



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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MICHAEL T. CARRIGAN, PRESIDENT

TIMOTHY E. DREA, SECRETARY TREASURER

JASON KELLER, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The State of Illinois is in its fourth month without a budget. The Governor continues to demand and hold his breath until he gets his anti-worker agenda passed. Meanwhile, some state facilities are closing, utilities are being shut off at others, and the poor are being asked to do more with less. The Illinois House and Senate return on Tuesday, October 20th for one day.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Illinois AFL-CIO Executive Board Endorses Duckworth and Mendoza

The state federation of labor endorsed Tammy Duckworth for U.S. Senate and Susana Mendoza for Illinois Comptroller for the 2016 (March) Primary Election.

The Illinois AFL-CIO Executive Board voted on the early endorsements at its meeting Wednesday, September 30 at the third quarter Executive Board meeting.

Tammy Duckworth is running for the nomination to face off against first-term Sen. Mark Kirk in 2016.

“Congresswoman Duckworth has a 97 percent voting record on issues affecting working families,” said President Michael T. Carrigan. “She has a track record of supporting the middle class. Her race will be one of the most important in the nation. It is critical that union members are educated and mobilized for that race.”

Susana Mendoza is running for the Democratic nomination for State Comptroller – a race in the fall that will likely be against Gov. Bruce Rauner’s hand-picked appointee Leslie Munger. Munger was selected to fill the vacancy following the death of Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka.

“The Illinois AFL-CIO endorsed Judy Baar Topinka and we supported her,” Carrigan said. “We believe Susana Mendoza will stand with working families and against the Rauner anti-worker agenda.”

Mendoza, currently the City Clerk in Chicago, had a 92 percent voting record with the state federation during her 10 years in the General Assembly.

“We have already started our education and mobilization plan with members, families and community allies,” Carrigan said. “The proposals coming out of the Governor’s office and Congress are harmful to the middle class. Who we send to Springfield and Washington can change the priority to focus on income inequality and empowering everyday working people.”

Endorsements for other races in the Illinois Primary Election are scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 2016 in Burr Ridge.

The Illinois AFL-CIO represents more than 1.5 million members of union families.

Mautino to be recommended for Auditor General

A bipartisan panel has selected longtime Democrat state Rep. Frank Mautino to serve as Illinois’ next auditor general.

The Legislative Audit Commission voted Tuesday to recommend Mautino replace retiring Auditor General William Holland.

Mautino’s selection for the job of overseeing audits of state agencies must be approved by a three-fifth vote in the Illinois House and Senate. The resolution appointing Mautino was filed this week by Speaker Madigan (HJR100). If passed, the appointment would be effective January 1, 2016.

Illinois AFL-CIO Endorsements 2016 Primary



Tammy Duckworth
U. S. Senate Candidate



Susana Mendoza
IL Comptroller Candidate



Illinois AFL-CIO COPE District Reorganization Election Meetings

As a result of the 2010 census and the resulting changes to congressional district boundaries in 2012, the Illinois AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education (COPE) must elect new COPE officers for each of Illinois' 18 congressional districts.

COPE districts have been an integral part of the political program for decades. In the last few election cycles, the COPE district program has not been as functional as it should be. We plan to incorporate COPE districts directly into our strategic planning and execution as we move into the 2016 elections.

Congressional District COPE Committees should play an important role in the political program. They are charged with the responsibility of:

1. Interviewing candidates (i.e. challengers) for the U.S. Congress and the Illinois State Senate and House;
2. Recommending endorsements of these candidates to the statewide COPE endorsement sessions;
3. Casting votes at statewide COPE endorsement sessions; and
4. Helping coordinate political activity in furtherance of the state AFL-CIO's political program within the congressional district. This means that COPE Chairs have – through the Illinois AFL-CIO – access to lists of all unions' members living in the congressional district for the purpose of promoting AFL-CIO endorsed candidates.

