



2025 WORKING FAMILIES PARTY FEDERAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you for filling out the Working Families Party 2025 Federal Special Election Candidate Questionnaire. Please answer all the questions that are applicable. This candidate questionnaire is a form fillable PDF. If you haven't already, please download this questionnaire. You should be able to leave all of your answers inside of the PDF.

Once you are finished, please submit the questionnaire using the online form at <https://wfpus.org/endorsement-application-submission>. Please name your document "FirstName_LastName_Position".

If you have any questions, please reach out to Matt Cordeiro at [endorsements@workingfamilies.org].

The Working Families Party was formed in 1998 by a coalition of community and labor organizations, grassroots activists, and progressive elected officials who believe that working families need a party of our own to stand up and fight for us -- and elect champions who would fight for us too.

In 2025, WFP will endorse and elect candidates that are focused on making a difference in people's lives and building a multiracial democracy that lives up to the promise of America.

If that's you, please continue to the next page and fill out this questionnaire.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Position you are running for: _____

CARING FOR AND INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE AND THE DEBT CEILING

The debt ceiling is an arcane law that forces Congress to separately authorize increases in the debt obligations the Treasury issues to pay the government's bills from the legislation that directs the government to spend the money in the first place. If Congress does not raise the debt ceiling, the Treasury will find itself unable to pay all of the government's bills, causing a historically unprecedented default, which many believe would result in a financial crisis and economic disaster. Several times in the last two decades, Republicans have taken the debt ceiling hostage as a way to force Democrats to agree to brutal spending cuts, including to Social Security and Medicare.

1. Do you commit to oppose *any* spending cuts as part of a deal to increase the debt ceiling, including but not limited to Social Security and Medicare?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure - please explain

2. Will you co-sponsor the [Social Security Expansion Act](#), introduced by Sens. Sanders and Warren and Reps. Schakowsky and Hoyle, which would increase Social Security benefits, ensure solvency, and pay for it by making the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share? Yes

- Yes
- No
- Unsure - please explain

HEALTHCARE

The American healthcare system still leaves millions of Americans uninsured and millions more underinsured. Working families face staggering out-of-pocket costs, especially through sky-high deductibles. Our system delivers among the worst health outcomes of any rich country and at double the total social cost. A dizzyingly complex system of billing and payments brings stress, anxiety and exasperation to patients who should be focusing on their health, while costing doctors and hospitals a fortune. Hospitals have become corporate behemoths, maximizing profits and executive salaries under the guise of non-profit status. We have a private insurance industry whose business model is built around employing tens of thousands of people to find ways to not pay for their customers' health care needs.

3. Do you support Sen. Sanders' and Rep. Jayapal's [Medicare for All Act](#) (S.4204/H.R. 1976)? Yes

- Yes
- No
- Unsure - please explain

4. Short of Medicare for All, what other measures do you support to move the US towards genuinely universal coverage that gives truth to the expression that "health care is a human right"? Please explain your answer:

CARE WORK AND CARE WORKERS

Politicians of every stripe express support for families. Yet in practice, public support for all of the ways that all of us - and especially women, women of color and immigrants - take care of each other has shrunk. Children in the US, especially Black and brown children and those from poor zip codes, suffer developmentally from a lack of a whole variety of services, including adequate postnatal care. Care work is egregiously underpaid, in significant part because it is performed disproportionately by women of color. The US now has among the lowest rates of female labor force participation of rich countries, and a big part of the reason is that we force women to choose between caring for their children and relatives or going to work. The pandemic dramatized and also exacerbated these deficits of care.

5. Would you support Sen. Casey's [Better Care Better Jobs Act](#) that would establish programs and provide funds for state Medicaid programs to improve home- and community-based services (HCBS), such as home health care, personal care, case management, and rehabilitative services?
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure - please explain

POLICIES TO SUPPORT WORKING PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

6. As a member of Congress, will you fight for the creation of a universal child care benefit, for example the [Child Care for Every Community Act](#), introduced by Sen. Warren and Reps. Mikie Sherrill and Sara Jacobs?
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure - please explain
7. Do you support Sen. Gillibrand's and Rep. DeLauro's Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act (S.248, H.R. 804) which would create a national paid family and medical leave insurance program that would provide up to 12 weeks of partially-paid leave? Yes
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure - please explain

8. Do you support Sen. Murray's and Rep. DeLauro's Healthy Families Act (S.840, H.R.1784), which would set a national paid sick days standard, allowing workers in businesses with 15 or more employees to earn up to seven job-protected paid sick days a year?

