



FederationNews

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM THE CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR • WINTER 2013



A Pension is a Promise

Workers fight to protect their benefits from cuts

FederationNews

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COVER PHOTO
COURTESY OF
PAT BARCAS

Victory Night

President Obama celebrates his reelection at McCormick Place in Chicago

President's Report

The state of America's middle class will be a major focus of President Obama's second term as he looks to further promote an agenda and define the legacy of his presidency. When he took the oath of office on January 20, he was already locked in a fight to protect Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, the nation's most important family protection programs, with Republicans in Congress over the fiscal cliff.

The President will look to solve this, and other looming showdowns, as he moves forward an agenda for his second term in office.

One of those key agenda items is comprehensive immigration reform, something he outlined in his inaugural address. Not only is



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FOR OBAMA FOR AMERICA

this issue a huge concern for Latino and other immigrant voters who turned out in record numbers in the last election, but it is significant to the labor movement as well.

Immigration reform is key to restoring our middle class and growing the economic power of working people. By embracing and leading the discussion, we can influence the outcome. Immigration reform must create a roadmap to citizenship that will grant workers full protection under labor laws and the ability to bargain collectively for better wages, benefits and safety.

Organized labor also backs the President's push to create one million new manufacturing jobs in his second term. The President has

already proposed lowering the corporate tax rate for domestic manufacturers, ending tax deductions for outsourcing companies and fighting China's unfair trade practices.

Not only do we support his goal, but we're working to help make it a reality. As we discuss in one of this month's feature stories, the Chicago labor movement is committed to developing bold, new strategies that train workers and create advanced manufacturing jobs here in the Chicago area that pay middle class wages and boost economic activity in other industries as well.

After a long campaign in which union members were heavily involved, there is reason to be hopeful for a second-term agenda that

will benefit the people we represent. However, the challenges will be steep. As we all know too well, our work is never complete.

In Unity,



JORGE RAMIREZ
PRESIDENT

Affiliate News

Read more on these topics at www.chicagolabor.org/news.

Hartmarx deal saves hundreds of local jobs

Workers at Hart Schaffner Marx in Des Plaines will keep their jobs under a deal announced recently that sends the HMX Group to AuthenticBrands Group, LLC.

"By ensuring that these manufacturing jobs stay in the U.S., both our members and the communities where they live are winners," said Noel Beasley, President of Workers United, the union representing the workers. "This acquisition deal is about more than saving jobs, it's about Workers United members taking an active role to help rebuild the company's future and the nation's economy."

President Barack Obama regularly wears Hart Schaffner Marx suits manufactured by the union members.

"The Chicago area trade union movement, led by President Jorge Ramirez and Secretary-Treasurer Robert Reiter of the Chicago Federation of Labor, along with Representative Jan Schakowsky and Governor Pat Quinn and his administration, were stalwart in their support," said Richard Monje, Workers United Vice President and assistant manager of the Chicago and Midwest Regional Joint Board.

"Losing these jobs in Des Plaines would have set back that community's economic recovery. Instead, Workers United members will be able to prosper from the acquisition as the company repositions and becomes more profitable."

Jordan to head retiree group

Katie Jordan was named President of the International Association of Retirees for Workers United. She is the first person to hold this position for the organization.

"I am proud that the retirees of my union have faith in me to help carry the program of the union and retirees," said Jordan.

Ms. Jordan is a longtime union activist who also serves as President of the Chicago Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) and Treasurer of the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans. She previously received the Woman of the Year Award from the Chicago Federation of Labor for her service to the labor movement.

"We are grateful to have Katie as a leader in our labor movement and congratulate her on this recognition," said Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez.

"The men and women we represent—and America's middle class—have benefitted tremendously from her dedicated service."

Teachers report takes aim at privatization

A report from the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) calls into question the "underutilization crisis" in the Chicago Public Schools system, a crisis that has been manufactured largely to justify the replacement of neighborhood schools by privatized charters.

