

Unions United March 17th, 2023 Candidate Interview Questions

Portland Association of Teachers (President Angela Bonilla, PAT-PAC Chair Tina Lamanna)

How will you advocate at the state level to increase the State School Fund for public schools to the levels outlined in the Quality Education Model (\$11.6B vs the proposed \$9.9B from the Governor's budget)?

What do you believe is the role of the union in public education and public services? How do you see public sector unions strengthening the public sector as a whole?

AFSCME 189 (President Rob Martineau, Executive Vice President/PAC Chair Jacob Brostoff)

Access to elected officials is very important for Unions. How will you manage your relationship our members and Unions?

Follow up:

Will you commit to having regular meetings with the Unions that represent employees in your agency? If you have staff, will you designate a Labor liaison for us to work with?

Portland Fire Fighters' Association (President Isaac McLennan, Vice President Mariya Fuge)

[For County candidates] The houseless population has exploded in East County, accounting for a staggering increase in 911 calls for service/assistance. What is your plan to help alleviate the use of 911 regarding those experiencing houselessness? 911 is being used as a resource for general medical needs, needs that are better served by a clinic. Is there funding for an education piece on what constitutes a need for 911 and what can be served by non-emergent modes of transportation to a clinic?

[For PPS candidates] What are your primary spending priorities for upcoming budgets?

PROTEC17 (Paul Cone - President, Elliot Levin - Research Director, and Rachel Whiteside - Union Representative)

The past few years have been extremely difficult for employees in public service positions. Regardless of remote work or frontline status, employees feel burnt out at best and taken advantage of at worst. This is occurring at the exact moment that the public sector is preparing for a wave of retirements and a need to fill huge sections of their workforce with new workers. What path do you see forward to dramatically improving the deal given to employees at the [County or school district] in order to attract the next generation of talent?

LIUNA, Laborers' Local 483 (Jamie Doscher - President, Ryan Sotomayor - Business Manager)

Many of our members are utilized as year round staff whose hours are limited because of limitations placed on hours they can work by employers. This keeps them from getting full time benefits and leads to burnout and inequity among staff at worksites. What are steps that could or should be taken by employers to provide a pathway for part time, seasonal, casual, and temporary employees to move into full time employment with benefits? What changes could be made at a legislative level to ensure that large employers are not exploiting their most marginalized employees facing housing, food, and health insecurity?

AFSCME Local 88 Joslyn Baker, President, Maya Noble, Vice President)

Since 2020, public service workers have more frequently been under attack from the very people they strive to serve. Also harm within the workplace results in trauma and harm for public service workers. How have you successfully addressed the impacts on employees of workplace discrimination and harassment based on that persons' protected class status, by addressing the impacts of the harm and creating systems to stop future harms.