

# WORKING WOMEN VOTE OUR VALUES

... We take seriously our legacy of providing family care and making civic and workplace contributions that are good for families, communities and our nation.

**We know where we stand. We vote. We vote our values.**

By acting together, working women have the power to determine the outcome of elections – and to forge new public and workplace policies.

## WE WANT THE CANDIDATES TO KNOW...



### WE VALUE WORK-FAMILY FLEXIBILITY

#### WHAT'S AT ISSUE

Basic labor standards to ensure a family-friendly workplace

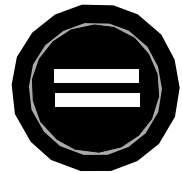
You shouldn't have to risk your job to take care of your family, and you shouldn't have to put your family at risk to keep your job. Yet millions of Americans are forced to make these choices every day. Only 1 in 5 low-wage workers have access to paid sick days on the job. More than half of all private sector workers have no family and medical leave protection. And for too many workers the leave is unpaid; an unrealistic option.

#### WHAT WE NEED

- Paid sick days for all workers
- More accessible and affordable family and medical leave, including paid family leave insurance
- Job-protected leave to attend children's school conferences, routine medical appointments, and for those seeking safety from domestic violence

DOES THE CANDIDATE VALUE WORK-FAMILY FLEXIBILITY?

YES  NO



### WE VALUE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

#### WHAT'S AT ISSUE

An end to all forms of discrimination in the workplace

Women, on average, earn only 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. For women of color, the gap is even wider. Women and people of color are still underrepresented in engineering and the sciences, in law enforcement, in the skilled trades, and in corporate leadership.

#### WHAT WE NEED

- Stronger penalties against employers who violate existing equal pay laws, and fair pay laws that end gender and race discrimination in valuing jobs
- Affirmative action policies that provide qualified women and people of color opportunities in employment, education and contracts
- Protection against workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, parental and marital status, care-giving responsibilities; comprehensive immigration reform with a path to citizenship

DOES THE CANDIDATE VALUE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY?

YES  NO



### WE VALUE FAMILY-SUPPORTING JOBS

#### WHAT'S AT ISSUE

Dignity and quality of life for all working families

As many as a third of all US workers – 35 to 46 million people – hold low-wage jobs that offer few prospects for advancement or wage growth. Women are over-represented in part-time and temp jobs with lower wages, less job security and few or no benefits. The costs of supporting a family – housing, food, medical care, child care, transportation – are rising, putting families at risk.

#### WHAT WE NEED

- Strong safety net programs that support families moving from poverty toward economic self sufficiency
- Family-supporting jobs with decent wages, family health care and family-flexible policies.
- Expanded work/income supports including low-income child care and health care, earned income tax credits, welfare programs that emphasize education and training, protections for immigrant families
- Unemployment insurance policies that protect low-wage workers, part-time and temp workers, and workers who lose jobs due to family care responsibilities

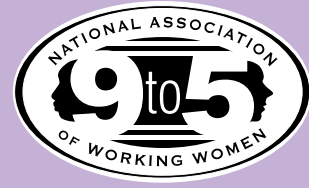
DOES THE CANDIDATE VALUE FAMILY SUPPORTING JOBS?

YES  NO

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND WAYS TO GET INVOLVED, SEE OTHER SIDE.

ELECTION CONNECTION





9to5, National Association of Working Women, is a national, grassroots membership organization that strengthens women's ability to work for economic justice. Founded in 1973, 9to5 has activists in more than 200 cities and every state.

9to5's Work-Family Campaign aims to win more affordable and accessible family medical leave; paid sick days; family consideration in welfare policy, childcare and unemployment benefits.

To order more voter guides :  
 Call our hotline:  
 1-800-522-0925  
 Email us: [activist@9to5.org](mailto:activist@9to5.org)  
 Visit our website: [www.9to5.org](http://www.9to5.org)

**ELECTION CONNECTION VOTER GUIDE**

# WORKING WOMEN VOTE OUR VALUES



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WORKING WOMEN**

[www.9to5.org](http://www.9to5.org)

## WORKING WOMEN VOTE OUR VALUES

**Vote Your Values! Take Action! Be part of 9to5's ELECTION CONNECTION by using some of these ideas in your community:**

- 1) REGISTER TO VOTE** – While you're at it, make a commitment to register five other working women. Don't make assumptions. Ask.
- 2) EDUCATE YOURSELF ON THE ISSUES** – Watch for 9to5 Fact Sheets and Action Alerts. Listen to candidates, and use the pull out section of your newspaper featuring information about the candidates to see where they stand on the issues that matter to you. Sign up for 9to5's email action alerts at [www.9to5.org/takeaction](http://www.9to5.org/takeaction).
- 3) GATHER TOGETHER WITH OTHER WORKING WOMEN** – Reach out to your friends, family, parents of your children's friends, neighbors and co-workers. Watch the debates with other working women and host a dialogue afterward, using this WORKING WOMEN VOTE OUR VALUES! Voter Guide to outline your discussions.
- 4) USE THIS GUIDE TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS**
  - **CONTACT CANDIDATES** – Call or write candidates to let them know what you value as a working woman, and track how they vote on our issues.
  - **WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR** or **CALL A RADIO SHOW** – Use the power of the media. After the front page, the Letters to the Editor page is one of the most read, and local radio talk show programs reach thousands of people. Keep your letters short (about 250 words) and focused. Highlight issues important to working women in the upcoming election, and share your story.
  - **ASK QUESTIONS AT CANDIDATE FORUMS AND TOWN HALL MEETINGS** – Before you go, do your homework on the candidates to help you prepare. Compare what they value to what you value. Practice your question so that you have the most impact.
- 5) VOTE!** – The simple act of voting is one of the most empowering actions you can take. If you believe your one vote doesn't matter, think again. The 2000 presidential election was won in Florida and New Mexico by just a few hundred votes. Let your values be heard.
- 6) JOIN 9to5** -- Ensure that your voice and your values are heard beyond election season. Fill out the card inside this guide, detach and send it to 9to5 with your membership dues, or to join online visit [www.9to5.org/join](http://www.9to5.org/join). Participate in your local 9to5 chapter to help turn campaign promises into policies that working women value.

## YES! I WANT TO TAKE ACTION.

**YES! I WANT TO TAKE ACTION.**

- I want to be part of 9to5's Election Connection. Please send me 5 of these voter guides to share with friends, family, and candidates.
- I want to help get 10 postcards to candidates to support 9to5's national Work-Family Campaign.
- I want to join 9to5. Please enclose \$25 for membership with this form to address on reverse side, or by credit card, go to [www.9to5.org](http://www.9to5.org) or call 1-800-522-0925.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Evening phone \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to be reached \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you find this voter guide? \_\_\_\_\_

The one thing I want candidates to know about what working women need is: \_\_\_\_\_

Your quotes will be used by 9to5 to tell candidates what working women need. Name will be used only with your permission.