

UCWVA 2021 Candidate Questionnaire



1. Virginia is one of only 9 states in the country that deny public sector employees their right to bargain collectively. As a union of public higher education employees, the right to bargain is among our top priorities. **How will you work to repeal Virginia's ban on public sector collective bargaining and ensure that every public employee has full and fair collective bargaining rights?**
2. **What will you do to repeal right-to-work laws in Virginia in the next term?**
3. **What is your plan to make higher education more affordable for low-income students and families?**
4. **Do you support passing legislation to raise employment standards for all public sector employees**, including a minimum wage of at least \$15 an hour or \$31,200 annually, access to quality health insurance, paid sick leave, and a livable retirement plan?
5. Virginia institutes of higher education are increasingly reliant on contract labor for essential on-campus services, which cuts wages and eliminates full time jobs. **How will you incentivize public higher education institutions to limit further privatization and insource services previously outsourced?**
6. In Colorado, Michigan, Nebraska, and Nevada higher education board members are selected by popular vote, as in K-12 governance. Given that higher education in Virginia has been largely deregulated over the last few decades, **what measures would you take to give Virginians more control over their public institutions?**
7. Virginia's current corporate tax rate is 6%. **Where would you set the corporate tax rate?**
8. In 2015 Virginia ranked 44th in the nation in per-pupil expenditures in higher education (\$4,930 per year as opposed to North Carolina's \$8,109 per year). **What do you think an appropriate per-pupil expenditure is, and how will you ensure an increase in per-pupil funding for higher education?**
9. The Charlottesville City School Board recently voted to end the presence of school resource officers in public schools and terminate the school system's MOU with the Charlottesville City Police. **What further steps would you take at the statewide level to end police violence in K-12 schools and in higher education?**
10. 70% of extremely low-income households in Virginia are paying more than half of their monthly income on housing, and accessing affordable housing is a significant problem statewide even for non-extremely low-income households. The presence of a university often exacerbates this crisis by acquiring large swaths of land and incentivizing the construction of high-cost student housing. **What will you do to ensure that university workers and their neighbors have access to affordable housing?**