



2023-2024 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

LiUNA!

Feel the Power

LIUNA!

Feel the Power

LIUNA, the Laborers' International Union of North America, is a strong and proud union of workers founded by immigrants in 1903. 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. Members run LIUNA, electing officers at all levels and participating in the day-to-day affairs of their Local Unions. Members set priorities for contracts and are key to the union's growth and success. The mission of LIUNA is implemented through nine Regions, more than forty District Councils, and 380 Local Unions.

Chartered as a construction union, LIUNA is also one of the most diverse and effective unions representing public employees, federal employees, and service contract workers. LIUNA also represents over 70,000 public employees. LIUNA Public Employees provide critical health care services, keep our parks clean, pick up our trash, maintain our roads, and respond to emergencies both foreign and domestic. The National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU) is affiliated with LIUNA and has served as a key union in the postal community for more than one-hundred years, representing 40,000 Mail Handlers employed by the United States Postal Service.

LIUNA members engage in political action to protect their livelihoods. Every year tens of thousands of LIUNA members make personal calls, talk to fellow members, and visit Congress to advocate for good jobs and to hold elected leaders accountable. LIUNA members also vote and give of their hard-earned wages in voluntary political contributions to the LIUNA national Political Action Committee. The candidates who benefit from LIUNA's political support are from both political parties, and they understand that LIUNA works with those who work with us.

LIUNA members, retirees, and their families are looking for a candidate who will do more than support our wages and benefits. We are looking for a champion of the working class who can be counted on to fight for LIUNA members.

HISTORIC INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

The enactment of President Biden's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the CHIPS and Science Act (CHIPS Act), and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) make historic levels of federal investments into our nation's crumbling infrastructure. Investments in public infrastructure create benefits that are broadly shared by workers, business, and communities.

Across the country, the impacts of these investments are exponential, from rebuilding America's transportation networks, expanding access to clean drinking water, restoring domestic manufacturing, investing in economically disadvantaged communities, increasing access to high-speed internet to advancing environmental justice. These investments also include key labor standards, which help create good-paying union jobs throughout the nation.

LABOR STANDARDS

For the first time in our nation's history, prevailing wages and apprenticeship utilization standards have been attached to tax credits for the production of renewable energy projects, carbon capture projects, projects related to the electrification of our nation's transportation system, and more. Additionally, the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLA)/Community Workforce Agreements (CWA) is strongly encouraged to help local communities reap a greater return on infrastructure investments.

Davis Bacon/Prevailing Wages

Davis Bacon Prevailing Wage laws prevent cheap, low-road contractors from undermining the wages and benefits of workers on federally assisted construction projects. Prevailing wage laws ensure that labor costs are uniform, allowing contractors to compete for public projects based on skill, productivity, and management abilities, not on who can scrape together the cheapest workforce. Davis Bacon not only provides needed stability in the construction industry, it also preserves the living standards of all construction workers and their families throughout the country. LIUNA opposes any effort to weaken or repeal the Davis Bacon Act. The sound administration and robust enforcement of the Davis Bacon Act is crucial to its effectiveness in protecting workers and responsible contractors. The Service Contract Act similarly requires prevailing wages on contracts entered into by federal agencies through the use of service employees.

Project Labor Agreements/Community Workforce Agreements

A Project Labor Agreement or Community Workforce Agreement, is a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement negotiated between one or more construction unions and one or more construction employers that establish the terms and conditions of employment for a specific construction project. Essential elements of PLAs include: provisions that bind all contractors and subcontractors to the agreement; no-strike, no-lockout clauses; and grievance/arbitration procedures. PLAs may also include clauses outlining goals for local hiring, equity, strategic recruitment policies for workers from underserved communities or the participation of small businesses.

Apprenticeship Utilization

Since 2020, private companies have announced \$470 billion in manufacturing and clean energy investments, in addition to federal investments made by the IIJA, Chips Act, and the IRA. These projects and investments are creating good job opportunities for hardworking Americans, many of which don't require a four-year degree.

Registered Apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs help ensure a skilled workforce to build our infrastructure and make good jobs more accessible to populations that have been underrepresented in the infrastructure workforce including women, people of color, people with disabilities, and others.