The study, titled *The Black and White of Education in Chicago's Public Schools*, analyzes the mechanisms and effects of policies that have led to, among other things, increased racial segregation, depletion of stable schools in Black neighborhoods, expansion of unnecessary testing and minimal educational outcomes.

"When it comes to matters of race and education in Chicago, the attack on public schools is endemic," said CTU President Karen GJ Lewis. "Chicago is the most segregated city in the country, and our students of color are routinely deemed as second-class by a system that does nothing but present one failed policy after the next."

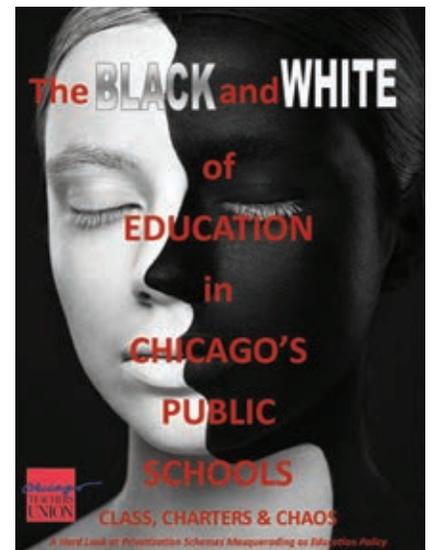
While the policy of neighborhood school closings and charter openings has not moved education in Chicago forward in any significant way, the benefits to charter school operators are growing.

"What charter expansion says is that we've given up—we've given up on public schools, given up on our teachers and given up on the children and families that need us the most," said CTU researcher Dr. Carol Caref.

More union representation on infrastructure panel

The men and women of organized labor will have two additional representatives on the nascent Chicago Infrastructure Trust. Tom Villanova, President of the Chicago and Cook County Building and Construction Trades Council, and Damon Silvers, Director of Policy and Special Counsel for the AFL-CIO, were named Advisory Members of the trust's Board of Directors.

"I look forward to working with the other members of the Infrastructure Trust to develop and initiate projects that will create good jobs for working men and women and help address



the vast infrastructure needs of the Chicago area," said Villanova.

The panel is currently working on Retrofit Chicago, a plan to retrofit public buildings across Chicago for energy efficiency, utilizing private investment to fund the project. A request for quote (RFQ) was issued last month to advance the process.

Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez is a member of the Board of Directors.

AFSCME leader says unions fight for strong middle class

In a commentary published in the Chicago Tribune, Henry Bayer, Executive Director of AFSCME Council 31, makes a strong case for the role unions have played in creating and maintaining a strong American middle class.

"The labor movement's vision of America is in direct conflict with the top-down agenda of the big corporations, their CEOs and other millionaires and billionaires. It's not only that they want to force public servants to accept the same low wages, few benefits and no voice on the job they have imposed on far too many workers in the private sector; the corporate elite want to take even more wealth for themselves by expanding their special favors in the tax code, reducing the regulatory oversight that holds them accountable and enabling the privatization schemes that have turned our public infrastructure and schools into profit centers.

To prevail, the elites must discredit, weaken or wipe out the labor movement. At this point in history, that means the unions that represent the teachers, librarians, firefighters, caregivers and other public employees whose wages, benefits and workplace rights the CEO crowd ceaselessly attacks.

While the corporate crowd tries to undermine the middle class that's essential to rebuilding strong communities, the rest of us can work together to address the real causes of our state budget problems. We can reform the broken, unfair tax structure that squeezes working families while rewarding millionaires. We can end egregious tax giveaways to profitable corporations that hold taxpayers hostage and answer to no one. And we can make progress for the priorities we share: creating jobs, reversing cuts to education and health care, keeping promises to retirees and growing prosperity for all."

