

# SEIU MICHIGAN STATE COUNCIL VALUES AND VISION STATEMENT 2018

This questionnaire is designed to be a baseline in order to measure how a candidate compares to the **Values and Vision** of SEIU and it's member locals. The candidate will be asked to submit this official statement indicating their support or non-support of several key issues that affect SEIU members across Michigan. **NOTE: Not supporting one or more of the following statements does not equate to an automatic disqualification – the Council will take all information provided under consideration. Please feel free to use the space allotted for any explanation you deem necessary.**

## Election Information

Office Sought & District/Seat Number: State House of Representatives- Dist 6

## Candidate/Campaign Information

Candidate Name: Tom Choske Email: Tom@VoteChoske.com  
Phone (Cell): (313) 288-8662 Phone (Home): — Phone (Work): —  
Phone (Campaign): (313) 288-8662 Fax: — Website: VoteChoske.com  
Campaign Committee Name: Tom Choske For Representative ID Number: —  
Campaign Address: 1538 Centre St #605 City: Detroit ZIP: 48226  
Doors Knocked to Date: Just Starting Dollars Raised to Date: \$30k

## Campaign Contact Information

Name and Title: Tom Choske- Candidate  
Email: Tom@VoteChoske.com Phone (Cell): (313) 288-8662

# VALUES

**Please check all that apply:**

☒ *I support the rights of workers to form or join a union.*

As someone who grew up in a union household, I know not only the historic victories that unions won for workers across the country, but the value that they hold to this day for all their members. I will fight to preserve this right against any and all challenges.

☒ *I support a \$15 minimum wage.*

I believe we need more than just a \$15/hour minimum wage, so I will fight to not only increase the level to \$15 tied to the CPI, but also to eliminate wage disparity for tipped workers.

☒ *I oppose the use of private prisons in Michigan as well as the outsourcing of services within the corrections system that could jeopardize the safety and security of those institutions.*

The horrors our fellow citizens in correctional facilities have had to endure with maggoty food and outrageous prices at the commissary due to privatized services must never be allowed to happen again. I believe that corrections should be handled by the government with government employees who have the public's interest at heart rather than profits.

☒ *I believe that privatization and/or outsourcing of public services, including school support services, is wasteful public policy.*

My mother worked in school support services throughout my life, so I truly appreciate the need to keep these jobs public.

☒ *I will prioritize action on policies ensuring affordable child care and quality long-term care for all Michigan citizens, and access to skills training for all direct care workers.*

I will fight not only for affordable child care, but ensure that Michigan has robust family care policies that give workers with families the confidence they need to take care of themselves and their loved ones without fear of lost wages or reprisals. Long-term care workers, especially in-home care workers, perform a critical service for our aging population and deserve not only more training, but higher pay and union protections.

☒ *I support legislation that would set mandatory minimum staffing ratios and limit mandated overtime to ensure safe working conditions for public employees as well as healthcare workers.*

Minimum standards will provide better patient care, better working conditions, and ultimately improve our community's health and our economy.

☒ *I support setting high standards for the private security industry by requiring training for personnel and disclosure by security companies to ensure that security officers work for reputable companies.*



# VISION

Please use the space provided or attach a separate document to answer the following question. Feel free to attach any qualifying or enhancing information if you feel it necessary.

**Increased income inequality and the lack of economic opportunity for many working people has been the subject of much public debate. If elected, what specific policies would you support and/or actions would you take, using the tools at your disposal, to address this dilemma?**

While the economy has improved since the depths of the 2008 Great Recession, much of the 'improvement' has been concentrated in equities markets that primarily benefit the top 1% of earners. Real wages haven't increased at all in inflation-adjusted terms over the last 10 years, creating some of the worst economic inequality this nation has seen since the 1920's.

The solution requires action across education, infrastructure, the state's regulatory regime, and tax reform. I have laid out on my website a list of policies and actions I will support and take to help end inequality and create a stronger, consumer-based economy for our state:

- I will work with businesses and the Department of Education to expand opportunities for job skills training for both school children and adults, ensuring that they can gain the soft-skills and technical know-how to compete for the jobs of the future. I will advocate for funding to continue the IT skills training program I helped pilot in 2011 with Congressman Hansen Clarke.
- I will work to ensure that Michigan becomes a livable wage state, with a \$15-per-hour minimum wage for all workers that is indexed to the Consumer Price Index.
- I will stand in solidarity with organized labor against all attacks on collective bargaining and will never give up the fight to repeal Right To Work.
- I will defend Prevailing Wage laws to ensure government projects are done by the highest-skilled and most competitive workers possible.
- The state shouldn't seek to balance its budget on the backs of retirees – I will continue to oppose all efforts to break union contracts and pension obligations for our retirees.
- I will fight to implement my Transit and Infrastructure agenda to help hire Michigan workers and grow our consumer base. By letting working people earn money, we can generate the demand that will attract and grow even more jobs.
- To pay for these investments, I will work with the Legislature to give strict scrutiny to all state-issued business tax breaks and end Lansing corporate welfare. I will also continue the fight to move toward a progressive state income tax.

- I will work to help improve energy efficiency to drive down energy costs and reduce pollution through funding weatherization tax credits for businesses & individuals, while partnering with organizations like Young Detroit Builders to ensure that our neighbors and children are the ones hired for these jobs.
- I will join with others in the legislature to spur investment by helping to support investment in new and early stage businesses by restarting the 21st Century Jobs Fund, which generated \$7 in investment for every \$1 spent, and will continue to fight for tax credits for Angel Investors.
- I will fight to bring more jobs to our community while improving our environment through making Michigan a leader in recycling technologies. I will work to make curbside recycling universal while bringing advanced single-stream recycling facilities to the area.