The IRA added prevailing wage and Registered Apprenticeship requirements to qualify for certain bonus tax incentives for developers constructing clean energy facilities, property, projects, or equipment. By pairing climate investments with the creation of good paying jobs, the IRA will help our country fight the climate crisis and improve job quality in clean energy industries and expand workforce training pathways into these jobs.

However, the benefits of these investments and the attached worker protections can be undermined if the implementation of the law is not thoughtful or if bad actors undermine the law's intention. Recent actions by some states to undermine minimum federal standards and congressional attempts to subvert wage and safety requirements are sure to continue. LIUNA supports vigilance and oversight in the administration of this historic law while urging elected officials not to turn this historic investment into a partisan issue. Infrastructure investments should never be a partisan issue!

While the passage of the IIJA, CHIPS Act, and IRA make historic levels of federal investment into America's physical infrastructure, these investments are only one part of the financing puzzle. States, localities and the private sector should also continue to make appropriate investments into infrastructure assets. LIUNA supports the use of Public/Private Partnerships (PPPs) when appropriate. With reasonable safeguards, PPPs can help fill a niche in the financing of our nation's infrastructure needs.

Question: If elected, will you support the infrastructure investments made by the 117th Congress?

Question: Will you stand with Local LIUNA affiliates to advocate for local or regional infrastructure projects?

Question: Will you support Davis Bacon (local prevailing) wage standards for construction projects that receive Federal assistance?

Question: Will you oppose efforts to limit the use of PLAs/Community Workforce Agreements on projects funded by the Act?

Question: Will you support the apprenticeship utilization standards for federally assisted infrastructure projects?

Question: Do you support the use of Public/Private Partnerships with appropriate safeguards for the financing of some infrastructure projects?

ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE, THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT AND PERMITTING REFORM

The second largest sector of work for LIUNA members is the energy sector. Our members go to work every day developing our nation's abundant energy resources and keeping the lights on for millions of Americans across the country. Our members build windfarms, solar fields, hydro power plants, nuclear facilities, and pipelines. In fact, the natural gas pipeline industry, specifically, has provided millions of work hours and helped tens of thousands of members start careers, while helping to decrease our nation's net greenhouse gas emissions. It is the use and build out of natural gas infrastructure that is helping the push to move towards a cleaner energy future.

In conjunction with the IJA, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is also making historic investments in the future of our nation's energy production. For the first time in our nation's history, prevailing wages and apprenticeship utilization standards have been attached to tax credits for the production of renewable energy projects, carbon capture projects, projects related to the electrification of our nation's transportation system, and more. We must continue to support labor standards through the use of tax credits on these projects in order to ensure they provide high-road construction jobs.

All of this work, however, is jeopardized as energy projects face costly and unpredictable delays due to regulatory fights and legal challenges within the permitting process. Congress and the Biden Administration have begun making necessary changes to this process, but the job is not finished. We need to continue to accelerate, not bypass, our nation's outdated permitting process. Lawmakers must continue working on bipartisan legislation to solve this regulatory problem.

Question: Where do you stand on responsible natural gas extraction and energy development?

Question: Do you oppose political efforts to stop the development of domestic energy?

Question: Will you support permitting reform that is bipartisan?

UNION ORGANIZING

The right to join a union and collectively bargain is critical to ensure workers receive fair pay and benefits and safe jobsites. LIUNA supports the Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, which will expand the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to ensure that workers and unions have real, enforceable protections under the law. The PRO Act will provide effective penalties, protect workers from misclassification, ban “captive audience” meetings, and push back on so-called “right to work” laws harming unions and our members, and more. The PRO Act strengthens workers’ and union representational rights and protects immigrants’ labor rights.

Collective bargaining should be the cornerstone of an employee’s wages, benefits, and working conditions. It provides workers the opportunity to have a say on decisions affecting their pay, working conditions and benefits. Posing under the intentionally misleading term “right-to-work,” collective bargaining is under attack by right wing extremists who are pushing for legislation at the state and federal level to deny workers the right to join unions.

Question: If elected, would you support the Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act?

