



ILLINOIS STATE COPE

(Committee on Political Education)

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Contact: Bill Looby 217-492-2612

ILLINOIS STATE
FEDERATION
OF LABOR
AND
CONGRESS
OF INDUSTRIAL
ORGANIZATIONS

534 South Second Street
Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62701-1705
217/544-4014
Fax: 217/544-0225

999 McClintock Drive
Suite 100
Burr Ridge, IL 60527-0844
312/251-1414
Fax: 312/251-1420

www.ilaf-cio.org

OFFICERS

Michael T. Carrigan
President

Timothy E. Drea
Secretary Treasurer

William Looby
Political Director



State Labor Federation Endorses for March Primary

Following a meeting of its Committee on Political Education (COPE) Thursday, the Illinois AFL-CIO Executive Board made endorsements for the upcoming March 18 Primary Election.

Top of the ballot Democrats U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and Governor Pat Quinn were endorsed. Durbin is unopposed in the primary and Quinn has an opponent. Other statewide candidates tapped for endorsement were incumbents Lisa Madigan (Democrat, Attorney General), Jesse White (Democrat, Secretary of State), and Judy Baar Topinka (Republican, Comptroller). State Treasurer candidate Mike Frerichs was endorsed early by the organization in September in the Democratic Primary.

“We spent two days looking at the political environment in Illinois and how labor can best engage our membership in the political process,” said Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan. “There were nearly 100 members of the COPE Committee from all unions and all areas of the state here to give their input. Considerable time and deliberation went into the endorsements by the committee and the executive board.”

Additionally, the board passed a resolution to engage union members to defeat GOP candidate for Governor Bruce Rauner. Rauner, a billionaire private equity magnate, has advocated for a minimum wage cut and made his disdain for unions a centerpiece of his campaign.

“It’s critical that we not only advocate for who we think will be the best candidates for working families, but that we also make sure workers understand who is using them as scapegoats for the state’s problems,” Carrigan said.

The board also endorsed candidates for U.S. Congress, State Senate, State House and appellate court primaries (see attached document for full list of endorsements, or go to www.ilaf-cio.org for the complete list).

The state AFL-CIO represents 1.5 million voters from union households.

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