



LABOR E-LETTER

PUBLISHED FOR LABOR ACTIVISTS BY THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO

MICHAEL T. CARRIGAN, PRESIDENT

TIMOTHY E. DREA, SECRETARY TREASURER

BILL LOOBY, EDITOR

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Transportation Bill Passes *Walsh Votes No; Obama Signs July 6*

Congress passed a massive federal transportation bill at the end of June, and President Obama signed H.R. 4348 on July 6. Congressman Joe Walsh (R-8) was the only "no" vote from the Illinois delegation.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration, Illinois will receive an estimated \$1.4 billion which will be allocated as follows (estimates):

- \$309 million in Interstate maintenance;
- \$264 million in National Highway System;
- \$341 million in Surface Transportation Program;
- \$171 million in Bridge Replacement & Rehabilitation;
- \$112 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality;
- \$1.42 million in Recreation Trails;
- \$13.72 million in Metropolitan Planning;
- \$53.14 million in Safety;
- \$9.5 million in Rail-Highway crossings;
- \$7.05 million in safe routes to schools

The legislation also contained provisions to:

- establish a national freight policy
- close loopholes in Buy American provisions;
- allows States more latitude to establish tolls when expanding capacity on Federal aid highway projects;
- allow States to acquire property and be reimbursed before the NEPA;
- modernize and update the Rail Modernization Program;
- include veterans' preference language for transit construction projects; and
- expand Haz-Mat training programs for first responders.

Next Phase of Illinois Jobs Now!

On July 10, the Governor signed HB 4568 beginning the next phase of the Illinois Jobs Now! capital program. It authorizes the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to proceed with \$1.6 billion of road, rail and transit projects. This phase is expected to create or support 18,400 jobs.

Sponsored by Senate President John Cullerton (D-Chicago) and Rep. John Bradley (D-Marion), HB 4568 authorizes the issuance of bonds for \$817.3 million in new highway projects, including \$100 million of funding for cities, counties and townships to make local road improvements. Also included is \$799.5 million in mass transit and rail improvements during the 2013 fiscal year, including 15 Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) projects and the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Red, Purple and Blue Line improvements.

A complete list of Illinois Jobs Now! road, rail, and transit projects and the additional City of Chicago projects supported by the state is available at www.dot.state.il.us

- Election 2012 -

IL AFL-CIO Endorses For November Races

The State Federation's Committee on Political Education (COPE) and Executive Board issued endorsements for the November elections on June 12. The Board met again on July 11 to finish making endorsements in races.

Using questionnaires, screenings and input from local labor organizations, the endorsements will guide the work the Federation in the Labor 2012 political program.

See page 4 for a list of the endorsements.

Constitutional Convention Set For October 2-4

The 40th Illinois AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention will be held Oct. 2-4, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza, Chicago O'Hare in Rosemont.

During the convention, an election of Officers, Executive Board and Credentials Committee of the Illinois AFL-CIO will be conducted.

Delegates are encouraged to introduce resolutions and must forward a copy of each resolution to Secretary Treasurer Timothy E. Drea at timothy.drea@ilafll-cio.org by Sept. 2, 2012.

The Convention offers the Illinois labor movement the opportunity to discuss goals and set in motion the legislative and political agenda for the next two years. Plans for the Labor 2012 statewide political program will be discussed, including meeting with endorsed elected officials and candidates.



Public Employee Pension “Reform” On Hold

STATE LEGISLATION

Upon convening the spring session in Springfield, all legislative leaders were prepared to tackle “pension reform”. What some members weren’t prepared to do was tackle the unfunded liability. In the Senate, President Cullerton wanted to give state employees and teachers a “choice” of health benefits or their pensions. In the House, Speaker Madigan wanted to shift much of the pension liabilities to the local level. House Republican Leader Tom Cross and his members feared shifting costs to the local level would result in increased property taxes and opposed such a move. The *We Are One* coalition put forth several initiatives to reduce the pension liability in meetings with legislative leaders and Governor Quinn’s office. No leader could guarantee full funding of the state’s pension systems. No pension bill passed both chambers, as the leaders could not agree on all of their ideas. In addition, many of the public employee unions sent their members to the capitol to speak with their legislators. On top of that, thousands of calls were made into General Assembly offices. The pressure in the House and Senate was immense and boiled over at times. Through all of this a series of pension bills developed:

