



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Michael T. Carrigan, President
Timothy E. Drea, Secretary Treasurer

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Call The Illinois AFL-CIO at (217) 544-4014 For More Information
On These And Other Legislative Issues Important To Working People

STATE NEWS

Politicians File Financial Disclosure Reports

Primary Election just six months away

Tuesday, July 20, was the deadline for elected officials and candidates for public office in Illinois to file their financial disclosure reports with the State Board of Elections. Reports may be viewed at www.elections.state.il.us/ by clicking on the tab "campaign disclosure."

"With Labor being a key political force and large political contributor in Illinois, it is imperative that we examine these financial reports and gauge the standing and credibility of each candidate, as well as ensure that they use union vendors when possible for their automobiles, printing and other supplies," said Tim Drea, Illinois AFL-CIO secretary treasurer.

Although some candidates for higher political office have not formally announced their intentions to run, most have made their aspirations clearly known. At this point in the 2010 election cycle fundraising capability is a barometer that can be used to gauge the credibility of potential candidates. Candidates who report significant fund raising numbers from many donors and sources demonstrate a broad appeal across the electorate.

The reports also details spending by the campaigns which can be used to judge if a candidate is spending contributions in a prudent manner. A review of the expenditures will indicate the number of campaign consultants, campaign staff and how a candidate is using their funds for direct voter contact.

Candidates may begin circulating petitions on August 4 and in a little over six months (February 2, 2010) Illinois voters will be heading to the polls for the Primary Election. In order to be credible and to run effective campaigns, serious candidates for office in crowded primaries must have a healthy balance in their campaign accounts.

Fundraising is an important component of a campaign but Labor's old fashioned shoe leather to communicate to union members about the importance of supporting Labor-endorsed candidates is the most valuable contribution that working people and their unions can give to candidates.

The Illinois AFL-CIO will host a COPE Training session at the Crowne Plaza in Rosemont on December 7 and will consider candidates for Illinois AFL-CIO COPE endorsement on Tuesday, December 8, 2009, at the same location.

Governor Signs Prevailing Wage Expansion Bill

SB 223 – Prevailing Wage on Bond Projects

Sen. Forby (D – Benton)/Rep. Miller (D – Chicago)

SUPPORT

Amends the Prevailing Wage Act to make clear that "public works" includes all construction projects that are financed in whole or in part with bonds, grants, loans, or other funds made available by or through the State or any of its political subdivisions. Exempts work performed by a public utility or in owner-occupied units of housing or multi-family residences.

7/23/09 – Public Act 96-58.

Health Care Reform Call-In Day

President Obama and Democratic leaders in Congress have created a doable, workable health care reform plan. It is a progressive plan that will provide health care for all Americans, yet not tax current health care benefits. It would be paid for with a modest surcharge on the wealthiest 1.2 percent of Americans.

Although Congress will not likely vote on health care reform until they return from summer recess, we must make our voices heard now. On TUESDAY, JULY 28, union members from all over the country will be calling their members of Congress to ask that they support House Resolution 3200.

Please pass this information along to your members and ask them to join this national, mass mobilization.

HEALTH CARE REFORM NATIONAL CALL-IN DAY

Tuesday, July 28
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

CALL: 1-877-264-HCAN
(1-877-264-4226)

Once you are connected, press 1 to speak to your Senator, press 2 to speak to your Representative. You will then be asked for your zip code. When you are connected, leave your message. Give your name and union and ask the Congressman/woman or Senator to support HR 3200.

You will need to make three calls to reach both of your Senators and your Representative.

Under Obama Plan, a Million More Illinoisans Will Gain Health Coverage

A study out this week from *Families USA* titled “**Coverage for America: We all Stand to Gain**” and based on legislative analysis by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), shows that by 2013, 862,000 Illinoisans will gain health care coverage under the legislation now being considered in the U.S. House known as “**America’s Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009.**” And by 2019, well over one million in our state will additionally have health care.

Illinois is one of the top five states that will see the largest gains in coverage. The other states are New York, Florida, Texas and California. But under this legislation, all 50 states will see significant increases.

Currently, there are an estimated 46 million Americans without health care coverage.

For complete details of the report go to www.familiesusa.org.

Employee Free Choice Act Update

The Employee Free Choice Act is still being negotiated among Democratic leaders and Labor leaders in Washington and will not be voted on before the summer recess.

The national AFL-CIO reports that efforts are being made to craft a bill that will appeal to conservative Democrats who have voiced major concerns with the “card check” portion of the bill.

“Although EFCA won’t be addressed by Congress until sometime after Labor Day, we can not let up on our efforts to ensure its passage,” said Michael T. Carrigan, Illinois AFL-CIO president. “Our Congressional members will be home working in their districts throughout August. It is our responsibility to contact them and make sure they understand that this legislation is just as important to the Labor movement as health care reform. They are both core issues for working families.”

