



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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Emanuel Wins Chicago Mayor's Race

State Legislators win Aldermanic Seats

By netting more than half the vote, former congressman and Obama chief of staff Rahm Emanuel avoided a runoff and was elected Mayor of Chicago on Tuesday.

Local primary elections were held throughout the state and the Labor Movement was out in force working to elect allies on the local government level.

Emanuel secured 55 percent of the vote, easily outdistancing Gery Chico, who finished with 23 percent. Other candidates Carol Moseley-Braun and Miguel del Valle finished with nine percent each.

In the City Clerk's race, Susana Mendoza avoided a runoff with 60 percent of the vote. In other races of note, state representatives and strong labor advocates Will Burns and Harry Osterman won their races outright. Osterman is the chair of the House Labor Committee.

"We will continue to assist locals and Central Labor Councils as they try to affect the outcome of these all-important elections," President Michael T. Carrigan said. "A lot of effort is going to be expended on and before April 5. For us to keep moving forward, we have to win races from the top to the bottom of the ballot."



Harry Osterman



Will Burns

Following are results in the city council races. The runoff elections will be held April 5.

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|--|---|
| 1 – Joe Moreno (74 percent, no runoff) | 27 – Walter Burnett, Jr. (71, no runoff) |
| 3 – Pat Dowell (67, no runoff) | 28 – Jason Ervin (85, no runoff) |
| 4 – Will Burns (65, no runoff) | 29 – Deborah Graham (52, no runoff) |
| 5 – Leslie Hairston (62, no runoff) | 30 – Ariel Reboyras (75, no runoff) |
| 6 – Freddrenna Lyle (44) and Roderick Sawyer (25) | 32 – Scott Waguespack (66, no runoff) |
| 8 – Michelle Harris (69, no runoff) | 34 – Carrie Austin (65, no runoff) |
| 9 – Anthony Beale (58, no runoff) | 35 – Ray Colon (51, no runoff) |
| 10 – John Pope (59, no runoff) | 36 – John Rice (48) and Nicholas Sposato (24) |
| 15 – Toni Foulkes (44) and Raymond Lopez (14) | 38 – Tim Cullerton (48) and Tom Caravette (22) |
| 16 – JoAnn Thompson (43) and Hal Baskin (23) | 39 – Margaret Laurino (76, no runoff) |
| 17 – Latasha Thomas (49) and David Moore (20) | 43 – Michele Smith (38) and Tim Egan (29) |
| 18 – Lona Lane (51, no runoff) | 45 – John Garrido (33) and John Arena (23) |
| 19 – Matt O'Shea (61, no runoff) | 47 – Ameya Pawar (51, no runoff) |
| 20 – Willie Cochran (46) and Che Smith (20) | 48 – Harry Osterman (81, no runoff) |
| 22 – Ricardo Munoz (65, no runoff) | 49 – Joe Moore (72, no runoff) |
| 23 – Michael Zalewski (53, no runoff) | 50 – Bernard Stone (37) and Debra Silverstein (34) |

Bold indicates an endorsement by the Chicago Federation of Labor.

Wisconsin –

Early this morning, the Wisconsin Assembly (House) passed along party lines Gov. Scott Walker's bill to strip most public employees of their collective bargaining rights. Senate Democrats still remain in Illinois preventing a vote on the bill in that chamber. On Thursday, Republicans sent the State Police to the homes of the Senate Dems. The governor says he will begin sending out layoff notices to state workers next week if a bill is not passed.

Unions have said they would agree to an increase in their pension contributions and health care, but remain determined to protect their right to bargain collectively. Gov. Walker still refuses to compromise. Protesters have been marching in the streets of Madison for over a week.

RALLY FOR WISCONSIN WORKERS

Thursday night in Peoria union members rallied in support of Wisconsin public employees. Sen. Dave Koehler spoke to the crowd. Also on Thursday, the Greater Madison County CLC passed a resolution supporting Wisconsin state workers and will send it to Gov. Walker.



SATURDAY RALLIES Save the American Dream

- SPRINGFIELD -

Illinois State Capitol
301 South Second
Lincoln Statue, East Side
12 Noon
Sen. Dick Durbin to speak

- CHICAGO -

Thompson Center
100 West Randolph
12 Noon



Ohio –

On Thursday, Republicans said they would allow collective bargaining rights for wages only as a modification to the infamous Senate Bill 5 – the party's attempt to destroy public workers' rights in Ohio. The bill still prohibits bargaining for health care, safety issues, anti-discrimination and other work-rules like binding arbitration. Republican Senate President Tom Niehaus said all amendments were due today at noon, with a vote possible next week.

Indiana –

This week, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels asked Republican state legislators to stand down on their push for a right-to-work bill in that state. Daniels said it would "interfere with other legislative priorities, including education reform."

"For reasons I've explained more than once I thought there was a better time and place to have this very important and legitimate issue raised," Daniels told reporters in his state.

Indiana Democrats have been in Illinois since last week but say they are willing to negotiate when Republicans who control the chamber. House Minority Leader Patrick Bauer told reporters this week he's ready to talk with Republicans and that he'll consider bringing his caucus back from Urbana, Ill., on a day-to-day basis. But GOP House Speaker Brian Bosma says he won't concede to Democrat demands.

Pennsylvania –

Leaders of organized labor told the press they'll fight any "right-to-work" bill to ban mandatory union membership in Pennsylvania. State Labor Federation President Rick Bloomingdale and Executive Director of AFSCME Council 13 Dave Fillman, said on Wednesday they don't expect any right-to-work bill to pass the legislature, but that they'll do whatever is necessary to stop it. They also say they don't anticipate any legislative assault on state workers' collective bargaining rights like the bill being debated in Wisconsin.

