

Preamble Committing to Class Struggle Unionism and the Fight Against Management

UAW 39th Constitutional Convention — Detroit, Michigan, June 2026

WHEREAS, the current preamble of the UAW Constitution does not reflect the militant class-struggle values on which the UAW was founded, nor workers' daily reality of companies ruthlessly taking every opportunity to squeeze more value from our labor;

WHEREAS, the current preamble wrongly suggests that management can be persuaded to act in our interests, that the needs of stockholders deserve consideration alongside our own, and that democracy can exist while company owners use wealth stolen from workers to maintain control over our government, economy, and society;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Preamble shall be amended to read:

We hold these truths to be self-evident; expressive of the ideals and hopes of the workers who come under the jurisdiction of this INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA (UAW): that the wealth of society is created by the working class and appropriated by a small owning class for profit, and that these two classes have fundamentally opposed interests.

Every gain workers have made—higher wages, shorter hours, safer conditions, and dignity on the job—has been won through collective struggle against those who profit from our labor. These gains have never been freely given, but forced through organization, solidarity, and confrontation on the shop floor and beyond.

Under capitalism, employers control production to extract ever more value from workers through speedup, wage cuts, longer hours, surveillance, and understaffing—exploitation we experience daily in workplaces where managerial authority serves profit at the expense of workers, our families, and our communities. This economic power does not stop at the shop floor: when capital controls the economy, it extends that control into political life, placing decisions about production, employment, housing, and public policy beyond democratic reach.

The working class can rely only on its own organized strength. Through industrial unionism, collective action, and solidarity across lines of race, nationality, borders, gender, sexuality, and occupation, workers can confront exploitation and defend our common interests. The ruling class depends on division; the working class depends on unity. Transparency, democratic participation, and open communication are therefore necessary to ensure that rank-and-file workers collectively direct their union and keep power rooted in the shop floor, without which the union cannot function as an instrument of working-class struggle.

The aim of the class struggle is not merely to win concessions, but to abolish the domination of capital over labor and to emancipate the working class. Our struggle is for a society in which working people collectively control the wealth we create, the conditions of our labor, and the institutions that govern our lives. The UAW exists to wage this struggle—not to manage exploitation or partner with capital, but to organize workers to win material gains while building toward working-class control of production and society, and the full emancipation of the working class. The UAW commits itself to this class struggle, on behalf of all of the workers of the world.

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