



**Metropolitan
Washington**

**Council AFL-CIO
Committee on Political
Education (COPE)**

**2020 District of Columbia
Primary Election
Candidate Questionnaire**

Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO • 2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview..... 4

MWC Priorities..... 4

Cornerstone Issues of Labor..... 5

Collective Bargaining..... 6

Right to Work..... 7

Union Dues and Janus v. AFSCME Decision..... 7

Healthcare Workers & Access..... 8

Education..... 10

Accountability/Economic Development..... 11

 Entertainment..... 11

 Wage Theft..... 12

Transportation..... 13

 Operator Assaults..... 13

 Privatization..... 13

 Freight Crew Size Legislation..... 14

 Rail Safety Inspections and Oversight..... 15

Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO • 2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Name: **Stuart Anderson** Ward: **Ward 8**

Address: **1466 Morris Road SE**

City / County: **Washington DC** Zip: **20020**

Phone: **(202) 239-9439** Email: **sanderson.socmedia@gmail.com**

Candidate for: **Ward 8 Council**

Campaign Committee Name and Address: **Committee To Elect Stuart Anderson 2020**

Campaign Website: **stuart4ward8.com**

Campaign Manager: **Adrienne Schaffer** adrienne.schaffer.esq@gmail.com

Campaign Treasurer: **Amira Moore**

Does your campaign accept PAC contributions? **No**

Previously elected / appointed office: **Yes**

Office: **DC Democratic state Committee** Term: **4 year**

Have you ever received labor's endorsement? **No** If Yes, When?

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Please return your signed questionnaire by Tuesday, March 3, 2020 to:

David Stephen, MWC Political and Legislative Director, dstephen@dclabor.org

Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO • 2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

For questions, please email or call: 202-974-8222

Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO • 2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Overview:

As the voice of working people across the United States, the Washington Metropolitan Council (MWC), is the heart of the American labor movement.

By uniting labor unions from across the region and mobilizing the local community, the MWC plays a critical role in local, state, and national issues.

The Council's affiliated unions represent over 150,000 area union members across the labor spectrum, from service and hospitality industries, retail sales, and communications to transportation, manufacturing, construction and building trades, and, of course, the public sector at all levels, including DC government.

Our priorities include:

- Creating family-sustaining jobs for all
- Investing in education, infrastructure, healthcare, and transportation
- Improving the lives of workers through education, quality job training, career advancement and livable wages with good benefits
- Ensuring fair, progressive tax policies
- Making high quality, affordable healthcare available to everyone
- Holding corporations and government accountable to ensure that taxpayer dollars serve the public good; and
- Ensuring that workers universal right to organize and to bargain collectively for wages, hours, and conditions of work are maintained and enforced.

CORNERSTONE ISSUES OF LABOR

ALL WORKING PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- **A Good Job with Fair Wages**
- **Quality Health Care**
- **A Safe Job**
- **Paid Time Off and Flexible, Predictable Scheduling**
- **Freedom from Discrimination**
- **Retire with Dignity**
- **Fully-Funded Public Education**
- **Freedom to Join Together**
- **A Voice in Democracy**

Better Wages and Benefits

When people negotiate through collective bargaining, they gain better wages and benefits. Decent raises, predictable schedules, and family-friendly policies do not just happen without working people coming together and advocating for better workplaces.

Workplace Safety

The labor movement has led the charge to protect working people from workplace injury, illness, and death. Working with allies, labor has won strong protections against hazards and stronger rights for workers. Through organizing and collective bargaining, unions have gained robust protections and a real voice in safety and health at the workplace.

Pay equity

In 2016, women in unions made 23 percent higher wages than those not in a union. Moreover, unions have narrowed the gender wage gap to just 6 percent (compared to 16 percent for non-union). In addition, unions are also more likely to have various types of paid leave to balance work and family.¹

Building Power for Working People

Union members work together to negotiate and enforce a contract with management that guarantees things like decent raises, affordable health care, safer workplaces, job security, and a stable schedule.

