure improvements throughout the state and applied this funding model to Maryland's electrical infrastructure as well. It did not pass.

- a. Would you support legislation similar to House Bill 546 that would enable the expansion of emissions reducing natural gas to areas of the state where it is not currently available? And, would you support similar legislation to help utility companies more efficiently update/improve MD's electrical infrastructure?

- Yes No Other (explain below)

Comments:

- b. Would you oppose any legislative effort to roll back MD's STRIDE statute, making it more difficult for utility companies to maintain a safe, modern and efficient natural gas infrastructure?

- Yes No Other (explain below)

Comments:

7. Standing With the Democratic Party

Every four years, the Democratic Party establishes its party platform—the ideas and beliefs that govern the party as a whole. In 2016, the platform included the following tenets related to workers. As a MD elected official and member of the Democratic Party, please indicate which of the following you support. (Check all that apply):

- Make it easier for workers to exercise their right to organize and join unions (p.4)
- Bring companies to the negotiating table (p.4)
- Support binding arbitration to help workers who have voted to join a union reach a first contract (p.4)
- Oppose so-called “right to work” laws (p.4)
- Vigorously oppose any efforts to roll-back prevailing wage standards (p.4)
- Defend the right of workers to collect their defined benefit pensions and ensure workers get priority and protection when pension plans fail (p.7)
- Make investments to spur the creation of jobs for our young people (p.10)
- Fight to ensure every American has access to quality, affordable health care (p.34)
- Push for more educational benefits and job training for veterans (p.41)

8. Standing With Workers

If workers in your district needed your help in their fight to join a union, which of the following would you be willing to take to help their cause? (Check all that apply):

- Call and encourage the employer to meet with the workers
- Arrange/host a meeting with representatives of the company and the workers
- Sign a letter to the employer
- Sign a petition
- March on a picket line

- Attend a rally
- Speak at a rally
- Other (please specify): _____

9. Will you attend a LiUNA member meeting and share your vision and priorities?

- Yes No

Our Thanks

Thank you for completing the Baltimore/Washington Construction and Public Employees Laborers' District Council, Laborers' International Union of North America (LiUNA!) Maryland State candidate questionnaire. We appreciate your time and look forward to reviewing your responses.