

UAW LOCAL 12 – LUCAS COUNTY 911 DISPATCH UNIT
2026 UAW INTERNATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE INFORMATION GUIDE

Candidate Questionnaire

Prepared by the UAW Local 12 – Lucas County 911 Dispatch Unit Executive Board for
member education and informational purposes.

Due: Tuesday, August 10, 2026, 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Candidate Information

Name	Robert P. Wright
Office Sought	UAW International Vice President
Current Local Union	Local #212
Current Employment Status	Full-Time Employee
Years of UAW Membership	15
Current UAW Position(s)	UAW SHOP CHAIRMAN (4 -Terms)
Previous UAW Leadership Experience	4 -Term Committeeman, Chair of Sub Council
Campaign Website and/or Social Media (Optional)	https://url.us.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/J2HdCAD9D0sN3vkG7UGfOcGIU30?domain=facebook.com

Candidate Questions

Question 1

How would you strengthen support, advocacy, and resources for public-sector bargaining units?

I will work to strengthen our public sector bargaining units by ensuring they have the advocacy, training, and resources necessary to succeed. This means bringing together an experienced team that understands the unique challenges our public sector members face while being prepared to address them.

I also want to establish a real-time data tracking system that allows us to identify concerns, recognize trends, and better understand the challenges affecting our members both internally and externally. Having accurate information will help us be proactive instead of simply reacting when problems arise.

My focus will be on strengthening communication, increasing member engagement, providing targeted training, and using reliable data to guide our decisions. When our members are informed, engaged, and equipped with the right resources, we strengthen their voices at the bargaining table and throughout our union in every sector.

Question 2

How should the International Union better support public safety telecommunicators and other members working in high-stress professions?

The International Union should take a more proactive approach to supporting public safety telecommunicators and other members working in high-stress professions. This simply means advocating for peer-support programs, critical incident resources, specialized training, stronger workplace protections, and access to confidential wellness services.

We must also address the workplace conditions that contribute to excessive stress, including 911 dispatchers being repeatedly exposed to critical incidents that can create significant emotional and psychological strain. Other stressful conditions include staffing shortages, mandatory overtime, inadequate breaks, and demanding schedules. Our members should not have to wait until they are overwhelmed to receive support. We should be identifying the challenges early, negotiating meaningful protections, and making sure every member knows what resources are available and how to access them.

Question 3

Where do you see the greatest opportunities for growing UAW membership over the next four years, particularly within the public sector?

I believe some of our greatest opportunities for growth are within the public sector, particularly among workers who provide essential services but may not have a strong collective voice in the workplace. Public safety telecommunicators, municipal and county employees, health-care workers, higher-education employees, and professional and technical workers are all areas where the UAW can continue to grow with strong contracts and worker protections that help promote growth in the Public Sector fields.

Over the next four years, I would like to see us invest more resources in public-sector organizing, targeting younger members who have a strong future to invest in the Public Sector. I believe developing organizers and advocates who understand these specific workplaces, and use real-time data to identify where workers are underserved. We should also strengthen partnerships between existing UAW public-sector members and workers who are considering organizing. When workers can hear directly from members who

understand their profession and have successfully used collective bargaining to improve their workplace, we build credibility.

The opportunity is not simply to ask workers to join the UAW. It is to show them why the UAW is the union that can represent their profession, understand their challenges, and help them build lasting power in their workplace.

Question 4

What contract provisions or bargaining priorities should receive greater emphasis across UAW bargaining units?

I believe greater emphasis should be placed on contract provisions that strengthen job security, improve wages and benefits, including defined pensions for all, post retiree health care and maintaining the health and well-being of our members. FMLA Protections as well as work-life balance protections also need to be given high priority to help show the members that they are important to the industry and that the health and well being of employees in the industry matters. As technology, automation, and artificial intelligence continue to change the workplace, our contracts must also include stronger language protecting members from displacement and ensuring they receive the training necessary to transition into new or evolving jobs.

We also need to strengthen provisions addressing mandatory overtime, adequate staffing, workplace safety, and work-life balance. This is especially important for public-sector members and those working in high-stress professions who regularly experience demanding workloads and repeated exposure to traumatic situations.

Bargaining priorities should include stronger contract language and accountability. Winning good contract language is only the first step; members need contracts that are enforceable, grievances that are addressed in a timely manner, and meaningful consequences when employers fail to honor negotiated agreements. Our bargaining priorities should ultimately reflect the changing needs of our membership while protecting the dignity, security, and voice of every UAW member in every sector.

Question 5

How should the International Union assist local unions confronting chronic understaffing, excessive overtime, and burnout?

The International Union should assist locals with stronger bargaining support, staffing data and research, legal and contractual resources, and proven language that can be used to negotiate adequate staffing levels, reasonable overtime limits, and protections against excessive mandatory overtime. Locals should also receive assistance in holding employers accountable when staffing practices create unsafe or unsustainable working conditions.

Most importantly, we must listen to the members who are experiencing these conditions every day. When excessive overtime and understaffing issues become the norm, they affect safety, morale, family life, attendance, and ultimately our ability to retain and protect the safety of experienced workers. The International Union should use its collective strength and resources to ensure that no local is left to fight these systemic problems alone. The International Union should show up in numbers to support the efforts of the Local Union. The International Union should be accessible, accountable and visibly willing to fight for every single local regardless of size. International should also be willing to fight for and support every cause because every member matters.

