



UWUA Political Action

W**HEREAS**, 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, 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; and

WHEREAS, Political action is an important bargaining and organizing tool for public-sector workers. UWUA public campaigns against the Highland County Water Authority, and the City of Canfield, Ohio won UWUA members strong contracts and respect on the job; and

WHEREAS, UWUA rededicated itself to the fight for justice, equality, and dignity in the 2022 mid-term elections. As a part of the AFL-CIO's member-to-member program, 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. No union dues or per capita payments are contributed to COPE or to political candidates or parties from the UWUA.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, UWUA convention delegates thank the 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 2024 elections are an opportunity to continue and build on the pro-worker policies enacted by the Biden Administration and elect more 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 2024 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 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.