

# 2026 Candidate Questionnaire - Committee on Political Education

Oklahoma State AFL-CIO, Central Oklahoma Labor Federation, and the Northeastern Oklahoma Labor Council appreciate you being willing to run for public office.

If you would like to be considered for an AFL-CIO endorsement, please fill out the form completely.

*\*Information from this questionnaire **will not be disseminated** outside our organization.*

*\*Candidates are highly recommended to personally provide answers to the questionnaire.*

OPEIU#381

Email \*

isabellarodriguezokc@gmail.com

Candidate Name:

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Candidate For:

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Address:

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Current Occupation:

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Are you or have you been a union member? *If yes, please provide Union name and Local #. (I.e. OPEIU 381, etc.)*

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Cell Phone:

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### Campaign Questions

Official Campaign Committee Name:

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Campaign Address:

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Campaign Manager:

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Campaign Manager's Cell Phone:

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Campaign Manager's Email:

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Campaign Overview

Website:

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Facebook:

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Funds raised: \$

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Funds on Hand: \$

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District Location:

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District Location:

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Campaign Message Overview:

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# of Votes Needed:

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Targeted Universe: #

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# of Doors knocked:

.....

Do you currently have access to the VAN System?

Yes

No

Other: .....

Mail Program

# of Mailings planned:

.....

Frequency of mailings:

.....

Cost per Piece: \$

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Are you using Union Printing?

Yes

No

Labor Positions

Please explain your answers in detail to the following questions.

*If you are unsure or unaware of the topic, please describe your understanding of the issue.*

VOICE @ WORK - THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE A UNION

The AFL-CIO is committed to making our communities a better place to live and work. We believe in contributing to the economic vitality of our cities and state by playing a key role in making and maintaining good quality jobs that are essential to creating and sustaining thriving communities.

The AFL-CIO respects the right of every working person to pursue equality, opportunity, a voice on the job and a better life by joining a union. The decision to join a union should be the choice of an employee. Employers who interfere with, harass, threaten, or fire workers for trying to join a union - or who manipulate the system to prevent organizing, and prevent the common use of payroll deductions, are harming not only their employees, but also our entire community. Such tactics have the effect of denying workers their basic human right to organize and bargain collectively.

Do you believe in workers' right to choose a union, free of interference, coercion and harassment? Please respond with more than Yes or No.

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Would you support enacting a pro-worker agenda/regulations allowing all state contractors and corporate beneficiaries (those who benefit from public investments/TIFF, etc.) to sign neutrality agreements for workers to form/join a union? Please respond with more than Yes or No.

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What actions would you be willing to take to support workers who are forming a union in both public and private sectors?

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## SKILLED TRADES LICENSING

Over the last several years, efforts have been made in Oklahoma to soften or eliminate the licensing requirements for many of the skilled trades (i.e. electricians, welders, mechanical, pipefitters, plumbers, etc.). Many of these attempts were targeted at major industries such as electrical power plants, fertilizer plants, refineries, water treatment plants, high-pressure pipelines, etc. Organized labor strongly opposes any weakening of Oklahoma licensing laws that could endanger the safety of our families and communities.

Do you believe skilled trades licensing should be required for public safety? Please respond with more than Yes or No.

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Should it be admissible under State Law, will you consider utilizing Project Labor Agreements in both the public and private sectors? Please respond with more than Yes or No.

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Do you support or oppose legislation that will hold corporations receiving economic development incentives more accountable for providing Oklahoman jobs with living wages and benefits? Please respond with more than Yes or No.

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### APPRENTICESHIP/DOL-APPROVED CRAFT TRAINING PROGRAMS

Department of Labor certified apprenticeships and DOL-approved craft training programs are nationally recognized programs with portable certifications for workers. These DOL programs provide the best safety and skills training for workers wishing to build a safe, family-supporting career in the construction industry.

Do you support requiring both general and subcontractors on State of Oklahoma projects to hire a certain percentage of currently enrolled students from these DOL programs? Please respond with more than Yes or No.

