

Re: Candidate Questionnaire from Wisconsin Professional Employees Council

[Robert Meyer <info@robertmeyerforgovernor.org>](mailto:info@robertmeyerforgovernor.org)

Sun 8/5/2018 3:31 PM

To: WPEC <mail@wpec.org>;

Hi Mr. Richter, thank you for the opportunity to respond to your questionnaire. Here are my responses:

Question # 1: What specific steps will you take to restore employee input into the terms and conditions of employment? I believe in fair business practices including the rights of workers to organize.

Question #2: What criteria will you use to determine appointments to state agencies and commissions? Each appointee must be highly qualified and committed to carrying out the purpose of the agency in an unbiased way.

Question #3: How do you propose to restore the public's trust in government's ability to work effectively for all citizens, including public employees? My platform is based on the urgent need to restore the fiscal stability of our government, and move on from hyper-partisan divisiveness. One way to help accomplish both would be to follow Todd Berry's suggestion to move the Controller from DOA to the State Treasurer's Office.

Question # 4: For more than 20 years, governors from both parties have increased the number of political appointees in state government. The UW also seems to have more politically connected appointments. Proponents of political appointees say that governors need to have their own team in place to achieve their agenda. During that same time period, there has been an increasing number of large scale financial debacles - IT projects run amok, campus administrators mixing public funding with private funding, failures to reconcile funds and reoccurring security lapses. Some legislators are complaining that they can't seem to make agencies/campuses do what they are supposed to do. What is your plan for balancing political appointees and career state employees if you are elected? How will you make agency/campus managers "do what they are supposed to do"? I believe we need to establish long term, bi-partisan strategic objectives throughout government and that effective leadership depends on strong bi-partisan teamwork.

Question # 5: According to DOA's Annual Report on Contracting Services, the dollar amount spent by agencies on contracting services increased from \$426,663,505 in fiscal year 2005 to \$520,030,749 in fiscal year 2017. The amount spent by the UW increased from \$73,577,905 in fiscal year 2005 to \$138,815,504 in fiscal year 2017. (These figures do not include transportation contracting.) According to DOA's Classified Workforce & Affirmative Action Report for Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016 (the most current report available), the rate of employees separating from state service increased during the last three years, reaching an annual rate of 13.4%, "the highest rate in at least a decade". In addition, the percentage of employees immediately eligible for retirement is 8.3%, up from 6.4% ten years ago in June 2006. Given the high rate of permanent employees leaving state service and the increasing number of high-turnover, temporary staff (political appointees and contract employees), how will you manage and preserve institutional knowledge? Finding ways to address this problem will be an important and immediate priority once I become Governor.

Regards, Robert

www.robertmeyerforgovernor.org

From: WPEC <mail@wpec.org>

Sent: Sunday, July 29, 2018 6:18 PM

To: Robert Meyer

Cc: JNichols@madison.com; gblood@charter.net; pfanlund@madison.com; pmarley@journalssentinel.com; wisdc@wisdc.org

Subject: Candidate Questionnaire from Wisconsin Professional Employees Council

Dear Mr. Meyer,

Attached is a questionnaire that the Wisconsin Professional Employees Council (WPEC) is sending to all active candidates for governor. WPEC is a labor union whose members are part of the State of Wisconsin's Fiscal and Staff Services bargaining unit. The Fiscal and Staff Services bargaining unit is made up of over 4,000 state employees in a couple of hundred professional employee classifications.

There are many important issues in this race. This questionnaire is focused on issues related to the governor's position as boss for all State of Wisconsin employees and consists of five questions. Please return your answers to mail@wpec.org. We will be posting all replies on our website, www.wpec.org, in the order they are received.

Thank you in advance for your response.

Jeffrey J. Richter, President
Wisconsin Professional Employees Council