- Yes
 No
 Unsure - please explain

9. In the 2021 American Rescue Plan, Congress took an important step towards caring for children and parents by increasing the size of the Child Tax Credit, making it fully refundable (so that low income families receive the full benefit), and disbursing it in regular direct deposit payments, rather than as a once-a-year tax refund. In 2023, that expanded benefit was sunset. Do you support the restoration of the expanded CTC?

- Yes
 No
 Unsure - please explain

K-12 EDUCATION

The promise of a democratic society is visible in few places more than public schools. And yet in the United States today, the grim reality is that public education is a driver of inequality, not a weapon against it. Thanks to an education system funded overwhelmingly by local property taxes, residential segregation by class and race produces educational segregation by class and race, and vice versa. School segregation is greater now than it was 30 years ago. Federal Title I money is insufficient to make up the gap, and state-level equitable funding programs either don't exist, or go dramatically under-funded.

We support measures to end the school-to-prison-and-deportation pipeline, end school pushout policies that have harmed particularly Black and other children of color, and to achieve police-free schools, including through efforts such as the Counseling not Criminalization in Schools Act, which would provide federal incentives to districts to invest in fair and equitable practices towards young people in schools, school counselors and restorative justice infrastructure, rather than punitive disciplinary policies or school policing.

10. Do you support the Counseling not Criminalization in Schools Act (S.2125), introduced by Rep. Ayanna Pressley and Sen. Chris Murphy?

- Yes
 No
 Unsure - please explain

Over the last few decades, a hedge-fund backed “reform” movement in K-12 education has aggressively agitated for high-stakes testing and a growth in privately-operated charter schools instead of finding solutions to ensure quality education for every student. The WFP opposes new federal funding to privately run charter schools and also opposes steps to facilitate the expansion of charter schools. We oppose tax credits for donations to private schools and privately run charter schools.

11. Will you oppose new federal funding to privately run charter schools and also oppose steps to facilitate the expansion of charter schools?
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure - Please Explain

FREE COLLEGE AND DEBT FORGIVENESS

While wages for average Americans have been stagnant for decades, the cost of health care, housing, and education has gone through the roof. One of the most glaring manifestations of this is growing college unaffordability and \$1.6 trillion in student debt, \$1.5 trillion of which is backed in some way by the Federal Government. Black and brown borrowers acquire debt at higher rates and earn less coming out of college. For all borrowers, student debt is a millstone around their necks. It leads young people to put off marriage, childbirth, and buying a home. Missed payments hurt their credit, and defaults can destroy their credit for life. Thanks to the 2005 Bankruptcy Law, student debt is not dischargeable in bankruptcy and can follow borrowers to their graves. High tuition and student debt exacerbate inequality, as wealthy parents can pay whatever it costs to give their children first-class educations and send them into the world free of debt, while everyone else begins their working life weighed down.

12. Do you support free tuition at public colleges and universities, such as detailed in Sen. Sanders’s and Rep. Jayapal’s College for All Act (S.1373)?
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure - please explain

WFP supports across-the-board cancellation of student debt, which we believe is an unfair burden on working and middle class young adults and their families. President Biden's effort to cancel up to \$20,000 of student debt per borrower, and to change or eliminate some of the most exploitative aspects of the program, were important steps.