The following COPE officers – the chair, vice-chair, financial secretary, and recording secretary – will be up for nomination and election. Each local union with members living in a district is entitled to a number of votes based upon the number of their members residing in the district. However, an organization may only cast as many votes as the number of members attending a meeting. Union organizations have been mailed information on the number of their votes in each COPE district.

If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please call our Political Director Bill Looby at 217-492-2612.

Election Schedule

Monday, October 26, 2015

Illinois AFL-CIO, 999 McClintock, Burr Ridge
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Congressional District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 9

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

UAW, 112 N. Second St., Rockford
5:30 p.m.
Congressional District 16 and 17

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Illinois AFL-CIO, 534 S. Second St., Springfield
5:30 p.m.
Congressional District 13 and 18

Thursday, October 29, 2015

IBEW 309, 2000 Mall Street, Collinsville
5:30 p.m.
Congressional District 12 and 15

Monday, November 2, 2015

IBEW 701, 28600 Bella Vista Parkway, Warrenville
5:30 p.m.
Congressional District 6, 11 and 14

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

UAW Region 4, 680 Barclay Blvd, Lincolnshire
5:30 p.m.
Congressional District 8 and 10

One individual may not cast a weighted vote for a local union or council. An organization entitled to more than one delegate will receive only as many votes as it has union members in attendance at the COPE reorganization meeting.



ILLINOIS AFL-CIO RECOGNIZES AND THANKS ESTHER GOLAR FOR HER SERVICE

State Representative Esther Golar (D – Chicago) passed away on September 21st. She will be greatly missed by the labor community and her colleagues in the House. Esther was gravely ill. However, she insisted on being in Springfield on September 2nd – a day in which she cast votes in favor of workers and young children. Esther stood with the working class, and even erupted into song, when right to work legislation was debated earlier this year. The Illinois labor movement extends a sincere thank you to Esther for her service, and a thank you goes to her family for sharing her with us.

Organized Labor joins with community groups and state legislators to express issues with Rauner Turnaround Agenda

This month, leaders from the Illinois AFL-CIO traveled across the state to meet with community groups, legislators, rank and file union members to highlight the effects that the Rauner Turnaround Agenda will have on their every day lives.

Topics ranged from the continuing budget stalemate to the effects that the elimination of prevailing wage would have on the local economy.

“I am able to provide the life that my daughter and I have because of the benefits that the union has given to me,” said Susan Solon, a 27-year member of IBEW from Springfield.

Without the protections of the union and the ability to collectively bargain every day Illinoisans worry what the future may hold. “The ability to collectively bargain is extremely important. Our teaching conditions are your student’s learning conditions,” said Crysta Weitekamp, an educator in the Springfield Public School System.

“What the Governor is doing is just shameful,” said Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael Carrigan.

Governor Rauner continues to hold the budget hostage for

passage of his Turnaround Agenda. His demands include the elimination of prevailing wage and elimination of subjects that must be collectively bargained.

Events were set up all across the state, including in Springfield, Joliet, Gurnee and Rockford. At each location, the theme and the message was the same. The budget impasse is hurting Illinois families, but the Governor’s proposed reforms would destroy unions and the livelihood of millions of Illinois’ families.



Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael Carrigan joined the conversation in Joliet on September 28

Illinois AFL-CIO and Building Trades Councils Hold Apprenticeship Fairs



Ironworkers speak with participants at the Springfield “Pathway to Apprenticeship” fair

The Illinois AFL-CIO has been working with local building trades council presidents, state legislators, and community groups to hold “Pathway to Apprenticeship” fairs around the state. The events are designed to encourage minorities to apply for apprenticeship programs with the building trades. The fairs allow potential applicants to meet building trades leaders face to face, find out what is expected of them as an apprentice, and ask any questions.

Thus far events have been held in Chicago (South side), Champaign, Waukegan, Mattoon, Springfield, and Decatur.

There are three more fairs scheduled in Rockford (October 19), Kankakee (November 2), and Belleville (November 2-5).