



TO: GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS ,
JOINT COUNCIL AND LOCAL UNION PRINCIPAL
OFFICERS

FROM: JAMES P. HOFFA
GENERAL PRESIDENT

DATE: APRIL 8, 2011

RE: STATE BATTLES UPDATE

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters is continuing to mobilize Teamster members and others to stop the war on workers that is occurring across the country.

Please note the update below regarding ongoing legislative and political battles occurring in state capitols throughout the country, including Right-to-Work (for Less) (RTW) threats and attacks on public sector employees and their unions. Additionally, I have included information on efforts in assisting Local Unions in mobilizing members in these battles. For more information, please contact the Department of Field and Political Action at 202.624.6993.

State Updates

For your convenience, please note state-specific updates on the most immediate legislative battles below:

- **Florida** – Last month, the House of Representatives passed paycheck deception legislation, and we are closely monitoring its progress in the state Senate.
- **Indiana** – Following a month-long stalemate where House Democrats stalled the state legislative calendar, the entire caucus returned to the state last week following a compromise with Republican state leaders which included the removal of Right-to-Work legislation from the legislative agenda. We are keeping a close eye on the state though as threats to repeal project labor agreements and extend the prohibition of public sector collective bargaining remain viable.
- **Maine** – Despite Republican Governor Paul LePage's efforts to pursue Right-to-Work legislation, we are growing more confident of the ability to defeat such legislation if it comes up for a vote in the Legislature.
- **Michigan** – Last month, Republican Governor Rick Snyder signed legislation which would allow local emergency management officials to

remove collective bargaining agreements during municipal financial emergencies.

- **Missouri** – Despite their best efforts, the Senate Republican majority failed to pass Right-to-Work legislation out the full Senate last month. Thanks in large part to a bi-partisan filibuster, the bill was tabled and has not been scheduled for a full vote yet.
- **New Hampshire** – A Senate committee will consider Right-to-Work legislation this week after it passed out of the full House last month. Additionally, an amendment to the state budget bill that would make public employees at-will at the expiration of their collective bargaining agreements was passed out of the House over the weekend.
- **Ohio** – Last week, the Ohio House passed Senate Bill 5, which would prohibit nearly all public sector collective bargaining and was previously passed in the Senate by a one-vote margin. Also, Republican Governor John Kasich signed the bill into law. Meanwhile, organized labor is preparing a Citizen’s Veto of SB-5, which would be voted upon by Ohio voters on the November ballot. To get the veto on the ballot, we will need nearly 300,000 signatures within 90 days.
- **Pennsylvania** – Earlier this week, Right-to-Work legislation was introduced in the House of Representatives.
- **Wisconsin** – A state judge issued a temporary restraining order of the implementation of Governor Scott Walker’s union-busting bill, which would prohibit public sector collective bargaining. The order was issued as concerns have been raised that Walker and Republican legislators violated the state’s open meetings act. Meanwhile, we anticipate up to six Republican Senators will face recall elections over the next three months. The first recall petition was filed last week, and another is anticipated later this week.

On Tuesday, Governor Walker’s agenda suffered significant setbacks both in Milwaukee County and statewide. In a race to succeed Walker as county executive, his hand-picked successor lost to Democrat Chris Abele by nearly 20 points.

In a heated battle for state Supreme Court, incumbent conservative and Walker mentor David Prosser holds a slim lead over Teamster-endorsed Joanne Kloppenburg. Six weeks ago, Prosser had a twenty point lead in public polling in the race, which will likely go to a recount under state law. Prosser also won the non-partisan primary over Kloppenburg by 27 points

earlier this year. In the general election, the IBT produced more than 11,000 pieces of mail to members, 10,600 robo calls, and more than 5,000 live GOTV calls to members. It is also worth noting that only two incumbent state Supreme Court justices have ever been defeated in Wisconsin, and the 1.4 million votes in yesterday's election was the highest turnout ever.

In addition to these states, we continue to monitor significant anti-worker legislation in many other states.

Teamsters Union Program

In states where the Department anticipates the most severe threats, we have developed a political/field program with Joint Councils and Local Unions to assist in educating Local Union leadership and members. The Department is working with key departments at the IBT to assist in coordinating local union officer education, state field coordinators, research, and communications. These departments include Strategic Research and Campaigns, Organizing, Legal, Training & Development, and Communications, among others.

For your convenience, please note specific IBT-provided assistance to Local Unions and Joint Councils for these battles below:

- **Training & Education** – Thus far, the IBT has provided state battle-specific trainings for all interested Local Union principal officers, business agents, and shop stewards in Wisconsin, Missouri, Ohio and Michigan, where more than 2,500 principal officers and shop stewards have attended.
- **Messaging & Other Communication Resources** – The IBT has run an aggressive effort to assist Local Unions and Joint Councils in communication strategies with membership, the general public, and elected officials. Additionally, the Communications Department has developed web pages specifically for the ongoing state battles.
- **Membership Mobilization** – To date, the IBT has assisted Joint Councils and Local Unions to ensure our membership is actively engaged in these ongoing battles. Thus far, the Department has produced more than 500,000 robo calls to members nationwide, tens of thousands of patch-through calls for members to express opposition to anti-worker legislation, and thousands more text messages. Additionally, the Department has issued more than 30 of “Take Action” e-activist emails to members to engage elected officials on these efforts.

Meanwhile, the IBT has worked closely with Joint Councils and Local Unions in nearly every state to engage members in solidarity efforts. To date, nearly 150,000 Teamsters have participated in rallies, vigils, lobby days, and 4.4.11 solidarity events (see below), among other efforts, to express their opposition to anti-worker legislative efforts and solidarity with workers in Wisconsin and other

states. The IBT has also provided nearly 40,000 signs to Local Unions in states throughout the country.

- **April 4th Day of Solidarity & Action** – In addition to the ongoing solidarity events that continue in various states, Teamsters across the country participated in the April 4, 2011 national day of solidarity and action. The day marked the 43rd anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in Memphis while supporting striking sanitation workers and served as a reminder of the labor and civil rights movements' struggles, both past and present. In addition to rallies and demonstrations, the focus for April 4th was on worksite actions. The IBT sent out "Teamster Promise" forms to Local Unions and Joint Councils for worksite distribution, which was designed to promote education and mobilization among our members by asking members to participate in the Stop the War on Workers campaign. Over 100,000 leaflets were sent to Local Unions and Joint Councils, and we will have better estimates on levels of participation by our membership as the "Teamster Promise" forms are mailed in over the course of the next few weeks.
- **Stewards Teleforum** – Last week, the IBT hosted a teleforum call with stewards as a way to update them on the state battles happening across the country as well as discuss ways that stewards and members can get involved in the Stop the War on Workers campaign, including the April 4th day of solidarity and action. With more than 6,000 stewards participating, General President Hoffa and General Secretary-Treasurer Keegel opened the call and were followed by updates from the IBT Field and Political Action Department and Communications Department.