13. Do you support canceling student debt and will you oppose Trump's efforts to rescind Biden's debt cancellation initiatives?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure - please explain

HOUSING

Across the United States, there is a housing crisis, as decades of stagnant wages have lagged behind surging real estate values, in urban, suburban, and rural communities. Generations of racist policy have locked people of color out of opportunities to build family wealth that was afforded to white Americans after 1945, and yet housing has become so unaffordable that all but the wealthiest young Americans, including white Americans, are completely cut out from the prospect of ever owning a home. Those same surging real estate values, however, have massively enriched the wealthy and real estate speculators, who happen to own property in places where jobs are concentrated, exacerbating wealth inequality. Meanwhile we have seen near total disinvestment in the country's already limited stock of public housing, and housing subsidies are provided only to one fifth of the people who need them, even as the tax code provides gigantic subsidies to homeowners. Houses and apartment buildings are among the major sources of US carbon emissions - and they are also one of the easiest places to reduce emissions. Housing has been one of the public goods most aggressively attacked by Republicans and pro-corporate Democrats. Few domains of American life more urgently require massive public investment.

14. Do you support large-scale investment in addressing the country's housing crisis, including the construction of as many as 12 million new units of social housing and investment in maintaining, upgrading, and greening the existing stock of public housing? See the Homes Guarantee briefing for additional details.

- Yes
- No
- Unsure - please explain

The original Build Back Better package from 2021, drafted by Rep. Maxine Waters, included \$327 billion in investments in affordable housing, including down payment assistance for first-time home-buyers, funding for public housing capital repairs, funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and a major expansion of housing vouchers. All of these investments were stripped out of what became the Inflation Reduction Act.

15. Do you support this package of housing investments?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure - Please Explain

16. Do you support direct redress for a history of racist land and housing policy, for example Sen. Warren's proposal for down payment assistance for victims of redlining, or President Biden's proposal to provide incentives to localities that eliminate exclusionary zoning? Yes

- Yes
- No
- Unsure - please explain

WORKERS RIGHTS, WORKER PAY AND WORKER POWER

Beginning with the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act in 1947, and continuing across many decades, the Federal Government has steadily narrowed the legal basis of workers' right to organize and collectively bargain. More than 40 years after the corporate class and their political allies launched an all-out war on union power, we have seen the results: stagnant wages coupled with skyrocketing CEO pay; the near-elimination of retirement security; worsening workplace safety; more states adopting "right to work"; and everywhere you look, more and more egregious forms of exploitation.

The WFP believes that a strong labor movement is essential to the economic well-being of working people, and a bedrock of democracy. We support comprehensive and aggressive measures to shift the balance of power from bosses to workers. Right now one of WFP's top priorities is passing the

Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act. The PRO Act would repeal much of the anti-worker legislation that has been enacted in this country, starting with Taft-Hartley, including the ban on so-called secondary boycotts and the allowance for states to enact Right to Work laws that allow free-riding at unionized employers. PRO would levy strict penalties on employers for violations of workers' organizing rights, and would ban a number of anti-union practices that employers have perfected in recent decades, especially so-called captive audience meetings. It would protect the right to strike, and impose mandatory first contract arbitration, so that employers can't undermine successful organizing efforts by dragging out negotiations.

- 17.** Do you support the Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, introduced last session by Sens. Booker and Menendez?
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure - please explain

The Fight for \$15 began almost a decade ago, and still we have not won it for all workers in this country. President Biden campaigned on it, and promised to deliver it. WFP was profoundly disappointed that President Biden and Vice-President Harris deferred to the unelected Senate parliamentarian and allowed the \$15 minimum wage to be taken out of the American Recovery Plan in 2021. We expect him and Congressional leaders to get it done, and soon.

- 18.** Do you support the Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 603 / S. 53), introduced by Sen. Sanders and Rep. Scott, which will raise the federal minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour by 2025? Yes
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure - please explain

Under the leadership of Coretta Scott King, in the years after the passage of the Voting Rights Act, the Civil Rights Movement devoted itself to passage of full employment legislation, which would guarantee a job to every worker who wanted one.