Missouri –

A right to work bill passed out of the Senate General Laws Committee along party lines by a vote of six to two last week. It now goes to the floor for a vote in March. According to the Labor Tribune, the bill is sponsored by the National Right to Work Committee.

S T A T E

Senator Hendon Resigns

State Senator Ricky Hendon (D-5th District - Chicago) submitted his resignation to the secretary of the senate this week. Senator Hendon served on the Labor Committee for many years and had a lifetime AFL-CIO voting record of 99%. He served in the Senate for approximately 19 years. We wish him a happy retirement.



Illinois Public Sector Unions Meet with Cullerton

Leaders from Illinois' public employee unions and the Illinois AFL-CIO met with Senate President John Cullerton on Wednesday. The discussions at the meeting focused on pension funding, collective bargaining, workers' compensation, and education reform. Cullerton reiterated to the labor leaders that he believed changes to current employees' pension funding formulas would be found unconstitutional by the courts. However, he did not rule out voting on legislation in the Senate that would affect current pension funding.

The Illinois AFL-CIO has requested and anticipates further meetings with Senate President Cullerton, Speaker Madigan, and Governor Quinn on public sector union issues. We will continue to update you on the progress of our discussions with them. ■

The Illinois House was the only chamber in session this week. Speaker Madigan told his members that they will be working very late nights in the near future. Madigan added that the House will be passing the state budget this year in multiple bills, going agency by agency through appropriation committees. This is a change from past years when the General Assembly would pass the state budget in omnibus bills.

The House deadline for new bill introductions was this week. House members introduced 3,636 bills this year, while their Senate counterparts introduced 2,479. That is over 6,000 bills total.

General Assembly leaders continue meetings on workers' compensation and unemployment insurance.

Both chambers will return on Tuesday, March 1. They will begin their work in committees considering those bills that have been introduced. The deadline for passing bills out of House and Senate committees is March 17. *For a list of bills the Illinois AFL-CIO is tracking please visit: http://www.ilaff-cio.org/forms/bill_trak.pdf*

HB 77 – State Employee Vehicle Registration

Rep. Bost (R – Carbondale)

OPPOSE

Requires a state employee who has been employed for over one year to furnish evidence of vehicle registration with the state.
2/23/11 – Failed in House State Government

HB 111 – PAYGO Budgeting

Rep. Unes (R – Pekin)

OPPOSE

Requires PAYGO budgeting. Provides that if a law requires additional spending from State funds, then the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability must certify to the State Comptroller that adequate revenues are available. Effective immediately.
2/24/11 – Passed House 106-4-0.
To Senate.

HB 180 – Cemetery and Funeral Pickets

Rep. Hatcher (R – Yorkville)

Monitor

The intent of the legislation is to target the groups that protest at a fallen soldier's services, unfortunately, this could impact union pickets as well. Would increase the time limit that a union could picket a funeral home or cemetery operator to 60 minutes (was 30) before or after a service. In addition, it would move the boundary back for the picket line to 1,000 (was 200) feet away from any ingress or egress of the funeral site.

2/23/11 – Passed House Judiciary II Committee 7-0-0. Second Reading.

HB 267 – RTA Funds

Rep. Franks (D – Woodstock)

OPPOSE

Amends the Counties Code. Provides that Cook and collar counties may opt out of the .25% tax increase imposed under PA 95-708 (HB 656 95th GA). PA 95-708 increased Chicago-area sales tax .25% to fund mass transit. HB 267 exempts taxes that are pledged to repay bonds or other long-term debt. Effective immediately.
2/24/11 – Passed House 90-20-0.
To Senate.

HB 1091 – Public-Private Partnerships for Transportation

Rep. Nekritz (D – Des Plaines)

OPPOSE

Creates the Public-Private Partnerships for Transportation Act. Grants to the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority the necessary powers for the development, financing, and operation of transportation projects through public-private agreements with one or more private entities. Includes protections for prevailing wage and project labor agreements on construction projects. Does NOT include language to allow future workers, whose job is privatized, to organize and form a union. Effective immediately.

2/23/11 – Passed House Judiciary I Committee 9-2-0. Second Reading. ■

Director McRaith Outlines Plans to Implement Health Care Reform

On Thursday, Illinois Department of Insurance Director Michael McRaith was at the Illinois AFL-CIO to speak to union leaders on the state's plans for implementation of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA).

He also outlined legislative measures his department will sponsor to lower insurance premiums through state regulations. During upcoming legislative sessions, bills will be introduced to implement profit caps on insurance companies, impose rate regulation, create a rate review council and include mental health parity in health care reform.

Director McRaith explained that Illinois has very few insurance industry regulations and that we are a purely "for-profit" state when it comes to the health insurance industry. Many states including Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Massachusetts, have "not-for-profit" status for health insurance providers. Illinois also has very few health care insurance providers doing business here. McRaith sees regulation as the way to bring down premium costs and increase competition.

Beginning January 1, 2014, ACA mandates will go into affect including: no denial for coverage, no gender pricing and no pricing based on health conditions. And everyone must have health care coverage. Illinois will create a health care exchange where workers can go on-line to select the policy that fits their needs and ability to pay. Sen. Dave Koehler (D-46) will sponsor legislation this session to begin talks on the best way to implement the exchange. Director McRaith admits it will be a long process, but one that needs special attention as he estimates approximately 800,000 Illinoisans will be added to the private insurance roster and 600,000 will be added to Medicare. ■