[READ THE ENTIRE PIECE AT WWW.CHICAGOLABOR.ORG/BAYER.](http://WWW.CHICAGOLABOR.ORG/BAYER)

Transit unions reach contract agreement

Chicago's train operators and bus drivers recently reached an agreement for a new contract with the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA). The agreement was ratified by members of ATU Local 241 and 308.

The agreement gives workers a wage increase in each of the next four years, better control over their schedules and job security, among other benefits. It also saves the

agency money in the 2013 budget by addressing preventive health care measures, a streamlined grievance procedure and other work rule changes to improve efficiency.

Talks with CTA management started poorly, with new President Forrest Claypool blaming the workers and their contract for the agency's financial problems. Claypool's statements prompted Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez to send a letter defending the workers and urging him to lead through leadership, not finger pointing.

In announcing the agreement, labor leaders expressed a desire to put the negotiations behind them and move forward to improve the agency.

"After months of negotiations the parties were able to reach a tentative agreement that addresses the concerns of members and the CTA," said Robert Kelly, ATU Local 308 President. "I want to work now on boosting morale and instilling pride as we continue to work on issues together in the future."

Protesters target Walmart on Black Friday

Protestors in Chicago joined nationwide demonstrations against Walmart on Black Friday, the retail industry's busiest shopping day.

"We're not trying to shut down business, we are supporting our co-workers who speak out for better working conditions," said Yesenia Yaber, a two-year Walmart Associate

in Chicago." These Associates have been speaking out for changes that will help all Associates help our families and make Walmart stores better places for our customers to shop. Yet, Walmart reacts by attempting to silence them. No one wants to strike, we want to work, but we can't continue under Walmart's threats and retaliation."

As part of the protests, Walmart workers walked off the job in Pico Rivera, just outside Los Angeles, in protest against the company's attempts to silence workers who speak out for better jobs. In October, the workers in Pico Rivera were the first group of Walmart associates to go on strike in the company's history.

State federation reelects officers

Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael Carrigan and Secretary-Treasurer Tim Drea were reelected to another term at the state federation's convention late last year.

"We congratulate President Carrigan and Secretary-Treasurer Drea on their reelection," said Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez. "Under their leadership, the Illinois AFL-CIO will continue to be a powerful force on behalf of working men and women in this state. We look forward to continuing our work together to move the labor movement forward throughout the state."



LONGTIME LABOR ACTIVIST KATIE JORDAN WILL LEAD THE WORKERS UNITED RETIREE ASSOCIATION; WORKERS AT HART SCHAFFNER MARX IN DES PLAINES WILL KEEP THEIR JOBS UNDER A NEW OWNERSHIP AGREEMENT; THE CTU REPORT ON CHARTER SCHOOLS, CLASS AND RACE; WALMART WORKERS DEMONSTRATE ON BLACK FRIDAY; ILLINOIS AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MICHAEL CARRIGAN WAS REELECTED TO ANOTHER TERM (PHOTOS: ORLANDO J. VELEZ, PAT BARCAS, UFCW, WORKERS UNITED); BOARD MEMBERS JAMES CONNOLLY (LABORERS DISTRICT COUNCIL) AND JAMES SWEENEY (IUOE LOCAL 150) JOIN CFL OFFICERS AT A PRAYER VIGIL LED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO OFFICE FOR IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION;

Illinois' unfunded liability

\$97 billion

Total unfunded liability for the state's five pension funds

\$52 billion

Unfunded liability for the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS)



A look at Illinois' pension funds

State Universities Retirement System

Average annual pension benefit: **\$29,742**

Participants do not receive Social Security

State Employees' Retirement System

Average annual pension benefit (coordinated with Social Security): **\$24,640.20**

Average annual pension benefit (coordinated with Social Security): **\$23,790.48**