- 19.** Do you support the Federal Jobs Guarantee resolution put forward by Rep. Pressley, which would give every American adult a right to employment, with benefits and protections, and empower the Federal Government to make that right real by providing funding for socially beneficial projects?
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure - please explain

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Across the country, people were horrified by the Trump administration's deliberate cruelty towards people seeking to come to this country, his racist demonization of them, his family separation policies, his evisceration of the right to asylum, and his determination to build a literal wall to prevent people from coming into this country. We also know that, before Donald Trump, previous Democratic administrations used aggressive enforcement to try to win conservative support for immigration reform, with nothing to show for it except staggering numbers of deportations. In his first days as President, Joe Biden took encouraging steps to reverse some of the worst Trump-era policies. But deportations are continuing, and detentions are increasing. Since the failure to include immigration reform in a reconciliation bill while Democrats controlled both chambers of Congress, the President has opened up some new pathways to citizenship, but he has also extended Title 42 (a Trump-era policy that denies people the right to seek asylum and forces them instead into dangerous camps), and DREAMers remain in limbo.

20. Do you support humane immigration reform that centers family unity and a path to full citizenship for all 12 million undocumented immigrants, for example President Biden's [US Citizenship Act](#)?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure - Please Explain

21. Do you support the [American Dream and Promise Act](#) (H.R. 6), sponsored by Rep. Roybal-Allard, which would provide a path to citizenship for 3-4 million DREAMers and Temporary Protective Status (TPS) holders?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure - please explain

ABORTION RIGHTS

The Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health* represents the most outrageous assault on women's rights and bodily autonomy in our lifetimes. The product of an out-of-control Supreme Court installed through flagrantly undemocratic means, it is an outrage that must be undone. While the Court ruled in *Dobbs* that the Constitution does not provide a right to abortion, nothing about the ruling prevents Congress from enshrining the right to abortion into federal law.

22. Do you support the [Women's Health Protection Act](#), which enshrines the right to abortion into federal law and provides a number of additional protections of reproductive freedom? Yes
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure - please explain

LGBTQ RIGHTS

23. Do you support Rep. Katherine Clark's [BE HEARD in the Workplace Act](#) (H.R. 5994), which would dramatically increase protections against discrimination and harassment for all workers, including by clarifying that Civil Rights Act protects against workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity?
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure - Please Explain

24. Do you support permitting trans and gender non-conforming individuals to change their gender marker on official federal and state documents to reflect how they identify? Yes
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure - please explain

WALLSTREET REGULATION

For decades, the federal government has been governed by one simple rule: regardless of which party controls the Presidency or Congress, Wall Street wins. Whether it's no-strings attached bailouts, massive subsidies, or sweeping deregulation and special tax breaks, Americans know that our government works for a predatory financial industry with the power to tank the entire economy, at the expense of working people.

25. Do you support Sen. Warren's and Rep. Pocan's Stop Wall Street Looting Act which sets out a series of regulations and accountability measures and eliminates numerous loopholes that allow private equity and hedge fund managers to skirt regulation and pay lower tax rates than nurses, teachers and firefighters?
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure - Please Explain

TAXATION

According to [research by the Berkeley economist Gabriel Zucman](#), the top 0.1% of American households - about 185,000 tax filers out of 185 million US households - own 19% of all wealth. The top 1% own 37% of the wealth. Meanwhile the bottom 90 percent of American households together own 26%. In spite of all of this, in 2017 Republicans in Congress passed a tax bill which is one of the most egregious transfers of wealth from working people to the extremely wealthy in history.

26. Do you support the [Ultra-Millionaire Tax Act of 2021](#), introduced by Sen. Warren and Reps. Jayapal and Boyle, which would levy a tax on the net wealth of the 100,000 richest households in the country at a rate of 2% annually for households with wealth between \$50 million and \$1 billion, and at a rate of 3% annually for households with wealth above \$1 billion?
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure - please explain

27. Are you willing to use parliamentary maneuvers, amendments and other obstructionist tactics to block the efforts of the Trump administration to extend the Trump tax cuts on the wealthy?
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure - please explain

FAIR ELECTIONS, FULL REPRESENTATION, AND REAL DEMOCRACY

FAIR ELECTIONS

28. The package of election and voting reforms that Democrats previously assembled as H.R.1, the “For the People” Act, included the creation of a publicly financed system of small-dollar matching funds for Congressional elections. Do you support public financing of elections for Congressional campaigns?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure - please explain