¹ Economic Policy Institute “Unions help narrow the gender wage gap,” Gould, McNicholas April 3, 2017

Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO • 2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

2020 Candidate Questionnaire

PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN WHY YOU SEEK LABOR'S ENDORSEMENT:

We have got to recognize that working people deserve livable wages. We share the same fight and that is the values that shape economic security and opportunity for America's working families. We value work and respect for workers. We believe our nation, blessed with such rich material and human resources, can and must create and sustain good jobs that support families and communities. Having been a member of IBEW Local 26, I understand the value of the Four Cornerstones of MWC AFL-CIO. Together we can continue the work that this organization has given itself over the years. In Short we share similar values for all working families.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Collective bargaining is the process in which working people, through unions, negotiate contracts with their employers to determine the terms of employment, including pay, benefits, hours, leave, job health and safety policies, ways to balance work and family, and more. Collective bargaining is the heart and soul of the Labor Movement. Collective bargaining is a way to solve workplace problems, and is also the best means for raising wages in America. Indeed, through collective bargaining, working people in unions have higher wages, better benefits and safer workplaces.

Do you support for the District of Columbia (please respond Yes or No):

- YES** The rights of public and private sector workers to organize and have union representation.
- YES** The right to freely exercise workplace rights free from harassment, intimidation and/or delays.
- YES** The right to bargain collectively with a legal obligation on both sides to negotiate in good faith.
- YES** The right to resolve differences in a fair, impartial and timely manner, including a timely resolution to binding arbitration.

Additional Comments or clarification:

In today's world, where notions of austerity are a fixture on Sunday morning political talk shows, some pundits, even political candidates see unions an impediment to economic prosperity and productivity. These commentators see collective bargaining as interfering with the natural course of the free market system as they believe it sets wages above the market demand, creating a negative impact on employment and non-union workers. This view assumes (not Stewart Anderson) that individuals form and join unions solely because of wages, trivializing employees as nothing more than cogs in a machine with no desire for a meaningful career. Similar

Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO • 2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

economic arguments based in the view of an “ideal” free market system have been used against anti-discrimination laws.

Living in a democracy necessitates resolving conflict and differences through negotiation and consensus-building, as Ward 8 candidate for City Council I understand that we must allow for the negotiation with other council members in order to improve working conditions, pay, and benefits, gain the ability to hold their employer, the government, accountable while ensuring that factors such as money or political affiliation are not causes for mistreatment and termination. It is my position that everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO • 2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

RIGHT TO WORK

“Right to Work” laws prohibit workers from negotiating a “union shop” or “union security” clause in their contracts. Such a clause obligates those in the bargaining unit to pay their fair share of the collective bargaining representation costs. By wiping out that protection, “Right to Work” legislation, actually weakens the rights of working people and dismantles unions. Would you commit to:

Opposing legislation to bring “Right to Work” in DC?

Yes **No** **X Other (explain below)**

Additional Comments or clarification:

Right-to-work laws have been enacted by more than half of the U.S. states. These laws should not be confused with the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act, which prohibit agreements between labor unions and employers that require union membership for employees.

The real purpose of right to work laws is to tilt the balance toward big corporations and further rig the system at the expense of working families. These laws make it harder for working people to form unions and collectively bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions. As a candidate running for Ward 8 City Council I support my constituents to be better informed through education, promotion of livable wages not lower wages and benefits, or weaken workplace protections, and the decreasing the likelihood that employers will be required to negotiate with their employees. This is a strategy for attracting new business without paying its fair share.

UNION DUES AND JANUS V. AFSCME DECISION

In 2018, the Supreme Court issued what is probably its single most consequential ruling in *Janus v. AFSCME*. The ruling was a devastating blow against public-sector unions barring them from applying “agency fees” to the public employees for whom they negotiate pay increases and benefits if those employees decline to join the union as full members. Would you commit to:

Working with labor to find a legal remedy to allowing unions to collect a service fee from nonmembers for the cost of union representation as long as there are protections for those who object on religious grounds.

Yes **No** **X Other (explain below)**

Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO • 2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Additional Comments or clarification:

The onus is now on the unions since public sector employees must now “affirmatively consent” to pay dues. Now, no government worker can be forced to check their First Amendment rights at the door in order to serve their communities. Alternatively, it is the very place where they live. As council member for Ward 8, my commitment to my constituents is to educate and let them know that by joining together in strong unions, working people are able to win the power and voice they need to level the economic and political playing field. My opponents do not believe that working people deserve the same freedoms they have: to negotiate a fair return on their work. “This case is yet another example of corporate interests using their power and influence to launch a political attack on working people and rig the rules of the economy in their own favor. When working people are able to join strong unions, they have the strength in numbers they need to fight for the freedoms they deserve, like access to quality health care, retirement security and time off work to care for a loved one.

