

Candidate Questionnaire

Name of Candidate: Stephanie Campbell
Name of Campaign: Elect Stephanie Campbell-30th. Assembly District
Address, City, State, Zip: P.O. 1104, Bakersfield, CA. 93302
FPPC#: 1326726
Running for Which District? 30th State Assembly District.

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) is a national construction trade association with nearly 25,000 member firms. In California, five chapters of ABC represent more than 1400 members. ABC supports fair and open competition, free enterprise, freedom of choice for workers concerning union membership and training programs, balanced budgets, lower taxes, and reasonable regulation. Our members range from some of the largest construction companies in the country to small businesses with five or fewer employees. Most ABC members in California perform commercial, industrial, and public works construction, with very few members involved in residential construction.

ABC supports the "Merit Shop" philosophy, which is that the lowest responsible bidder should win the job regardless of the union affiliation of its employees.

Please indicate on the questionnaire where you stand on the following issues:

1. Government-Mandated Project Labor Agreements

Government-mandated Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) are 20-60 page documents negotiated between public entities and labor unions that establish requirements on a construction project that essentially make the project a union-only job. Although contractors are not allowed to participate in PLA negotiations, they are required to sign and abide by the PLA in order to work on a project. Union-only provisions in PLAs include the following: required payment of health and welfare benefits to union trust funds instead of the company's own benefit program; all workers must be obtained from union hiring halls; all apprentices must come from union programs despite the existence

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of state-approved non-union programs; all workers must pay union dues and fees. There has never been a PLA on a state construction project, although Governor Gray Davis tried and failed to require contractors to sign a PLA for the construction of the new campus of the University of California in Merced. Unions have also proposed that the state legislature mandate PLAs on construction projects funded by state bond measures.

- I support PLAs on public works projects.
- I support PLAs on some public works projects, such as large multi-year infrastructure projects that require numerous contractors and workers.
- I support PLAs on public works projects only when there is an emergency and the project needs to be finished quickly.
- I oppose PLAs.
- Other: *There are too many government managed programs already, PLAs should be able to negotiate in the Prevailing Wage process.*

Since the 1930s, contractors on state-funded public works projects costing \$1000 or more (in most cases) are required to pay "prevailing wages" determined by the California Department of Industrial Relations for each trade on a regional basis. Prevailing wages are calculated using the modal (most commonly seen) rate and therefore are always the union collective bargaining rates. When Governor Gray Davis was in office, prevailing wage coverage expanded to include private projects that receive any sort of assistance from government. Davis appointees in the Department of Industrial Relations attempted to expand prevailing wage coverage to assembly and fabrication work done off-site for a public works job, but Gov. Schwarzenegger ended the expansion effort.

- I support expanding prevailing wage to additional construction work.
- I support prevailing wage, but oppose coverage for off-site fabrication.
- I support prevailing wage, but want to repeal coverage for private projects.
- I support prevailing wage, but want to change the calculation of prevailing wages from modal rate to weighted average.
- I support prevailing wage, but want to increase the cost threshold from \$1000 to a higher amount. (Amount: *100,000*)
- I support prevailing wage, but want to exempt certain categories, such as school construction, hospital seismic retrofits, and low-income housing.
- I support prevailing wage, but special calculations should be made for all trades in the Central Valley and the Inland Empire, which have a lower cost of living than the coastal metropolitan areas.
- I want to repeal prevailing wage.
- Other: _____

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OPTIONAL QUESTIONS:**Labor History in the Classroom**

Various bills have been introduced in the state legislature that encourage or require "labor history" to be taught in California public school classrooms. Unions are trying to present a one-sided version of history in classrooms in order to recruit students to be union members or even union organizers. Associated Builders and Contractors has its own 59-year history of fighting for the "Merit Shop" philosophy of fair and open competition, free enterprise, and the right of workers to choose whether or not to belong to a union. ABC's history will be marginalized and demeaned under the union version of history.

- I support requiring labor history to be taught to public school students.
- I support encouraging labor history to be taught to public school students.
- I support encouraging labor history to be taught to public school students, as long as provisions are made to ensure balance from the side of business groups.
- I oppose requiring or encouraging labor history as a specific field to be taught to public school students.
- Other: _____

Taxpayer-Funded Labor Institute

From 2000 to now, a total of more than \$34 million has been provided in state budgets for a "Multi-Campus Research Unit for Labor Studies" at the UC Berkeley and UCLA campuses. Now called the University of California Miguel Contreras Labor Institute, this program hires pro-union staff and funds hundreds of biased studies designed to support the union political agenda at state and local governments. Studies are produced to support greater union intervention in every sector of the state's economy. Governor Schwarzenegger rescinded funding for the labor institute in December 2003 and completely eliminated direct funding with line-item vetoes in the 2005 budget and the 2008 budget. The University of California and the California Labor Federation are intent on maintaining full funding for the program.

- I support full funding for the Multi-Campus Research Unit for Labor Studies in the state budget.
- I support reducing but not eliminating funding for the Multi-Campus Research Unit for Labor Studies.
- I support eliminating funding for the Multi-Campus Research Unit for Labor Studies.
- Other: _____

Pro-Union Bias of California Labor Code

Section 923 of the California Labor Code contains the following statement, which is used to justify discrimination against Merit Shop companies, workers, and apprentices:

Governmental authority has permitted and encouraged employers to organize in the corporate and other forms of capital control. In dealing with such employers, the individual unorganized worker is helpless to exercise actual liberty of contract and to protect his freedom of labor, and thereby to obtain acceptable terms and conditions of employment.

ABC does not believe this statement is accurate, especially considering that 80% of California construction workers choose to work for a company without a union collective bargaining agreement.

- I support keeping this language in the California Labor Code.
- This language should be rewritten simply to recognize the right of workers to organize into a union.
- I support repealing this language in the California Labor Code.
- Other: _____

Signed: Stephane Campbell

Date: 4/14/10