FULL REPRESENTATION

29. Do you support Del. Holmes-Norton’s [Washington, DC. Admission Act](#), which would grant statehood to Washington, DC, thereby undoing the grave injustice of denying representation to a predominantly African-American city with a larger population than Wyoming and Vermont?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure - please explain

30. Do you support the [Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2021](#), introduced by Reps. Ocasio-Cortez and Velázquez and Sen. Menendez, which would create an inclusive, open, and fair process by which Puerto Ricans could exercise self-determination in deciding on the nature of their relationship to the United States, with all options considered? Yes

- Yes
- No
- Unsure - please explain

REAL DEMOCRACY

The Republican Party has been relentless in its efforts to stack the Supreme Court with right wing ideologues. Mitch McConnell first blocked Barack Obama's nominee in early 2016 from even getting a Senate hearing, much less a confirmation vote, thus keeping the seat vacant for Donald Trump to fill. Then, with brazen hypocrisy, he rammed through confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett less than two weeks before the 2020 election. Unless the Supreme Court is rebalanced, the 6-3 right-wing majority will pose an insuperable barrier to progress on issues ranging from climate change, to labor rights, to consumer protection, to voting rights.

31. Do you support the [Judiciary Act of 2021](#), championed by Reps. Hank Johnson, Mondaire Jones, and Jerrold Nadler, which would increase the number of justices on the Supreme Court in order to rebalance its composition?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure - please explain

THE US MILITARY AND FOREIGN POLICY

The Trump administration, with Congressional acquiescence, increased the Pentagon's budget by \$133 billion even as the Defense Department failed its first two audits, continued to produce faulty weapons systems and programs with cost overruns, and remained one of the world's largest polluters at a time when climate change presents an existential threat. That Trump-era surge capped nearly two decades of endless war with a price tag of more than \$6 trillion that could have been invested in diplomacy, domestic infrastructure, green jobs, health care and more. In absolute terms, the Pentagon's budget is at historical highs, currently greater than any point during the Cold War, including the heights of the Korean and Vietnam wars. Under President Biden and a Democratic Congress, the Defense budget has only continued to soar.

There are numerous proposals on how to rein in the Pentagon budget while increasing national and global security, and we are eager to work with Congress to support these or other long-overdue efforts to scale back Pentagon spending.

32. Producing more weapons, greenlighting corporate contracts, and propping up endless war slush funds will not make us safer. Would you support a significant decrease in defense spending?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure - Please Explain

33. As US foreign policy becomes increasingly oriented around the US-China relationship, do you commit to reject Sinophobia by approaching any discussions of the US-China relationship with a focus on the need for cooperation around shared challenges, including climate change and global public health, and by strictly separating valid criticisms of human rights in China from the goal of defending US economic and military supremacy?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure - please explain

34. WFP has endorsed legislation introduced by Rep. McCollum that would end US military aid to Israel for any uses connected to the occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Will you co-sponsor the [Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act](#)?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure - Please Explain

For decades, under both Republican and Democratic administrations, and with support of Republicans and Democrats in Congress, the legislative branch has ceded vast authority to the executive in matters of war and peace, domestic spying, treatment of detainees, and more. This trend has been especially pronounced since September 11th and the beginning of the so-called War on Terror.

35. Do you support measures to reassert Congress's Article I prerogatives over questions of war and peace, for example by repealing the greatly abused 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure - Please Explain

STRENGTHENING THE MOVEMENT

36. Please tell us in which of the following ways you are willing to help build the Working Families Party.

Please check all that apply.

- I will publicly describe myself as a Working Families Democrat, Working Families Party-endorsed candidate or Working Families Party member.
- I am (or will become) a dues-paying member of WFP.
- I will meet with Working Families Party members and leaders at least once per year.
- I will publicly commit to taking action at the request of the WFP on issues where we are aligned.
- I will encourage my supporters to become WFP members and activists.
- I am interested in discussing and exploring a deep partnership with WFP to win my campaign and build the WFP.
- If one is active in my state, I am interested in meeting regularly with a group of WFP legislators once in office.

THANK YOU FOR FILLING OUT THE WORKING FAMILIES PARTY CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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