

ILLINOIS AFL-CIO

NEWS UPDATE - 08/18/20



LABOR 2020: Mobilizing To Win In November

Local union action plan

Despite the challenges from the coronavirus pandemic, the Illinois AFL-CIO's Labor 2020 program is focusing on member communication and voter contact to achieve victories from the top to the bottom of the ballot this November.

Labor 2020 is facilitating local union communication through two new tools – the local union mail program and a digital canvass tool designed to allow locals to canvass members using emails and texts to educate them about the election.

Local union mail is a paramount first-line program designed to assure members know who, what and why their local is supporting in the election. Every election cycle, polling has validated that mail from the local has the highest impact on members.

The Illinois AFL-CIO / Labor 2020's local union mail program allows for locals to select from a set of templates, customize for the individual local and mail directly to members.

The new digital canvass tool allows the local to upload a member list to send a text and email survey to each member, much like phones and door knocking. The local will get a file back with the responses, which will also be uploaded to the LAN for Labor 2020 GOTV operations.

For more information on these programs, contact Bill Looby at 217-494-4014 or BillL@ilaf-cio.org.

Illinois AFL-CIO Calls On Leaders To Endorse Fair Tax Amendment

The Illinois AFL-CIO is requesting local unions and local leaders to both sign on as endorsers of the Fair Tax Amendment on the ballot this year. The Fair Tax is a top priority of Labor 2020. Approval will take 60 percent of the vote and it will need union households to vote in force for it to pass.

Please take a moment to sign your local up and then sign on as an individual endorser.

Organizations:

<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/fairtaxorgendorse>

Individuals:

<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/fairtaxendorse>

Do your part for Labor 2020, contact fellow union members from home or work

Keeping safety a top priority, the Labor 2020 program is opening up virtual phone banking from home or the office, in addition to a group of regional phone banks that will run at half-capacity to allow for distancing.

The phone program began two weeks ago with a Springfield phone bank, but will be expanding with virtual and additional fixed locations by the end of the month.

Volunteers can contact Bill Looby at 217-494-4014 or BillL@ilaf-cio.org for more information.



VOTE **YES**
FOR
FAIRNESS

Under the Fair Tax, **97%** of Illinoisans would pay the same or less in state income taxes

Call 217.544.4014 For More Information On These And Other Issues Important To Work-



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Lakesia Collins Appointed 9th District Representative



The Illinois AFL-CIO would like to congratulate Lakesia Collins for her appointment as State Representative to the 9th District. Representative Collins won a crowded Democratic primary in March replacing retired, former State Rep. Art Turner. When Rep. Art Turner resigned six-months early in July, leaving his seat vacant, Lakesia Collins was announced as his replacement.

As a SEIU HCII member, a certified nursing assistant, and mother of three, Rep. Collins is committed to fighting for workers across the state. While working as a union organizer, Rep. Collins led the fight to raise minimum wage, better working conditions for workers, and put an end to short staffing in health care facilities. Her campaign inspires working people, especially young women of color. She is the first woman to represent the 9th District in the House of Representatives.

Representative Collins has no Republican challenger for the general elections in November. Labor 2020 focused primary election efforts on assisting union members running for office with live phone banking, direct mail, and digital ads. She joins nine other union members in the State House of Representatives.

You can contact Representative Lakesia Collins at 312-298-9181 and office@lakesiacollins.com.

Governor Secures Emergency Rule to Protect Workers

On Friday, August 7th in response to the pandemic and rising infection rates, Governor Pritzker announced Illinois Department of Public Health Emergency Rules for businesses, schools, and childcare establishments regarding the use of face coverings and the size of gatherings. The emergency rules are an effort to stop the spread of the pandemic and protect essential workers.

Illinois AFL-CIO President Tim Drea and other labor leaders were invited to the Governor's press conference to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on essential workers. Since the start of the pandemic, the Illinois AFL-CIO has fought for workers who are on the frontlines providing the essential services that are keeping our state's economy afloat. These emergency rules are another measure to protect workers, many of whom have fallen victim to this deadly disease.

The Joint Commission on Administrative Rules (JCAR) met on Tuesday, August 11th to hold a hearing on the new proposed rules and other measures. The new rules focus on issuing warnings, rather than citations, for businesses, schools, and childcare establishments who do not enforce the face covering and gathering-size-limitation mandates. Local officials can issue fines to these establishments ranging from \$75 to \$2,500. This comes at a critical time when infection rates are trending upward and school districts across the state decide whether to re-open schools for the fall semester.

On August 11, JCAR voted to uphold the rules and the new rules go into effect immediately.

Labor Advocates for Board and Commission Appointments

The Illinois AFL-CIO is dedicated to the appointment of labor members to the State of Illinois Boards and Commissions. These Boards and Commissions have a tremendous influence over the lives of the working people in Illinois. These Boards and Commission decide on key initiatives that provide worker organizing rights, mass transit policies, infrastructure projects, unemployment benefits, and the education of our children. The state federation is fortunate that Governor Pritzker has made appointing members of the Illinois labor community a priority.

Delegates from the Illinois AFL-CIO 44th Biennial Constitutional Convention adopted Resolution #25, "Support the Appointment and Confirmation of Illinois AFL-CIO Members to Boards and Commissions". Since the convention in July, the Governor has appointed two union members, Ronald Kaempfe, IUOE 520 and Mark Chatham, UA Local 439 to the Kaskaskia Regional Port District Board. These appointees join the 40 + labor members who are awaiting their Senate confirmations.

The Illinois AFL-CIO is requesting that union affiliates inform the state federation of Board and Commission vacancies and appointments to assist appointment and confirmation efforts. Please send information to Magda Derisma, Legislative Director & Staff Attorney at magda.derisma@ilaf-cio.org.