- SB 1673 (Raoul/Madigan) – Reduces COLA for active and retired teachers, state employees and university employees. COLA offsets the effects of inflation on the modest pensions earned by these workers. Shifts pension costs to school districts, universities and community colleges. Creates a so-called “cash balance” plan for TRS and SURS participant. Following a furious lobbying effort in the House, this bill was not called for a vote in the House.
- HB 1447-SA #2 (Cullerton) - Affects the State Employee Retirement System and General Assembly Retirement System. Contained COLA reductions. Provides a choice for other individuals from lowering their COLA and having access to retiree health insurance and future salary increases OR maintaining current benefits but forfeiting access to retiree health insurance and future salary increases. For retirees, the choice is between lowering COLA and forfeiting health insurance. **Passed Senate 30-24-1. Concurrence in House.**
- HB 3076-SA #2 (Cullerton) – Affects similarly State University Retirement System, General Assembly Retirement System, and Teachers’ Retirement System. **Not called for a vote.**
- HB 3865-SA #3 (Cullerton) – Affects similarly the General Assembly Retirement System and Teachers’ Retirement System. **Not called for a vote.**

Legislative leaders continue to meet throughout the summer to discuss their ideas. It is becoming more likely that a potential vote on pensions will occur after the fall election, during the veto session or lame duck session held in the beginning of January. As of now, Labor leaders have not been invited to attend pension meetings over the summer, despite repeated offers to legislative leaders and Governor Quinn. If they don’t want to hear from us at the bargaining table, we’ll make sure they hear from us in the capitol and in their districts.



Thurston Receives Gibson Award At CLC/Community Services Conference

Central Labor Council officers, community services representatives and union activists gathered at Pere Marquette Lodge in Grafton for the 2012 Illinois AFL-CIO CLC/Community Services Conference.

The conference, put together by Resource Director Amy Nixon, addressed many topics, from community building and engaging activists to social networking. The highlight of the event was the Robert G. Gibson Community Service Award Banquet. Gibson, a former president of the state federation and impetus behind the community services program in Illinois, attended the banquet and was the keynote speaker.

Bill Thurston, President of the Southwestern Illinois Central Labor Council, was this year’s Gibson Award winner. The award is given based on an individual’s work in his/her community. Other finalists were: Mike Irwin (Decatur Trades and Labor); James Conness (Illinois Valley Federation of Labor); and Jay Ferraro (Rockford United Labor).

Office Space Available in Springfield, Burr Ridge

The Illinois AFL-CIO has office space available for lease at both locations – Burr Ridge and Springfield. In Burr Ridge, from one to four offices are available, while from one to three offices are available in Springfield.

Contact Secretary Treasurer Tim Drea at 217-492-2616 for more information.

Affordable Care Act Upheld by U.S. Supreme Court

The Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Affordable Care Act ensures hard-working, middle class families will get the security they deserve and protects every American access to affordable health care. The court upheld President Obama's landmark legislation, and the law will continue to be implemented. Currently 1,863,800 uninsured people (15% of population), in Illinois of which 281,300 are children.

Under the Affordable Care Act, uninsured people will be guided along two paths to coverage:

1) A state health insurance exchange — think official marketplace — where individuals and small companies can shop for policies and compare prices online, by phone, possibly in person.

On July 14, 2011, Governor Quinn signed Public Act 97-0142. This legislation enabled Illinois to establish its own health insurance exchange for individuals and businesses with 50 or fewer employees. Additional legislation to establish governance and financing structure of the Exchange in Illinois is currently being assessed in the Illinois General Assembly.