HEALTHCARE WORKERS & ACCESS

Universal Health Services Inc. (UHS) hospital (background):

Mayor Muriel Bowser’s administration has been negotiating with UHS to be the operator of the new hospital in Ward 8. The deal with UHS is expected to be announced to the public early this year.

Community groups, labor groups, and residents of Wards 7 and 8 have serious concerns about UHS as a bad actor because the company puts profits over patients.

- George Washington University Hospital has just sued UHS because [“Instead of investing" in GWU's mission, "UHS has paid itself" with "outsized dividends from artificially inflated, excess profits.”²](#)
- UHS was found to violate labor law by the National Labor Relations Board in 2019. The Court found they attempted to illegally bust the union at George Washington University Hospital.
- A \$127 million judgment was levied against UHS by the Department of Justice after being sued for defrauding Medicare and Medicaid services.
- UHS under staffs its facilities across multiple states, putting patients and workers at risk.
- UHS refuses to create an independent committee to protect rights and health of patients and workers. This secrecy threatens patients’ health and workers’ jobs.
- UHS does not have plans to build a level-1 trauma center nor a high-risk obstetrics unit or neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), despite great need East of the River.
- UHS and Mayor Bowser’s office will not give any guarantees that staff from UMC will have jobs at the new hospital. The deal has no plan for these devoted caregivers, some of whom have worked at the hospital and lived in the community for decades.

² GWU sues corporate hospital partner, leaving fate of Southeast project uncertain, Washington Post, Peter Jamison, Dec. 10, 2019

Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO • 2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Community and labor groups have been left out of this process and the deal has been secretive and rushed, thus leading to a lack of critical services and labor protections. This lack of services and protections will affect the whole city. The labor community believes that DC residents deserve a world-class hospital East of the River. Will you support efforts to:

No Require the new hospital to hire the workers from UMC in their current position with their current benefits and union representation.

YES Guarantee neutrality for workers at the new medical facility to organize.

YES Ensure high level quality of services needed for the Ward 7 and 8 communities including high-risk obstetrics and a minimum Level 2 trauma unit.

Additional Comments or clarification:

Americans have long relied upon and supported core public programs especially in the Ward where I am seeking the councilmen seat. Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and other programs for the basic family economic security they provide. Today these programs face tremendous challenges, strained by financial pressures and attacked by ideological opponents bent on dismantling them.

In the face of these attacks, as Councilmen I will continually put forth legislation to preserve and strengthen the public programs that form the basis of health care security for Ward 8 members and those that provide income security guarantees to all of us. Medicaid serves as a health care safety net for low income individuals, both elderly and nonelderly, providing comprehensive health benefits and long term care coverage. These public programs are indispensable to ensuring the physical well-being of constituents in Ward 8.

EDUCATION:

Affiliates of the MWC represent teachers, bus drivers and other school related personnel in DCPS. Despite an increase in Mayor Bowser's education budget for FY2020, 20 public schools, including 17 schools in Wards 7 and 8, saw significant budget cuts for the current school year.

Overall funding for DCPS has not kept up with rising costs, leading to cuts in many schools. Additionally, the Labor Movement believes that regardless of where a student attends school, they are entitled to the same rights as a student, including transparency and adherence to local laws. To serve the best interest of education in the District, will you commit to:

Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO • 2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

YES Proving schools that receive a net flow of students throughout the school year additional resources.

YES Working with teachers through their union to implement methods to close the opportunity gap of schools in lower-income communities.

YES Working with the community and labor union representatives to address gun violence and student safety including enforcing trauma informed practices and screening.

YES Supporting the right of all public sector unions and DCPS to collectively bargain on teacher evaluation standards and procedures?

YES Ensuring that all Local Education Agencies (LEA) are subject to FOIA, Open Meetings and transparency laws.

Would you support ending Mayoral control of schools and educational policies and placing them in the purview of an elected School Board?

