



UWUA Political Power

WHEREAS, The power of our union is achieved through our ability to organize, bargain, and act collectively to improve the lives of workers and their families. Nothing is more essential to making this work possible than a political climate that defends workers and their unions; and

WHEREAS, Not all of the challenges we face can be addressed at the bargaining table. As working people, we have the right to expect our governmental bodies and representatives to be responsive to our needs. Labor laws, energy policy and regulation, health care and social security systems affect our lives as workers; and

WHEREAS, The UWUA has cultivated a list of strong political allies. We continue to seek out and support a range of elected officials and candidates who are sympathetic to, and stand in solidarity with, organized labor and the needs of working people. The result of these efforts has been a deepening of our Union's ability to advocate on behalf of our members; and

WHEREAS, To broaden our political influence, the UWUA joined the Republican Main Street Partnership (RMSP), a coalition of 80 Republican Members of Congress who seek to govern pragmatically, with principles grounded in economic conservatism and national security. RMSP members work across the aisle to achieve results. Through the RMSP, the UWUA has identified new allies who share goals across the business and labor communities; and

WHEREAS, The UWUA has long supported technology to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from industrial sources, including both coal and gas-fired power plants. The UWUA was a leading labor voice in the 2018 passage of the FUTURE Act — bipartisan legislation aimed at giving a tax incentive to companies that successfully capture carbon dioxide emissions and then quarantine those emissions by storing them underground; and

WHEREAS, UWUA members are the most effective advocates of the issues important to our union. During this period of a rapidly changing energy economy and the critical need for infrastructure investment, public officials need to hear from UWUA members who live and work in their districts; and

WHEREAS, UWUA officers, staff and members have teamed up with allies to educate and advocate for policies that benefit workers and the communities in which we live. The UWUA participates in events in Washington, DC hosted by the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) to advance policies supportive of the wind industry and educate members of Congress on the importance of wind power to the national energy mix. In a 2017 lobby day at the Ohio Legislature, Utility Workers advocated for the necessity of keeping baseload nuclear power plants on line; and

WHEREAS, We have proven that working people can defeat well-funded anti-worker laws and initiatives. The UWUA joined the fight against a right-to-work law passed by the Missouri Legislature. Missouri labor moved quickly to collect more than 300,000 signatures to place a veto referendum on the 2018 ballot. More than two-thirds of voters defeated the right-to-work law; and

WHEREAS, Political action is an important bargaining and organizing tool for public-sector workers. The UWUA used direct political action to secure gains in a 2017 wage reopener in Roswell, New Mexico. UWUA members mobilized, attending city council meetings and creating an alliance with other unions, forcing the city to restore wage increases to their annual budget there; and

WHEREAS, UWUA rededicated itself to the fight for justice, equality, and dignity in the 2018 mid-term elections. As a part of the AFL-CIO's member-to-member program, over 100 UWUA members and staff were released from their workplaces or volunteered to take part in outreach to union members, urging support for pro-worker candidates. Tens of thousands of voter contacts were made by UWUA members, officers, and staff. Our efforts helped to elect worker-friendly candidates around the country; and

WHEREAS, UWUA's Committee on Political Education (COPE) is our political action arm. The money our members voluntarily contribute to COPE is used for expenditures connected to federal, state and local elections. With COPE, we back candidates who will represent the interests of our members, their families, and their communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Going forward, the UWUA will continue to utilize the RMSP as a source

of contacts, alliances, and partnerships grounded in respect for all citizens, working to champion common sense policies benefiting families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UWUA convention delegates thank the thousands of member volunteers who contribute to UWUA-COPE, knock on doors, staff the phones, distribute fliers in the workplace, and register voters in support of working families' legislative and political agenda. The UWUA calls on every affiliate to develop a plan for increasing member UWUA COPE check off participation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The 2020 elections are an opportunity to reverse the anti-worker policies that have beset our country, and instead elect leaders who will fight for working families. The UWUA, affiliated committees, and local unions commit to engaging and mobilizing our members, their families, and their communities to elect pro-worker candidates at the local, state and federal levels in the 2020 elections. We will work to register and mobilize voters, as well as educate them on the issues; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, No one can represent working families and their unions better than UWUA members. We urge UWUA members to engage in the political, legislative and regulatory processes. Furthermore, UWUA members, regardless of political affiliation, are encouraged to run for public office and to seek the support and resources available from the National Union and AFL-CIO Labor Candidate programs.