Question: Do you support the right of all workers to organize and collectively bargain?

Question: Where do you stand on right-to-work policies?

VOTING RIGHTS/FAIR ELECTIONS

Voting rights and fair elections are the cornerstone of our democracy. LIUNA supports measures that protect every American’s right to vote and ensure the government’s responsibility to protect this right. We saw our democracy attacked on January 6, 2021. It is our responsibility to defend it. Unfortunately, in the past decade, over a dozen states have passed new laws restricting the right to vote, using the myth of voter fraud as a pretext.

For decades LIUNA has stood side by side with civil rights activists as they marched and took to the streets to fight for the critical issue of voting rights. LIUNA will continue to speak out against discriminatory laws and practices that attempt to disenfranchise voters. Ensuring all Americans have equal access to their constitutionally enshrined right to vote is a top priority.

To protect voters from these undemocratic state laws and voter restrictions, Congress needs to pass legislation, including; enacting an automatic voter registration system, offering more early voting and mail-in voting options, same day voter registration, restoring the right to vote for returning citizens, targeted protections for voters with disabilities, and more.

Question: Will you support restoring Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act and work to ensure that every American citizen has the opportunity to participate in our democracy?

MULTI-EMPLOYER PENSIONS

LIUNA is strongly committed to retirement income security for our members and their families. Through our network of multiemployer labor-management pension trust funds, hundreds of thousands of retirees and surviving spouses have received, or are receiving, a monthly pension benefit for the remainder of their lives. Laborers forgo wage increases in exchange for collectively bargained employer contributions to their pension funds. Billions in retirement benefits have been paid over the past fifty years by LIUNA's pension funds. As part of the American Rescue Plan Act, Congress provided critically need pension relief that both helps troubled plans pay future promised benefits, and protected healthy plans from cuts.

Question: Will you work to ensure that LIUNA's multi-employer pension funds are protected from any future attacks?

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM AND H-2B GUEST WORKER VISA ABUSE

LIUNA was founded more than a century ago by proud immigrants, and we continue to work for fair treatment of immigrant workers in this nation. LIUNA will continue to fight for comprehensive immigration reform and will not stop until it gets done. While we work toward this goal, LIUNA also supports immediate, concrete immigration policies, and policies to protect all workers in the United States.

H-2B Guest Worker Visa Program

The H-2B guest worker visa program is intended for the hiring of temporary, seasonal workers when employers are unable to find them in the U.S. to fill the position. However, unscrupulous employers continue to import captive foreign labor instead of recruiting and hiring workers who are already here. This practice is often used in the construction and landscape industries. LIUNA is working with employer groups and Congress on a comprehensive H-2B deal that would ensure that all workers are protected, while preserving the integrity and intent of the H-2B program.

Dreamers/Temporary Protected Status

LIUNA supports policies that would allow immigrants who have lived in the United States since childhood, known as Dreamers, as well as individuals covered by the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program, to remain here. Ending TPS would have a significantly negative effect on the construction industry since over twenty percent of TPS recipients work in our industry. The construction industry needs to retain workers covered by the DACA and TPS programs to continue to build America. These workers build America every day, and, at the same time, build the U.S. economy.

Question: Do you support comprehensive immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants?

Question: Do you support policies that protect Dreamers and TPS holders, including a path to citizenship?

Question: Do you support strong worker protections for recipients of H-2B worker visas before any expansion of the H-2B guest worker visa program? Will you take steps to crack down on fraud and abuse of this program, especially in the construction and landscape industries?

SUPPORTING FEDERAL WORKERS/PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Over the past decade, the federal workforce has contributed over \$180 billion to deficit reduction in the form of pay freezes, retirement cuts, and inadequate cost of living (COLA) increases. Executive orders issued by the Trump Administration that restricted federal workers' ability to collectively bargain, use official time to perform needed representational activities, and ensure due process for workers were thankfully overturned by President Biden immediately upon coming to office. These attacks have harmed morale, and hurt recruitment and retention of qualified, expert workers serving our nation, including through the COVID crisis.

Question: Will you vote to protect federal employees and prevent further attacks on these workers and their union rights?
