

United Working Families Resolution on Movement Politics

Adopted at the September 22, 2018 membership convention

Guided by: Our vision for a city and a state that provides for the many, not just the wealthy few.

Recognizing: That working people in Chicago and Illinois are under attack from a system of social and economic exploitation that has enriched financial elites while stripping all others of the basic provisions needed to live with peace and dignity.

Recognizing: That communities of color, and particularly Black people, have borne the brunt of these attacks, resulting in unconscionable levels of displacement, incarceration, violence, and unemployment.

Recognizing: That winning a different future for our city and state--in which all working people can hold jobs with dignity, live in safe, stable, and affordable housing, and send their children to free, world-class public schools from birth to college--will require progressive revenue that transfers private profits into the public sphere and stops the massive privatization of public accommodation.

We adopt the following strategy to guide our political and organizing work over the next two years:

1. BUILD BLACK AND BROWN LEADERSHIP ON THE LEFT. Our only path to victory lies with recruiting people, specifically communities of color, to a shared vision and strategy. Our potential to bend politics to our vision of a more equal, humane and just society depends on mobilizing the full extent of our multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-generational and multi-lingual rank-and-file. Electoral campaigns are effective tools to do this; once elected, public officials can further mobilize, build leadership, and promote our message. We will elect candidates who know our struggles and promote our vision, values and strategic priorities, and we will emphasize the development and elevation of Black and Brown candidates on the left.

2. FIGHT FOR BOLD ALTERNATIVES TO THE STATUS QUO. UWF is made up of community and labor organizations with deep histories of fighting for working-class, racial, gender, and immigrant justice. We will continue and sustain this fight as working class, black and brown, immigrant, LGBTQ, mentally and physically disabled, the working, the homeless, and all who have been disenfranchised under the status quo. We must continue to bring this vibrant, just, and organized militant spirit to elected office. We will use elections and seize opportunities to define the sides of the debate between us and our opponents, backing only those candidates who are unafraid to name the brutalities of our current political arrangement and offer bold, clear and aspirational alternatives, and hold those candidates accountable to us.

3. DEFEND OUR CHAMPIONS AND BUILD ORGANIZATION. Our opposition has intentionally cultivated hopelessness and cynicism. UWF must make the argument that meaningful political change is both possible and worth the effort. We take risks knowing both the imperative of a victory and the cost of a loss, and therefore hold our candidates and elected officials to the highest standards of strategic and political practice both during and beyond any one electoral cycle. We will defend, support and build systems of accountability for our incumbents and work with them year-round to build an organizational

infrastructure that lasts beyond a single election and fights for the best interests of working class people.

4. CREATE SPACE FOR INDEPENDENT POLITICS. We recognize the crucial differences between Democrats and Republicans, and in between different Democrats. We further recognize the deep harm being done to people of color, working people, immigrants, and women across Chicago and Illinois under the current regimes of Donald Trump, Bruce Rauner, and Rahm Emanuel. However, it is UWF's unique role to expand the landscape of possibility, not promote the best option within a field of limited possibility. We make endorsements based on our hopes, not our fears. It is not our role to endorse in every race, but to win a city and a state for the many, not the few. We will out-organize our opponents, set the terms of the debate, and develop a pipeline and infrastructure that can support bold, independent and inspiring new leadership.