Most participants contribute to Social Security

Teachers' Retirement System

Average annual pension benefit: **\$44,844**

Participants do not receive Social Security

General Assembly Retirement System

Average annual pension benefit: **\$49,788**

Participants do not receive Social Security

Judges' Retirement System

Average annual pension benefit: **\$112,548**

Participants do not receive Social Security

SOURCE: ILLINOIS RETIREMENT SECURITY INITIATIVE, CENTER FOR TAX AND BUDGET ACCOUNTABILITY, AUG 2011

Workers pay for politicians' failure

Public employees facing another round of attacks to their pensions

mobilized swiftly to prevent the lame-duck General Assembly from passing legislation that unfairly punishes current and future retirees for the decades of mismanagement and skipped payments by politicians. The January mobilization successfully fended off the attacks but legislators face increased pressure in the coming year to find a solution to a problem that worsens every day.

After decades of neglecting to make the required payments and taking payment holidays, politicians in Springfield face a problem that overshadows almost every other issue they will deal with this year. In fact, the state's own Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA) found that insufficient employer contributions are the biggest cause of underfunding the pension plans.

The We Are One Illinois coalition of public employee unions called for a summit with lawmakers through which the concerns of actual state workers and retirees will be addressed before legislation is written.

"We encourage returning and newly elected legislators to abandon the pension schemes which dominated the last General Assembly. Those ill-advised plans were unfair and unconstitutional, and thus never received enough support to become law. Simply put, they failed in the legislature and, worse yet, failed the people of Illinois," the coalition said in a statement.

"Illinois lawmakers now have a second chance to work with our coalition to produce a thoughtful, reasonable, and legal solution to the state's fiscal problems. Although public employees did not cause Illinois' pension funding dilemma, they are problem solvers by trade and willing to do their part to fix it. Accordingly, we will continue to work diligently to organize a summit with legislators as the 98th General Assembly begins its work."

In December, the coalition released a detailed critique of the measures pushed by Governor Pat Quinn and leaders in the General Assembly as well as an alternative plan that is constitutional and fair to public employees while providing additional funding for vital public services.

"...they are problem solvers by trade and willing to do their part to fix it."

WE ARE ONE COALITION

The alternative plan proposed would put in place an ironclad guarantee that the state would pay its share into pension funds. The union coalition also pressed to eliminate \$2 billion in corporate tax loopholes to provide revenue to support critical services and operations. In return for a guarantee from the state to fully fund pensions, public employees would pay 2 percent more on a phased-in basis toward their pensions.

"The workers in Illinois want a real pension solution and we invite the state's political leaders to work with us in finding real solutions that can be enacted soon," said Dan Montgomery, President of the Illinois Federation of Teachers at a press conference announcing the proposal. "There is no doubt that a long-term pension solution is a long-term fiscal solution and that must involve truly shared sacrifice."

Despite the coalition's calls for collaboration and shared sacrifice, the legislation proposed by lawmakers so far relies on cuts to benefits from current and future retirees to solve the problem.

"The governor and these legislative leaders, when they're talking about 'shared sacrifice,' they're talking about employees and retirees," said AFSCME Council 31 Executive Director Henry Bayer. "They're not talking about anyone else."

In Chicago, teachers, fire fighters, police officers and other municipal employees face similar pension funding problems, yet to varying degrees. Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle are discussing ways to reform the pension plans with some of the unions.

In the meantime, Chicago's unions are closely watching the legislature to see if their members are affected by any new laws.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel has yet to push for a specific proposal. Last summer he put forth only a "roadmap" at a hearing in the state capitol in Springfield.

"Chicago's public employees have made every contribution into their retirement plans that has been required of them; the same cannot be said for the city," said Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez. "Proposals by groups like the Commercial Club and the Civic Committee want to punish workers for politicians' failures. That's unacceptable."

Manufacturing a key to competitiveness

American manufacturing has been one of the hardest hit sectors in the recent recession, losing 6 million jobs in the last decade. Yet experts believe it is poised for a strong comeback.

A recent Brookings Institution study calls for greater investment and incentive to enhance advanced manufacturing.