Yes

No

Other (explain below)

Additional Comments or clarification:

Members in Ward 8, where I'm seeking the seat for Councilmen, have children whose ages range from K–12. Education provides the foundation of their formal education and plays a pivotal role in determining lifetime opportunities. Because of the crucial importance of these years, I wholeheartedly endorse efforts to strengthen our public schools' capacity to provide first-class education to children in these grades. Such efforts include setting high standards of academic achievement for students and for teachers; providing adequate resources to prepare students to meet the standards; competently designing and administering tests that accurately measure relevant performance; and providing appropriate remedial assistance for students struggling to meet the standards.

I also recognize the indispensable role that high quality teachers, paraprofessionals and other support staff play in giving students a solid foundation and improving their performance. I will affirm support for steps that will encourage and facilitate first-rate teaching. These include salaries commensurate with education, experience and the challenging and complex tasks teachers perform; reasonable measures to assess teacher quality; solid licensing and certification requirements consistent with professional teaching standards; access to resources and support needed to meet these standards; meaningful opportunities for professional development; and, where necessary, fair, timely intervention and dismissal procedures. I support sound educational solutions for our children.

As Ward 8 Councilman, I will and do oppose private school vouchers, tuition tax credits and privatization of public schools that siphon public resources from public schools into private schools or into the hands of private profiteers.

ACCOUNTABILITY/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Entertainment

Accidents in the event/entertainment industry are far too common. Thankfully you would have to go back in time over 20 years to the last fatal accident in Washington DC when a lighting supervisor working for upstaging fell 90 feet from the catwalk of the DC Armory and died the night before a Marilyn Manson concert, but it has happened, and without regulation it could happen again. Look at what happened to the deputy Mayor this past March, a speaker falling on a person attending a rally should never happen. Unfortunately, accidents like that go un-reported far too often. This is a public safety issue that needs to be taken seriously.

Would you be willing to support DC legislation that would amend [Title 47, Chapter 18 of the District of Columbia Official Code](#) to ensure:

- 1) that a person or party responsible for the staging and operation of a special event in the District holds a basic business license and an Entertainment endorsement to such license and
- 2) to establish a safety qualification program for technicians employed in the staging of special events by requiring that at least one member of the staging crew hold a rigger's certification issued by the Entertainment Technician Certification Program, and that all persons employed in such operations complete a minimum safety training course (OSHA-10) prior to working on the event?

Yes **No**

Additional Comments or clarification:

Wage Theft

While wage theft is pervasive and highly damaging, there is some good news: the problem is not unassailable. To be most effective, anti-wage theft laws must be meaningfully and effectively enforced, and must be accompanied by other legal provisions that empower victims to speak up against their abuse, such as strong anti-retaliation laws.

Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO • 2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Will you work with community groups, city administration and other advocates to support proven programs that combat wage theft??

Yes **No**

Will you commit to supporting an increase in funding in the departments and programs that work to ensure that workers are paid correctly, including the Department of Employee Services (DOES), as well as securing funding for community members who are third party enforcers, and a robust public awareness and accountability program?

Yes **No**

Additional Comments or clarification:

Our economy works best when corporations act responsibly toward their employees, their customers, the environment and local communities. Yet, too many corporate CEOs choose management strategies for short-term gains that undermine their companies in the long term.

I consistently advocate for greater corporate accountability, worker-friendly corporate practices and well-regulated capital markets through:

Advocacy - As councilmen I will work to restore balance to our economy by changing anti-worker corporate practices through shareholder-driven reforms.

Capital Stewardship - I envision workers to have a voice in the capital markets by leading corporate governance shareholder initiatives and advocating for legislative and regulatory reform. I believe that informed decisions based on good management and corporate accountability.

Transportation: (Please provide your response on a separate sheet).

Transit Worker Assaults

There are dozens of incidents where bus and train operators, as well as station managers, have been spat on, slapped, tased, stabbed, and even doused with urine. Transit worker assaults are not only a danger to the workers, but also to the riding public, who are also placed in harm's way when these incidents occur.

Following the urine-dousing incident on a Metro bus operator in 2018, unions began calling on the respective legislatures of District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia to increase the penalties for

Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO • 2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

transit assaults. Will you work to ensure the District of Columbia raises the penalty of assaults on transit employees?

