



## 2020 California Candidate Questionnaire

**An Open and Competitive Internet:** A free and open Internet is essential to our democracy and increases the availability of diverse and independent content. An open Internet enhances competition and increases consumer choice. In December 2017, the Federal Communications Commission repealed the Open Internet Order of 2015 and its protections against blocking, throttling and paid prioritization. In 2018, California passed one of the strongest net neutrality laws in the country and the Department of Justice and ISPs promptly sued to block the law. The law's implementation was delayed pending a decision in federal litigation. Will you **support** the state of California as it defends SB 822, its net neutrality law, from lawsuits filed by the Department of Justice and the ISPs to prevent its enactment?

Support

Oppose

Comments:

**Access to Broadband:** Every Californian should have access to reliable, affordable broadband. The Writers Guild has long advocated for increased competition in the broadband market to support an open internet and increase access. Improved connectivity supports competition in a consolidated media market, more jobs for writers and increased visibility for underrepresented voices through independently produced content. SB 1130, *Fiber for All Legislation* (Gonzalez), will allow California Advanced Services Funds to be converted into a fiber infrastructure fund, focused on unserved low income and rural communities. Do you **support** SB 1130 and its goal of increasing access to broadband for all Californians?

Support

Oppose

Comments:

**Antitrust and Media Consolidation:** A shrinking number of large corporations control the production and distribution of most of our news, information and entertainment. Media and telecommunications concentration constrains diversity of voices and viewpoints, shuts out independent programming and causes higher prices for consumers and lower wages for workers. For writers, consolidation has led to extreme buyer power in the market for creative labor, which puts downward pressure on writer compensation, working conditions and creative power. The deterioration of competition extends far beyond the media industry to the US economy at large. Do you **support** efforts to address the market power of large corporations, including through the office of the California Attorney General and the California Public Utilities Commission, and will you support increased scrutiny of large media and telecommunications mergers in California?

Support

Oppose

Comments:

**Protecting Health Insurance and Containing Costs:** Writers Guild members have fought for decades to maintain our multi-employer health plan, which offers portable health insurance to union members and their families. Over the years, in the face of rising health care costs, our members have foregone full wage increases to ensure that their health benefits are maintained, and our health plan has imposed reasonable cost containment strategies. However, costs for our plan continue to rise, reflecting health care inflation that is driven primarily by the suppliers of health care. Efforts to address the rising costs of healthcare in California so far have not succeeded. Do you **support** efforts to curb rising healthcare costs for Californians, including but not limited to allowing the state to regulate and set healthcare prices?

Support                       Oppose

Comments:

**Organized Labor:** The Supreme Court decision in *Janus v. AFSCME* attacked the rights of labor unions, affecting both public *and* private sector employees. As income inequality grows and workers' wages are depressed, building stronger unions is of paramount importance. With continued attacks on the labor movement at the state and federal level, will you protect workers' right to organize and bargain collectively and will you **oppose** any statewide "Right to Work" legislation?

Support                       Oppose

Comments:

**Film and TV Tax Credit Program:** California's expanded Film and Television Tax Credit Program has been critical in attracting and retaining film and television production in California. With such a high concentration of talent and resources in Los Angeles, local production is a driving force in our economy. This program helps ensure the creation and protection of well-paying union jobs here in California, and for writers it is important to ensure that writers' rooms and production occur in the same locales. Will you **support** further efforts to promote local production?

Support                       Oppose

Comments:

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CANDIDATE NAME AND DISTRICT

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CANDIDATE SIGNATURE

DATE

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CAMPAIGN CONTACT PERSON

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CONTACT PHONE

CONTACT E-MAIL

*Please address questions and return to Corri Freedman, Political Director, 323.782.4594, cfreedman@wga.org*