



TIM DREA  
PRESIDENT

# Welcome

## 44th CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

### of the ILLINOIS AFL-CIO



PAT DEVANEY  
SECRETARY TREASURER

Welcome to the 44th Constitutional Convention of the Illinois AFL-CIO

Welcome Delegates!

Since our last convention in 2018, the Illinois AFL-CIO has been through many changes. We defeated Bruce Rauner, elected JB Pritzker as Governor and gained pro-working family super-majorities in the Illinois House and Senate.

Organized labor had a historic General Assembly session in 2019 that included increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, passing a \$45 billion capital infrastructure bill, legalizing recreational use of cannabis, banning right to work zones, protecting collective bargaining and improving civil rights.

This spring, the COVID-19 virus invaded our workplaces, caused massive unemployment and created unsafe work conditions. In response, the IL AFL-CIO worked with state and federal elected officials to pass legislation protecting the unemployed and making workplaces safer.

As we were fighting the pandemic, George Floyd was killed in Minneapolis and the long-standing evils of systemic racism were fully exposed. Union members from affiliates across our state marched and spoke out to support the Black Lives Matter movement. But speaking out and marching is not enough. We must do better to ensure our movement results in real changes that will advance racial equality in Illinois and across our country.

Fifty-five years ago, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at the 8th Illinois AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention and challenged us “to engage non-violent action to deliver the rights, dignity and opportunities to which all people are entitled.”

During this convention, we will re-affirm our commitment to honor Dr. King’s words to fight for social justice and bring fairness and equality to our society.

Our work will not be without challenges and resistance, but if we are to make Illinois better for all people, we cannot be deterred.

We welcome you all to the 44th Constitutional Convention of the Illinois AFL-CIO and look forward to working together in unison to make Illinois a better place for working families.

Our work is daunting but we are determined to make our future and the future of our children better. We look forward to working with you on this common effort and thank you again for being a delegate to the 44th Illinois AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention.

In Solidarity,

Tim Drea  
President

Pat Devaney  
Secretary Treasurer