



Week of Action - Survey 2022
FAQ - Rebuttals

<u>Economy/Inflation</u>	Question	Response
Gas Prices	Why are gas prices so high?	<p>Well, supplies aren't down much, if at all.</p> <p>About half the cost of gas is the cost of crude oil. Supplies of crude oil globally and in the US haven't dropped significantly. However, crude oil prices aren't just dictated by crude supplies. Crude oil and other commodities are traded on the global futures market – basically, investors betting that the price of oil will go up or down. In other words, speculation. And some of those investors are making record breaking profits . Many of those investors are oil companies.</p>
Cost of living, stagnant wages	What is the union doing to help our salaries to match inflation?	
Inflation Causes	Raising the minimum wage is causing inflation to be so high.	<p>No. Some people are trying to blame workers for inflation, but from April 2021 to April 2022, inflation went up almost twice as much as wages—8.3% vs 4.3%.</p> <p>The “wages are driving inflation” line is being pushed by some folks but that’s a diversion from the big factor: increased corporate profits. (Supply chain bottlenecks are another big cause.)</p>

<u>Economy/Inflation</u>	Question	Response
Inflation Overall	Who's to blame for inflation overall?	<p>Corporate profits went up 25% last year!</p> <p>Billionaire wealth up 58% since Oct '20:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff Bezos: \$113b to \$150b • Bill Gates: \$98b to \$129.8b • Three Waltons: \$163.1b to \$207.7b • Elon Musk: \$25b to \$225b • ... and now we have 134 new billionaires

<u>President Biden</u>	Question	Response
Biden's choices/not doing enough	He's too old, and doesn't seem fit to be President.	Well, Biden's not on the ballot but he did nominate CWA's own Jennifer Abruzzo as head of the National Labor Relations Board where she's working hard to make sure workers across the country are treated with dignity and respect (add NLRB bullet points here)
Response to Inflation	What can Biden do about inflation?	He just signed the CHIPS Act which will create thousands of manufacturing jobs for workers to create semiconductor chips, which are needed for cars, computers, dishwashers, you name it. It will help bring down costs of tens of thousands of consumer products and ease the supply chain issues.

References:

<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/these-top-5-oil-companies-just-raked-in-35-billion-while-americans-pay-more-at-the-pump/>

<https://maineafcio.org/inflation>

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<https://www.epi.org/blog/corporate-profits-have-contributed-disproportionately-to-inflation-how-should-policy-makers-respond/>