“Reviving America’s advanced manufacturing sector is obviously a critical component of building a more productive, sustainable, and inclusive economy,” write authors Bruce Katz and Peter Hamp in the paper, *Create a ‘Race to the*

Shop’ Competition for Advanced Manufacturing. “U.S. manufacturing is an important source of quality well-paying jobs that offer a significant wage premium—nearly 20 percent higher average weekly earnings than non-manufacturing jobs—and are more likely to provide health care and retirement benefits.”

The Manufacturing Institute recently reported a shortage of skilled workers to fill as many as 600,000 U.S. manufacturing jobs. Research by the Chicago Federation of Labor and Center for Labor and Community Research found that 40 percent of the Chicago-area manufacturing workforce is expected to retire in the current decade. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security, the Chicago metropolitan area has a shortage of skilled workers to fill the 6,968 manufacturing jobs that open up every year.

Chicago’s unions are working with manufacturers, the public sector, educators and others to invest in a skilled workforce that will be an anchor to retain a significant number of manufacturing jobs, which have a greater positive impact on the economy than jobs in any other industry.

The Chicago Federation of Labor Workers Assistance Committee is a leader in providing workforce development services throughout Cook County. Working with more than 1,200 different manufacturers in Northeast Illinois through its network of partners, the CFL WAC has placed hundreds of workers into employment in the last six years by helping companies recruit workers and providing training services to help bridge the skills gap.

Labor leaders applauded the City of Chicago recently for investing \$1.25 million in recovered TIF funds to create new state-of-the-art advanced manufacturing programs at Austin Polytechnical Academy, a college and career prep high school with a focus on manufacturing and engineering. The funds will support the innovative school on the city’s West side by expanding access to training programs, creating additional partnerships with industry and helping launch the Austin Manufacturing Innovation Park.

“This crucial funding will allow us to take a decisive step forward in establishing Chicago as a hub for advanced manufacturing and a national leader in this

growing and crucial field,” said Jorge Ramirez, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor and Co-Chair of the Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council. “I believe that by training our young workers and helping them into these apprenticeship programs, we will establish a base of leadership that will help Chicago move forward for years to come.”

The funding of an advanced manufacturing program is in line with a key strategy of the city’s overarching economic development plan, the Plan for Economic Growth and Jobs, produced by World Business Chicago at Mayor Emanuel’s request earlier this year. Ramirez, who is a member of the steering committee for the plan, is the leader of the sub-committee charged with implementation of that key strategy.

“Becoming a leader in advanced manufacturing is an important strategy with real potential for impact,” said Michael Sacks, vice-chairman of World Business Chicago. “The implementation of these funds to train Chicago’s youth is a major step toward this goal, and underscores the value of a comprehensive plan to coordinate Chicago’s growth.”



A STUDENT AT AUSTIN POLYTECH LEARNS ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUES (PHOTO: CMRC)

Union advantage aids Obama reelection

Working families across the country breathed a sigh of relief on election night, knowing that their hard work over the last several months played a key role in reelecting President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden after a lengthy, costly and heated campaign.

Close to half a million union members volunteered in the Labor 2012 campaign, knocking on 14 million doors and making 80 million phone calls to get out to the vote, according to the AFL-CIO.

As a result of that effort and messaging that struck to the core of working families, union members voted for Obama at a rate of 65 percent to challenger Mitt Romney’s 33 percent, according to Peter D. Hart Research Associates. Turnout in key battleground states

was even better for the President. In Ohio, the state that sealed the victory on Election Night, 70 percent of union members voted to reelect President Obama, outperforming his 2008 margin of victory.

“This election was a clear choice between two candidates with two very distinct visions of America,” said Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez. “In the end, voters stood with President Obama and his support for a strong middle class. This is what the labor movement believes in.”