Union Members Serve as Delegates to DNC in Charlotte

The 2012 Democratic National Convention is scheduled for Sept. 3-6 in Charlotte, N.C.. Illinois Labor will be well represented as delegates and on committees at the convention. Union member delegates and alternate delegates to the Democratic National Convention are:

Abraham Carreon (AWIU 17F)
George Brousalis (AFT 571)
Hanah Jubeh (Chicago Federation of Labor)
Jorge Ramirez (CFL/UFCW 1546)
Sarah Jerutis (AFT 1)
Moises Garcia (USW 7-647)
Sue Walton (AFT 1211)
Terry Allen (IBEW 134)
Joe Gump (AFSCME 3315)
John Cameron (AFSCME Council 31)
Dan Montgomery (AFT 8011)
Marcia Campbell (AFT 6600)
Jayne Mazzotti (IEA)
Rick Terven, Jr. (UA)
Mark Guethle (IUPAT)
Kasthuri Henry (IEA)
Mary Plata (AFSCME 3298)
John Daniel (SMWIA 265)
Marshall Douglas (IUOE 150)

Many states have not set an exchange up, including Illinois, choosing instead to see what the U.S. Supreme Court would decide. Gov. Pat Quinn says Illinois likely will partner with the federal government to set up an exchange by 2014. Illinois has received \$6.2 million in grants for research, planning, information technology development, and implementation of Affordable Insurance Exchanges. The Campaign for Better Healthcare is currently urging Governor Quinn to set up a health care market place by Executive Order.

2) Medicaid. In addition to the 2.7 million Illinoisans enrolled in Medicaid today as many as 500,000 additional Illinoisans will become eligible for Medicaid in 2014.

Quinn says Illinois will participate in the expansion, which will cost roughly \$2 billion a year. From 2014 through 2016, the federal government will subsidize 100 percent of the cost. By 2020, the states will pick up 10 percent of the expansion cost, an estimated \$238 million a year in Illinois, according to the state Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

Belinda Carr (AFT 4100)
Bill Halstead (LIUNA 165)
Toby Trimmer (IFT)
Margaret Blackshere (AFL-CIO/AFT)
Steve Powell (UFCW 881)
Jan Schakowsky (UNITE-HERE)
Sheila Simon (IEA)
Lisa Dugan (IBEW 176)
Joann Thompson (AFSCME 60),
Jesse White (AFT 1)
Tom Balanoff (SEIU)
Jim Buchanan (UA 597)
Michael T. Carrigan (IL AFL-CIO)
John Coli (IBT)
Timothy E. Drea (IL AFL-CIO)
Barbara Fisher (UAW 2488)
Tony Garcia (UAW 551)
Debbie Greenlee (CWA)
Dino Leone (AFSCME 2025)
Esther Lopez (UFCW 1546)
Rocco Terranova (SMWIA 73)
Kelli Harrison (UAW 2488)
Ron McInroy (UAW Region 4)
Becky Strzechowski (IBT 700)
Ken Wollin (IEA).

Members of convention committees are: Judith Lewis (AFT 4100), Rocky Raikes (LIUNA 393), and Carol Redell (IEA).