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### COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

By Oklahoma State law, municipalities must allow their Fire, Police, and Teacher employees the right to organize and bargain collectively (but we are denied the right to strike). All other city, county, and state employees are denied the right to organize.

Organized labor believes all public employees should be allowed the right to organize if they choose to.

Would you support legislation that would allow Public Employees the same right to organize as private sector employees? Please respond with more than Yes or No.

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### OK PUBLIC PENSION AND RETIREMENT

Recent reforms to the pension systems have cut the unfunded liability significantly and the funds will be fully funded in a few short years. All this was done under the current board system. There are currently seven (7) Oklahoma public

employee pension systems under the five (5) pension boards. Each system operates under separate investment strategies and board makeup, with all the boards consisting of members that have vested rights, sitting on their respective boards. There have been repeated efforts by out-of-state interests to consolidate the boards.

Do you support or oppose consolidating the public employee pension boards of systems? Please respond with more than Yes or No.

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Do you support keeping the public employee pensions as a defined benefit plan as opposed to a 401K style plan? Please respond with more than Yes or No.

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#### OKLAHOMA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND

Oklahoma's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund was one of only twelve (12) states that survived the recession of 2009 without having to borrow money from the U.S. Government to pay U.I. benefits. For every dollar paid in unemployment benefits, it creates a \$2.15 infusion into the Oklahoma economy. In recent years, efforts have been made to reduce U.I. benefits, create more requirements for claimants, and decrease the number of weeks an unemployed worker is eligible for unemployment benefits.

Do you support Oklahoma's current Unemployment Insurance Benefits and oppose any attempts to weaken it? Please respond with more than Yes or No.

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Do you support or oppose legislation to hold employers accountable for deliberate misclassification of employees in order to avoid taxes (Social Security and Medicare), workers' compensation, and unemployment? Please respond with more than Yes or No.

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#### PAID FAMILY SICK LEAVE

Almost 41 million workers are not covered by the FMLA and a U.S. Department of Labor study stated that three quarters (78%) of workers who needed leave said they could not afford it.

Do you support expanding Paid Family Sick Leave? Please respond with more than Yes or No.

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## MINIMUM WAGE

The average age for a minimum wage worker is 36 years old. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of these workers are 20 years or older, and on average earn more than half of their family's total income. The Federal minimum wage has not increased since 2009.

Do you support raising the Oklahoma minimum wage above the Federal minimum wage? Please respond with more than Yes or No.

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## PUBLIC TRANSIT

Would you support dedicated funding intended for public transit? Please respond with more than Yes or No.

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## OUTSOURCING

Some companies would have taxpayers believe that basic functions of state government can be outsourced to private for-profit corporations at a lesser cost than what the state currently pays. However, studies show that outsourcing basic state services, i.e., SNAP, Mental Healthcare Funding, State IT and HR systems, actually costs the taxpayer more money overall and the State will lose the quality control over those services.

The AFL-CIO opposes any outsourcing measures that undermine accountability and oversight of state agencies or programs, and we pledge to work with public employees to improve services through creating efficiencies, continuing education, training, and labor-management coordination.

Would you oppose any measures to outsource basic state services within the public sector that do not allow for public employee input, or allow them a chance to compete for or bid that work? Please respond with more than Yes or No.

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Do you support or oppose legislation that provides government regulation of AI technology, protecting workers' rights, privacy, and ensuring the human adjudication of disciplinary matters? Please respond with more than Yes or No.

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## EDUCATION

Over the last few decades, support of public education has declined. Even with the pay raise in 2018, Oklahoma teachers are still paid below the regional average.

If elected, would you support or oppose legislation to bring State funding of public schools to the regional average? Please respond with more than Yes or No.

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Do you support or oppose private school tax credit proposals and other attempts to divert taxpayer dollars from public schools to private schools? Please respond with more than Yes or No.

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