Yes **No**

We have to ensure that our transit workers are safe, and if that means creating legislation that increases penalties then that is what I would be seeking to do.

Privatization

Will you support efforts by transit workers in preventing privatization of future services at WMATA?

Yes **No**

Likewise, will you support efforts by to prevent privatization of future services by the District government at the DC Streetcar and DC Circulator?

Yes **No**

Uber and Lyft represent one of the largest threats to public transit in the country. Do you support laws, similar to AB5 in California or New York City's 2019 Rideshare Law, to clarify the rights of rideshare workers?

Yes **No**

Additional Comments or clarification:

There are known issues regarding our transportation systems. A surface transportation reauthorization must grow all programs and not simply reallocate existing resources to specific parts of our transportation system such as we see in my ward. To this end, general fund spending is essential to support vital mass transit needs without moving funds away from other modes and safety programs. It must be remembered that an investment in transportation infrastructure is an investment in workers.

In order to ensure that these are good jobs that support working families, federal labor standards and worker protections must apply to all existing and new programs. In addition, any transportation projects funded by innovative financing proposals—such as State Infrastructure Banks or any type of bonding mechanisms—must comply with these same federal worker protection standards. Specifically, Section 13(c) is essential to protect the collective bargaining rights of transit employees, and Davis-Bacon provides job and wage stability for construction workers. Every major surface transportation reauthorization bill in the past five decades, including TEA-21, has contained appropriate labor policies. Of which I support.

Freight Crew Size Legislation

Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO • 2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

The District of Columbia is a major gateway for north/south and east/west freight railroad traffic. By 2040, freight railroad traffic is projected to triple from 15 to 48 daily freight trains.

Today, the average freight train is 1.5 – 2 miles long and three (3) stories tall. The size, length, and commodities, including hazardous material transported by these freight trains, pose significant public safety risks for the communities adjacent to the rail corridors.

Currently, freight trains in the United States are operated with a minimum of two crew members: locomotive engineer and conductor. The coordinated efforts of the crew ensure the safe movement of the freight train. In the event of an accident or incident, the crew coordinates immediate assistance and provides critical information to fire and emergency responders.

The freight railroad industry based on new technology and operating paradigm are seeking to reduce the crew size to just the locomotive engineer.

A reduction of the crew to only a locomotive engineer would create a major public safety risk for the District of Columbia. Locomotive engineers and conductors each have different specific responsibilities they perform to ensure the safe movement of a freight train.

More importantly, the major functions for safely moving a freight train can't be performed by a single crew member.

Single-man railroad operations have been proven unsafe and directly contribute to several horrific accidents, including the 2013 disaster in Lac Megantic, Quebec - Canada.

Seven (7) states: California, Illinois, Colorado, Nevada, Wisconsin, Arizona, and West Virginia, have enacted legislation requiring a minimum two-persons crew on all freight railroad trains.

QUESTION:

To protect the communities adjacent to our rail corridors, would you support legislation requiring a minimum two-person crew on all freight rail trains operated in the District of Columbia?

X Yes NO OTHER

Additional Comments or clarification:

Rail Safety Inspections and Oversight

Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO • 2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

In 2016, D.C. Law 21-254 authorized the creation of the Emergency Response and Rail Safety Division (ERRSD) within the Department of Energy and Environment. ERRSD is the State Rail Safety Office responsible for monitoring and overseeing all railroad activity in the District of Columbia. ERRSD is comprised of an Associate Director and Rail Safety Inspectors trained in specific railroad disciplines. Unfortunately, ERRSD has been underfunded each fiscal year since it's creation.

QUESTION 1.

Would you support full funding for ERRSD in the FY 2021 and future budgets?

X Yes NO OTHER

QUESTION 2.

Would you support an amendment to D.C. Law 21-254: "Rail Safety and Security Amendment Act" authorizing the District of Columbia to assess penalties and fines for safety and security violations on the railroads operating in the District of Columbia.

X Yes NO OTHER

Additional Comments or clarification:

I certify that the responses in this questionnaire are mine and reflect my political positions for consideration by the MWC.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Candidate (Please Print Legibly):

Thank you.