2012 Illinois AFL-CIO General Election Endorsements

Congress	19th Michael E. Hastings (D)	11th Ann Williams (D)	61st Ed Erwin (D)
1st Bobby Rush (D)	20th Iris Martinez (D)	12th Sara Feigenholtz (D)	63rd Jack Franks (D)
2nd Jesse Jackson Jr. (D)	22nd Michael Noland (D)	13th Gregory Harris (D)	62nd Sam Yingling (D)
3rd Dan Lipinski (D)	23rd Thomas E. Cullerton (D)	14th Kelly Cassidy (D)	67th Chuck Jefferson (D)
4th Luis Guterriez (D)	25th Corinne M. Pierog (D)	15th John D'Amico (D)	68th Carl Wasco (D)
5th Mike Quigley (D)	26th Amanda Howland (D)	16th Lou Lang (D)	71st Mike Smiddy (D)
6th Leslie Coolidge (D)	28th Dan Kotowski (D)	17th Laura Fine (D)	72nd Pat Verschoore (D)
7th Danny Davis (D)	29th Julie Morrison (D)	18th Robyn Gabel (D)	74th Donald Moffitt - (R)
8th Tammy Duckworth (D)	30th Terry Link (D)	19th Rob Martwick (D)	75th Jeremy Ly (D)
9th Jan Schakowsky (D)	31st Melinda Bush (D)	20th Michael McAuliffe - (R)	76th Frank Mautino (D)
10th Brad Schneider (D)	34th Steven Stadelman (D)	21st Silvana Tabares (D)	77th Angelo "Skip" Saviano - (R)
11th Bill Foster (D)	36th Mike Jacobs (D)	22nd Michael Madigan (D)	78th Camille Lilly (D)
12th William Enyart (D)	38th Christine Benson (D)	23rd Michael J. Zalewski (D)	79th Katherine Cloonen (D)
13th David Gill (D)	39th Don Harmon (D)	24th Lisa Hernandez (D)	80th Anthony DeLuca (D)
14th Dennis Anderson (D)	40th Toi Hutchinson (D)	25th Barbara Flynn Currie (D)	83rd Linda Chapa LaVia (D)
17th Cheri Bustos (D)	42nd Linda Holmes (D)	26th Christian Mitchell (D)	84th Stephanie Kifowit (D)
18th Steve Waterworth (D)	43rd Pat McGuire (D)	27th Monique Davis (D)	86th Larry Walsh, Jr. (D)
	46th Dave Koehler (D)	28th Robert Rita (D)	87th Rich Brauer (R)
Senate	47th John Sullivan (D)	29th Thaddeus Jones (D)	91st Jennifer Groves Allison (D)
1st Tony Munoz (D)	48th Andy Manar (D)	30th Will Davis (D)	95th Brad Gillespie (D)
2nd Willie Delgado (D)	49th Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant (D)	31st Mary Flowers (D)	96th Sue Scherer (D)
3rd Mattie Hunter (D)	52nd Michael W. Frerichs (D)	32nd Andre Thapedi (D)	98th Natalie Manley (D)
4th Kimberly Lightford (D)	54th Danny L. Stover (D)	33rd Marcus Evans Jr. (D)	99th Raymond Poe (R)
5th Patricia Van Pelt-Watkins (D)	56th William Haine (D)	34th Elgie Sims, Jr. (D)	103rd Naomi Jakobsson (D)
6th John Cullerton (D)	57th James Clayborne, Jr. (D)	35th Frances Ann Hurley (D)	111th Daniel Beiser (D)
7th Heather Steans (D)	58th Michael J. Bigler (D)	36th Kelly Burke (D)	112th Marleen Suarez (D)
8th Ira I. Silverstein (D)	59th Gary Forby (D)	38th Al Riley (D)	113th Jay Hoffman (D)
9th Daniel Biss (D)	House	39th Toni Berrios (D)	114th Eddie Lee Jackson Sr. (D)
10th John G. Mulroe (D)	1st Dan Burke (D)	40th Deborah Mell (D)	116th Jerry Costello II (D)
11th Martin Sandoval (D)	2nd Edward Acevedo (D)	42nd William R. Adams (D)	117th John Bradley (D)
12th Steven Landek (D)	3rd Luis Arroyo (D)	44th Fred Crespo (D)	118th Brandon Phelps (D)
13th Kwame Raoul (D)	4th Cynthia Soto (D)	46th Deborah O'Keefe Conroy (D)	
14th Emil Jones, III (D)	5th Ken Dunkin (D)	55th Martin J. Moylan (D)	Judicial
15th Napoleon Harris (D)	6th Esther Golar (D)	56th Michelle Mussman (D)	1st Sup - Mary Jane Theis (D)
16th Jacqueline Collins (D)	7th Emanuel "Chris" Welch (D)	57th Elaine Nekritz (D)	1st App - Mathias W. DeLort (D)
17th Donne Trotter (D)	8th LaShawn Ford (D)	58th Scott Drury (D)	1st App - Nathaniel Howse, Jr. (D)
18th Bill Cunningham (D)	9th Art Turner Jr. (D)	60th Rita Mayfield (D)	1st App - P. Scott Neville, Jr. (D)
			1st App - Jesse Reyes (D)
			1st App - Maureen Connors (D)
			1st App - Terrence Lavin (D)
			5th App - Judy Cates (D)

* endorsed on July 11, 2012