Question 6

What additional resources should the International Union provide local union leaders and stewards?

The most important resource that The International Union should provide local union leaders and stewards is EDUCATION. Education is one of the strongest weapons our union has in its arsenal. An educated membership understands the contracts, knows their rights, recognizes employer tactics, and produces stronger future leaders. I want more training, online education, steward development, bargaining training, health and safety instruction, labor history, and mentoring programs so that every member has an opportunity to grow and gain knowledge.

Question 7

How would you improve transparency, communication, and member engagement?

The key to member engagement starts with Communication. Members deserve to hear the truth from their union well before they hear it from the news or social media. Transparency and communication can only be improved by meeting the members face to face, hearing their concerns and following up with viable solutions to the issues that the members face.

Question 8

How should the International Union prioritize its financial resources?

The International Union should prioritize their financial resources by first selecting a qualified, proven Secretary Treasurer who is experienced and well-versed in all things finance. Secondly by building up a strong and secured Strike Fund in which the Members dues paying dollars are kept safe. Invest in a strong guaranteed yield that will help outpace inflation, and bring in a solid return on the Unions Investments.

Question 9

How should the UAW prepare members for AI, automation, and emerging technology?

The UAW should prepare members for A.I., and automation emerging technologies by first protecting UAW members jobs by using a multi-pronged approach of combining robust collective bargaining, contractual safeguards, and legislative action. Secondly we should use Key labor-backed strategies which focus on securing advance notice and

approval rights for new technologies, establishing guaranteed retraining and placement initiatives, and ensuring workers share equitably in productivity gains.

Question 10

What role should the International Union play in protecting retirement security and healthcare?

The International Union should be instrumental in protecting retirement security and healthcare mainly by utilizing strong contract bargaining that negotiates benefits that secures employer paid retiree health benefits, pensions, as well as retiree contributions won directly thru labor contracts. These benefits can also be protected by lobbying Federal and State governments to strengthen needed benefits like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

Question 11

What qualifications best prepare you for this office?

Everything I've learned started on the ShopFloor in addition to graduating from Cass Technical High School, obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Business and even completing 20+ UAW Certification Classes . I've served in elected leadership as a Shop Chairperson (4- Terms), negotiated contracts, handled grievances, worked through difficult issues, and learned that you don't always win by being the loudest, but you win by being prepared and refusing to back down. Those experiences taught me that leadership is not just about titles. It's about earning trust, standing your ground, and never forgetting that I work for the members.

Question 12

If elected, what are your top three priorities?

First, rebuild trust in our union. Trust isn't restored with promises that can't be kept. It's earned through honesty, transparency, accountability, and treating every member with respect. Members deserve leaders who tell the truth, keep their word, and remember they work for the membership.

Second, strengthen contract enforcement. A contract isn't worth the paper it's written on if employers think they can ignore it.

Third, improve communication and transparency. Members deserve to hear the truth from their union before they hear rumors on the shop floor or on social media.

When leadership fails to communicate, rumors run wild. That creates confusion, fear, distrust, and division among the membership. Members shouldn't have to guess what's happening or rely on secondhand information. They deserve timely, honest communication, even when the news is difficult. Transparency builds trust, and trust is the foundation of a strong, united union.

Question 13

What is the greatest challenge facing the UAW over the next decade?

The biggest challenges will be protecting jobs during technological change, expanding organizing efforts, defending strong contracts, confronting corporate greed, and maintaining member unity.

We need stronger organizing, better research, better communication, better training, and leaders willing to stand up to any corporation that threatens our members' livelihoods.

The companies are planning years ahead.
Our union should be doing the same.

Question 14

Please provide a message to the members of UAW Local 12 – Lucas County 911 Dispatch Unit regarding your vision for the future of our Union.

The honor of being elected as the next UAW International Vice President is a tremendous task and the Vice President doesn't represent just one state, one local, one region, or one employer. As an International Officer and a member of the International Executive Board, a Vice President has a responsibility to represent the interests of the entire membership in every sector while making decisions that affect our union as a whole. I envision a stronger, more unified union, one where the membership leads the charge and stands firmly in its rightful place as the highest authority. Leadership should never be about titles, positions, or personal agendas; it should be about service. I believe Great Leaders eat last because they put the people they serve first. As your Vice President, that is the commitment I make to you. The Membership will always be my number one priority. Your voices will be heard, your concerns will matter, and your interest will come first. When the membership leads, leadership listens, and when we stand together, we move this union forward together.

The job requires working with members and local unions across the country, listening to their concerns, helping solve problems, and making sure every member has a voice.

You shouldn't vote for me simply because we've met. You should vote for me because you believe in the kind of leadership I'll bring.

I believe leadership means listening first, telling the truth, keeping your word, and putting the membership ahead of yourself. Trust is earned through your actions, not your title.

No matter where you live or what industry you work in, you deserve an International Vice President who is accessible, accountable, and willing to fight for you.

That's the commitment I am willing to make to each and every member of this union!

Certification

I certify that these responses are my own and authorize the UAW Local 12 – Lucas County 911 Dispatch Unit to publish them, subject only to minor formatting corrections for readability and consistency.

Candidate Signature	<i>Robert P. Wright</i>
Date	<i>07/24/2026</i>