

To UE General Executive Board:

The June 7th [statement](#) "The Stakes of the 2024 Election" is not consistent with UE's principled history of [political independence](#) and organizing labor power against political structures that harm workers on an international scale. In order to force powerful institutions to yield power, the labor movement must be a real threat and not concede leverage for a lesser evil.

The two-party trap and unappealing choice in the November election does not necessitate that UE request membership to hold their nose and vote for a candidate. Instead, we must direct energy to building a labor movement that can withstand whoever is in power. Workers are only marginally better than we were four years ago and faced with the same choice. When it comes to addressing the policy failures of Biden and Trump, who have both enacted anti-worker, anti-immigrant, and pro-war policies, our focus must remain on building working-class power that challenges these failures rather than normalizes them.

UE undermines its own principled history to consider Biden's approach to labor a favorable future for the working class when his actions involve the exploitation of labor at home to fund a genocide abroad. We should not credit Biden for the tens of thousands of new graduate worker members while ignoring [his role](#) in brutalizing and arresting UE members for doing what our union has taught us to do: fight for workers around the world. Our union was among [the first to organize undocumented workers](#), we have a long history of [advocacy for Black workers during the time of Jim Crow](#), we challenged xenophobia [when we joined hands with Mexican workers in direct opposition to NAFTA](#), and have been on the front lines of [anti-war efforts from the Vietnam War, to the invasion of Iraq](#), and most recently calling for [a ceasefire in Palestine](#) in October 2023.

We recognize the long-haul fight to take down the "corrupt, two-party system." We organize and build capacity in our workplaces and communities in ways that are in line with UE's principled history. From protecting our communist and left-leaning comrades by refusing to sign [the Taft Hartley Affidavits](#), to holding out [on the picket line until women workers were ensured the same raise](#) as men, UE members have a decades-long history of militant organizing for rights that leave no member behind, even when the fight is against the state itself, no matter the federal administration. We are ready to continue that legacy. The conciliatory asks in "The Stakes of the 2024 Election" do not serve and ultimately sabotage these organizing efforts.

We, the undersigned rank and file members of UE, do not depend on instructions from the state in order to protect workers' right to organize, to fight for protections against discrimination, and for health and safety regulations. We remind the General Executive Board that workers are not wholly dependent on the NLRB, as shown by [UE Local 150](#). We are not part of a labor movement that is dependent on a federal or state board that will give us the right to fight for each other. We are building a labor movement that is truly independent of state actors and can withstand attacks on our rights from the corporate class.

We, the undersigned rank and file members of UE, understand that liberation will not come from the ballot box. Politicians and the ruling class are never going to willingly give up their power. Rather than asking fellow workers to hold their nose, we need workers to keep both hands free to build the labor movement that we need in the United States today.

As a first step towards this, we, the undersigned, demand that the General Executive Board amend the released statement to abide by UEs principles of political independence, remove the call for UE members to “hold their nose and vote for Biden”, and instead, encourage members to use their power to build capacity within their locals and communities to fight for a labor movement that depends on no federal administration to survive.

In solidarity,

Abby Granath, UE Local 1466

Abigail Sipes UE Local 197

Alaa Saad, UE Local 197

Alex Baten, UE local 1466

Alina Spiegel, UE Local 197

Anchen Tong, UE Local 197

Andrew Eneim, UE Local 197

Anish Chedalavada, UE Local 197

Anna Word, UE Local 197

April Ma, UE Local 197

August Villanueva, UE Local 696

Benita Menezes UE Local 197

Breezy Mueller, UE Local 667

Britt Lawson, UE Local 696

Broderick Dunlap, UE Local 197

Chris Gridley, UE Local 696

Cove Geary, UE Local 261

Crystal Grabowski, UE Local 696

Dominic Oddo, Local 1466

Drew Perron, UE Local 667

Duncan McGraw, Local 1466

Eda Begum Birol, (former) UE Local 197

Eve Tipps, UE local 1466

Farah farid UE Local 197

Fritz Geist, UE Local 667
Geni Goebel, UE Local 261
Hannah Zadeh, UE Local 896
Hashem Amireh, UE Local 150
Hwa Huang, UE Local 150
Iris Powell UE Local 667
J.V. UE 197
Jackson O'Connell Barlow, UE Local 667
Jadin Moore, UE Local 1466
Jake Willard, UE Local 261
Janvi Madhani, UE Local 197
Jasmine Grey, UE Local 197
Jason Lovell, UE Local 667
Jayati Sharma, UE Local 197
Jeff Davis, UE Local 197
Jeffrey Fisher, UE Local 667
Jiwon Kim, UE 197
Jocelyn Kirkwood, UE Local 696
Jonas Johnson, UE Local 197
Jorge Mancilla, UE Local 150
Josh Trapp, UE Local 667
Justin Otter UE Local 197
Kai Herron, UE Local 261
Kane Conwell
Katie Slack, UE Local 1466
Kelly Knupp, UE Local 1466
Kelsey Breslow, Local 667
Kirill Tolpygo, UE Local 150
Kris Rosentel, UE Local 1122
Kunal Joshi, UE Local 197
Larkin Coffey, UE Local 150
Laurel Poolman, UE Local 197
Leaf Freeman, UE Local 696
Lexi Kenis, UE Local 1466
Lily Liang, UE Local 197

Liz Dustman, UE Local 667
Logan Mann, UE Local 261
Lyla Atta, UE Local 197
Mara Grace, UE Local 197
Marie Pearce, UE Local 197
Marta Cerreti, UE Local 197
Max Pagano, UE Local 1466
Megan Butler, UE Local 197
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Melissa Kissling, UE Local 197
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Mike Murphy, UE Local 667
Mitch Cram, UE Local 197
Nikhil Kothegal, UE Local 150
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Noor Jahan Ahmed, UE Local 197
Perry Maddox, UE Local 197
Rendi Rogers, UE Local 261
Richard Yang, UE Local 197
Rikki Farrell, UE Local 1466
Rishi Bhandia, UE 197
Ronay Bakan, UE Local 197
Sean Hare, UE Local 197
Sheen Kim, UE Local 1043
Sojung Kim, UE 197
Sophie D'Anieri, UE Local 197
Sophie D'Anieri, UE Local 197
Steven Ortega, UE Local 1043
Syd Blackwell, UE local 667
Sydney Pettit, UE Local 197
Tina Economou, UE Local 150
UE Local 667 (by membership vote 07/15/2024)
William Balmer, Local 197
Wisam Awadallah, UE Local 197
Zac Morgan, UE Local 150
Zhexian Liu, UE Local 197