Why the UAW Endorses Political Candidates

There is a direct relationship between the ballot box and the bread box, and what the union fights for and wins at the bargaining table can be taken away in the legislative halls.

 (Walter Reuther)

Recently, in the past few public political cycles there has been a push back against some of the candidates the UAW has endorsed from our members. The UAW understands that members put a lot of consideration into their choices and will always vote their conscience. The endorsements made by the UAW should let the members know that the candidate was screened and was viewed as the best candidate that would uphold the union’s objectives.

**Common Questions asked about this process**

* **How do we choose the candidates?**

The screening committee makes its recommendations based on its evaluation of the candidates voting records and/or positions on trade, education, Medicare, retirement security, right to work laws, worker’s compensation, unemployment insurance and other issues that directly affect UAW members and our families.

* **Does the UAW only endorse Democrats?**

No. Endorsements are based on the candidate’s record and positions on issues, not only on party. Over the years, UAW CAP has endorsed pro-working family Independents and Republicans as well as Democrats.

* **Does our Union Dues go to campaign contributions?**

By law, union dues can’t be used to support any federal candidate. This is true for many states as well.

* **What money goes towards political candidates?**

Voluntary Community Action Program (V-CAP) is the UAW’s political action fund made up of voluntary contributions from UAW members, retirees and their families. The money is used to support pro-worker political candidates who have earned the endorsement of the UAW Community Action Program (UAW CAP).

If you would like to contribute to the VCAP fund let your committee person know, there also should be a VCAP drive coming up in the facility shortly. The Toledo Area UAW CAP Council will have a Meet the Candidates Night on Monday October 16th at 5pm at UAW Local 12. Please come out and meet the candidates that were selected to fight for our best interests as workers! UAW Local 12 is located at 2300 Ashland Ave. Toledo, Ohio 43620. We hope to see you there!

LEAD Update

We would like to thank all of you for your continued support of the LEAD program! We know it’s not always easy to hand out the monthly topics and more importantly have the conversations with your members. We all have our regular jobs to do and it can be difficult to see everyone. **With all of your efforts we won the Feedback Challenge!!!** The movie tickets have been handed out and Shane Steele won the J Alexanders gift card.

Going forward the international would like to know how many one on one conversations we are having. We don’t have to write down what the conversations were just the amount of the conversations you are having. We still would like any feedback that your members has that they would like the international union to know so we can include it in the monthly report.

We also would appreciate if you would fill out the mentee questionnaire so we can update the LEAD site. It is on the reverse side of this update. Thank you in advance!

In Solidarity,

Toledo LEAD

**MEET THE MENTORS LEAD MENTOR QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. What is your name?
2. What shift are you on and in what department do you work?
3. Tell me a little bit about yourself outside of work. Are you married/engaged/ or have a significant other? Do you have any children? Do you have any Pets? What are some of your hobbies?
4. Tell us about your time with the UAW and the company. How do you feel that the LEAD program has helped spread information?
5. What is one of your most favorite things about being a member of the UAW?