



WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA WEST

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2020 Federal Candidate Questionnaire

Freedom of Speech: The right to free speech is fundamental to our democracy and to the work of writers. Yet statements made by this Administration that attempt to delegitimize mainstream media and the press, as well as efforts to prevent people, including artists, of specific cultural and religious backgrounds from entering the U.S. will have a chilling effect on speech nationwide. Will you **oppose** efforts to limit dissent, freedom of the press and other efforts that undermine our first amendment rights, including efforts to reform libel laws?

Support

Oppose

Comments:

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 In December 2017, the Federal Communications Commission repealed the Open Internet Order of 2015 and its protections against blocking, throttling and paid prioritization.

Did you or would you **support** efforts to restore the 2015 Open Internet rules and its classification of broadband as a Title II telecommunications service, including supporting the *Save the Internet Act*, S. 682 (Sen. Markey)?

Support

Oppose

Comments:

Do you **oppose** any further attempts by the telecom industry to “codify” weak net neutrality rules like, which would permit paid prioritization and undermine the FCC’s ability to regulate the conduct of broadband providers?

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 concentration leads to fewer voices and viewpoints, less diverse and independent programming, higher prices for consumers, and downward pressure on wages and benefits for workers. The deterioration of competition extends far beyond the media industry to the US economy at large. Antitrust agencies and the courts have

encouraged the accumulation of excessive market power by adopting a permissive orientation toward large mergers and conduct harmful to consumers, workers, and competition. Do you **support** efforts to address the market power of large corporations through legislation to modernize antitrust enforcement? Would you support update existing law and improve agencies' abilities to protect competition and consumers? Would you also support the nominations of tough, innovative antitrust enforcers and judges?

Support Oppose

Comments:

A Balanced Approach to Copyright Enforcement: Copyright protection is a fundamental constitutional right (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 8). Writers rely on residuals – compensation for the continued use of their creative works – as a vital form of compensation. While diminishing piracy is an important objective, anti-piracy efforts must be balanced with the similarly important objectives of free speech, due process, the right to privacy, and an open Internet. Do you **support** such balanced efforts at fighting piracy?

Support Oppose

Comments:

Controlling Healthcare Costs: WGAW members receive health benefits through the Guild's Taft-Hartley health fund, which is subject to rapidly rising healthcare costs. Prior attempts to restrain healthcare costs have focused on imagined 'healthcare overuse,' to be addressed with increased tax exposure for health insurance plans and cost-sharing for individuals; this ignores the supply side of healthcare, where a lack of competition or price regulation leads to high prices. Do you **support** efforts to control healthcare costs through mechanisms that address its supply side, such as (but not limited to) antitrust enforcement and price regulation?

Support Oppose

Comments:

Organized Labor: As income inequality continues to grow at a rapid pace, union membership has steadily declined due in large part to the erosion of federal labor protections and a concerted assault on the right to organize. Congressional leadership is needed to strengthen the rights of organized labor and the middle class. Do you **support** the recently passed *Protecting the Right to Organize Act*, S. 1306 (Murray), which would allow workers to organize and bargain collectively through a majority sign up and voluntary recognition process, eliminate so-called "Right to Work" laws, puts pressure on employers to negotiate a first contract, and expand the definition of joint employer liability?

Support Oppose

Comments:

Multiemployer Pension Plans: The multiemployer pension system, which has enabled employers to

efficiently pool their resources and secure the retirements of their employees, must be protected and strengthened. WGAW members and ten million working Americans paid into the multiemployer pension system throughout their careers and have relied on its promises when planning for the future. Yet the entire system is now at risk because a few large plans that have been disproportionately impacted by the Great Recession, demographics and industry trends are on the brink of insolvency. Do you **support** the bipartisan approach advanced by the House in the *Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pensions Act of 2019*, H.R. 397 (Rep. Richard Neal), legislation passed by the House that creates a well-designed federal loan program to rescue failing plans and safeguard the health of all plans within the multiemployer pension system?

Support Oppose

Comments:

The multiemployer pension insurance program operated by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) is facing insolvency, primarily because of the few large plans that are unable to pay out promised benefits. Significantly increasing premiums will not solve the PBGC's funding shortage and will harm healthy plans by reducing funds available to pay for retirement benefits and decreasing reserves needed to weather future market downturns. Will you **oppose** legislation that attempts to address PBGC solvency by relying on excessive premium increases for multiemployer pension plans and legislation that requires these plans to assume a lower rate of investment returns?

Support Oppose

Comments:

Please share policy positions not mentioned above that you have publicly taken on ballot measures, legislation or non-policy related matters affecting freedom of expression including in legislatures, businesses, the legal realm or the media.

CANDIDATE NAME, STATE AND DISTRICT

CANDIDATE SIGNATURE

DATE

CAMPAIGN CONTACT PERSON

CONTACT PHONE

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*Please address questions and/or return to Corri Freedman, Political and Legislative Director,
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