

MSEA/PASER 2010 Gubernatorial Questionnaire
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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____ Pager: _____

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE NAME: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

1. Describe your philosophy in regards to public sector services and government-funded programs.

2. Please explain your position on taxes, tax breaks and the general question of generating revenue. What would you do to balance the State budget?

3. With the passage of national health care reform, what is your strategy to implement reform measures in our state, and to ensure that affordable health care is available to Maine's working families, including state and publicly financed workers?

4. Would you oppose further reductions in state funding for employee health insurance and support reinvestment of any cost savings back into the State Employee Health Plan?

YES _____ NO _____

Explain _____

5. Cuts to the state retirement system enacted over a decade ago created a two-tiered retirement system. Employees whose benefits had not yet vested lost significant benefits that they had already earned with years of dedicated work. As Governor, will you advocate for funding for those employees who lost benefits they had already earned?

YES _____ NO _____

Explain _____

6. MSEA-SEIU Local 1989 and the State of Maine are engaged in protracted efforts to ensure that state jobs are compensated appropriately, applying sound principles to the demands of the specific job. This effort includes reclassifications, as well as negotiations to revise the entire pay plan. Our members have participated patiently in this process, performing the work assigned to them without question while they trust the system to produce a fair result. Would you support the ongoing labor/management efforts to bring the State Employee pay plan up to date, and will you fund pay increases that result from the reclassification or negotiation process?

YES _____ NO _____

Explain _____

7. While direct public employment is highly scrutinized and regulated, much of the state's work is performed by private contractors whose work is neither reviewed for its quality nor effectiveness, and who often pay low wages and few benefits. As Governor, would you support responsible-contractor legislation to hold these contractors accountable for the quality of the work they do, the cost effectiveness of their work and their employment practices?

YES _____ NO _____

Explain _____

8. Would you support legislation to require contractors and public employers to provide a living wage and health insurance benefits?

YES _____ NO _____

Explain _____

9. Public attacks on State workers and other publicly funded employees, combined with the steady erosion of their standards of living and job security, have undermined morale and harmed efforts to recruit and retain a new generation of public servants. As Governor, what would you do to reverse these trends and restore respect and pride in Maine's public service?

10. Unions are required by law to represent all employees in a bargaining unit, whether they are members of the union or not. By statute, all employees in the bargaining unit receive the benefits included in the contract. As Governor, do you support retaining the agency fee or fair share provision in successor collective bargaining agreements?

YES _____ NO _____

Explain _____

11. Do you oppose so-called "right to work" legislation that would ban agency fee or fair share agreements in the State of Maine?

YES _____ NO _____

Explain _____

12. Do you support, or have you supported any of the recent ballot initiatives known as TABOR (the Taxpayer Bill of Rights)?

YES _____ NO _____

Explain _____

13. MSEA-SEIU Local 1989 believes strongly in the American system of collective bargaining as a means of resolving problems arising between employers and employees, and giving working families a collective voice to address the economic forces that influence their standards of living. This Union has worked with employers and government to extend collective bargaining rights to new sectors, including especially the lowest-paid publicly funded employees.

Will you work with MSEA-SEIU Local 1989 to help protect and extend the benefits of collective bargaining as a tool of state economic policy?

YES _____ NO _____

Explain _____

14. Home-based care is a critical service that allows people with disabilities and our older citizens who might otherwise seek care in more expensive institutional settings the ability to remain in their homes. Multiple waivers and funding streams make the system complicated and costly for consumers, workers and providers. Do you support streamlining and consolidating the intake and waiver process for the home-based care industry?

YES _____ NO _____

Explain _____

15. Child care providers deliver an essential service to thousands of working families in Maine every day. Legislation passed several years ago reinstated the market rate for 2011, which established a rate at the 75th percentile. All experts agree that this rate ensures quality care and access for families. Do you support maintaining this market rate in order to guarantee access to quality care for Maine's families?

YES _____ NO _____

Explain _____

16. What are the five major issues upon which your campaign is based?

17. How have you demonstrated your ability to elicit cooperation and compromise from those who disagree with you, while maintaining the focus of the ideas you campaigned on to get elected?

18. Do you want the endorsement of MSEA-SEIU Local 1989?

YES _____ NO _____

19. Is there anything in your background, your political views or your union affiliations that you think MSEA-SEIU Local 1989 members should know in considering your candidacy?

Signature: _____ Date: _____