



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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**PUBLISHED FOR LABOR ACTIVISTS BY THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO**

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*The Senate concluded their business early this week and adjourned last night. Many of the big issues that were supposed to be considered were pushed off to the new session. Nothing substantial was done in the Senate on gun control, gay marriage rights, or public employee pensions.*

*The House is scheduled to return this Sunday, January 6. They will remain in session through Tuesday in the 97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The Senate may come back on Tuesday to clean up any unfinished business in the 97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Both Chambers will convene the new 98<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, complete with inaugural activities on Wednesday, January 9.*

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### Quinn and Senate Democrats Strip Collective Bargaining Rights

*The legislation will impact thousands of public employees; Will Allow for More Patronage Jobs*

Many of you gave up your free time last fall to work on behalf of candidates that would fight for working families in the General Assembly. After we have knocked on doors, made thousands of phone calls, and mailed thousands of pieces of literature on their behalf...they vote to strip collective bargaining rights away from us.

“This is a core issue for all of Labor and I want to thank everyone that responded and called their senators. It was a big help,” said Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan. “If this can be done to some, it can be done to anyone. It sets a terrible precedent.”

With the passage of SB 1556, there is no longer a requirement that an individual be engaged in management a substantial amount of time or as a major function of their employment to qualify as a “manager.” Thus employees whose primary responsibilities are not managerial would be denied the right to collectively bargain for better working conditions.

It took the Governor’s office and the rest of the constitutional officers approximately six times over the course of two years to pass SB 1556. Labor was successful in defeating it on the floor once on Thursday, however, Senate President John Cullerton (D – Chicago) brought the motion for a vote again and it passed with 31 votes. Late in the evening Senator Don Harmon (D – Oak Park) filed a motion to reconsider the vote, effectively holding the bill from being sent to the Governor. This could allow time for further negotiations on this issue. Those who turned their back on us were:

#### Republicans

Pam Althoff  
Kirk Dillard  
Dan Duffy  
Christine Johnson  
Thomas Johnson  
Darin LaHood  
Chris Lauzen  
Matt Murphy  
Carole Pankau  
Christine Radogno  
Dale Righter  
Ron Sandack  
Dave Syverson

#### Democrats

Annazette Collins  
Maggie Crotty  
Susan Garrett  
Bill Haine  
Don Harmon  
Mattie Hunter  
Emil Jones  
Dave Koehler  
Steve Landek  
Ed Maloney  
Iris Martinez  
Tony Munoz  
Mike Noland  
Martin Sandoval  
Ira Silverstein  
Heather Steans  
Donne Trotter  
John Cullerton

**Senate Transportation Bill Fails in Committee:** The Senate Appropriations II committee failed to pass a bill that included \$675 million for projects. Six committee members voted for SB 24, however, the measure needed seven. The money included was mostly from federal grants and state money.

#### CALL TO ACTION!

The House has released two pension bills from Rules Committee. HB 1447 was sent to the floor and impacts members in the State Employee Retirement System. It can be voted on anytime between Sunday and Tuesday. SB 1673 has had a ninth amendment filed that is the Biss/Nekritz proposal (HB 6258). SB 1673 is scheduled for a hearing on Monday at 10am. We need calls placed into House offices to tell them that a pension is a promise.



**WE  
ARE  
ONE  
ILLINOIS**



## Thousands Pack Capitol for We Are One Rallies

Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan (left photo) and labor leaders from public employee unions fired up thousands of union workers at the State Capitol Thursday and again on Friday during the “lame duck” session of the legislature. The workers were in Springfield to lobby their representatives and senators to protect employee pensions from deep benefit cuts proposed by business groups and some in government.

Friday’s rally included a march and picket of the Governor’s mansion (top photo).

## Tax Rates Rise for Wealthy, UI Extended Under Fiscal Cliff Deal

The federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) insurance program was continued through December 2013 as part of the fiscal cliff legislation that passed Congress earlier this week. Under the bill about 90,000 Illinoisans will continue to receive unemployment benefits under the program which is nearly 100 percent federally funded. In addition, approximately 2,800 claimants who exhaust their regular benefits each week will remain eligible to collect EUC benefits. Under the 4 tiers of EUC, claimants can receive up to 53 additional weeks of unemployment compensation in addition to the 25 weeks of regular State benefits.

The legislation that ultimately passed to avoid the “fiscal cliff” included tax hikes for the wealthiest Americans (more than \$450,000 a year), while the middle class maintained its tax cut. The deal only postponed a showdown over the \$1.2 billion sequester.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said in a statement that it was beginning toward fair taxes, but much work needs to be done, and the voices of working families will need to be heard.

“Instead of moving to address our nation’s real jobs and public investment crisis, our leaders will be debating a prolonged artificial fiscal crisis. In the weeks to come, as the confrontation over the economic direction of our country continues, the working men and women of the AFL-CIO will continue to fight to keep poor and middle class families from giving more so rich people can continue paying less. That means a fairer, more progressive tax system, an end to Bush tax rates for the 2% and protection of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid from benefit cuts.”

The Illinois delegation votes on this legislation follow:

**Democrats -- Costello, Y; Davis, Y; Gutierrez, Y; Lipinski, Y; Quigley, Y; Rush, Y; Schakowsky, Y.**

**Republicans -- Biggert, Y; Dold, Y; Hultgren, N; Johnson, Y; Kinzinger, Y; Manzullo, Y; Roskam, N; Schilling, N; Schock, Y; Shimkus, Y; Walsh, N.**



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## Filing Period Opens for 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional

Filing for the vacant Second Congressional District began on Thursday with nine candidates submitting paperwork at publication time.

All filed as Democrats in the largely Democrat district that stretches from the south side of Chicago down through Kankakee.

Included in those seeking the office are: State Senator Toi Hutchinson, State Senator-elect Napoleon Harris, Chicago Alderman Anthony Beale, former State Representative Robin Kelly, former Congressman Mel Reynolds, Charles Rayburn, Gregory Haynes, Victor Jonathan, and Clifford Eagleton.

The seat is open due to the resignation of Jesse Jackson Jr. in November. The primary is Feb. 26 and the general is April 9. Filing for the office closes on Jan. 7.