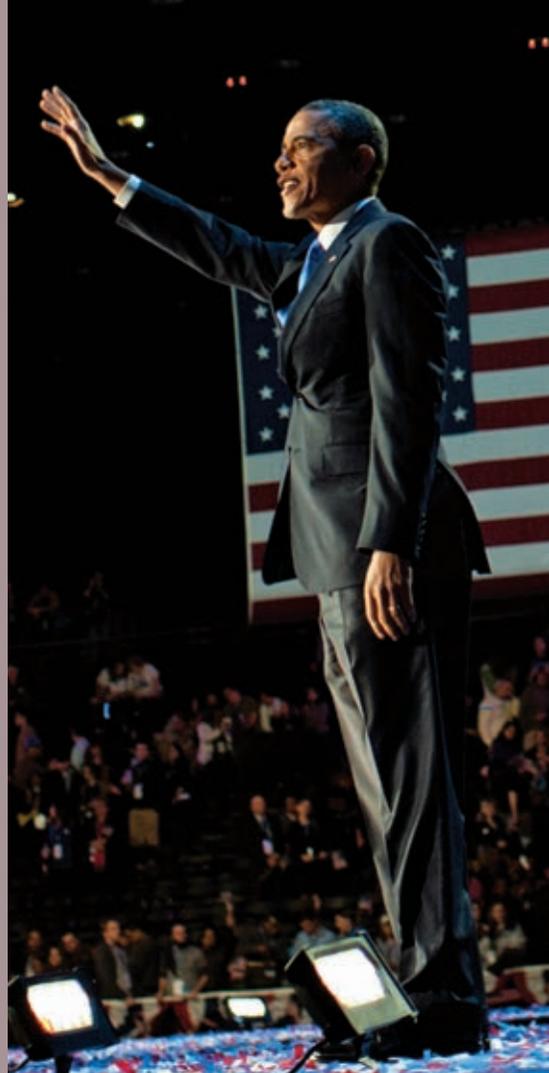
While Romney tried to paint the President’s first term as a failure to turn around the economy, working men and women saw things a different way. They saw the President save the auto industry, fight for a stimulus package and stand up for unions and working people during an economic crisis.

“Throughout the tumult, President Obama and Vice President Biden have been steadfast

allies of working men and women and the values we cherish, focused on repairing the economy, rebuilding the ladder to the middle class and investing in our shared future,” said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. “That’s why workers and their unions made an historic effort on their behalf, bringing home the vote for the President from Nevada to Ohio, from Wisconsin to Pennsylvania.”

Labor wasn’t alone in trying to influence the outcome of the election. Nearly \$1.5 billion in independent spending was poured into the first election since the controversial Citizens United decision that opened the floodgates for corporate spending and a new breed of super political action committees.

But as the union effort showed, particularly in states like Ohio, boots on the ground are a difficult force to overcome, even by Super PACs. More than one fourth of labor’s volunteers were activated in just six targeted states.



LABOR 2012: BY THE NUMBERS

- **14 Million** Doors Knocked
- **80 Million** Phone Calls
- **450,000** Newly Registered Voters
- **400,000** Volunteers
- **70%** of Union Members Contacted at Home

* Figures include union members and Working America members unless specified.






CFL PRESIDENT JORGE RAMIREZ AND OTHER LABOR LEADERS STAND UP FOR JANITORS AT O'HARE AIRPORT

Labor leaders stand with O'Hare janitors

With time running out before a new contract for janitorial services at O'Hare went into effect, labor leaders called on the City of Chicago to reconsider the agreement that threatened to cost approximately 350 janitors and window washers their jobs just weeks before Christmas.

Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez was joined at a City Hall press conference by Keith Kelleher, President of SEIU Healthcare Illinois Indiana, Joe Pijanowski, Directing Business Representative of the International Association of Machinists Local 126, Jesse Sharkey, Vice President of the Chicago Teachers Union, Karen Kent, Vice President of UNITE HERE Local 1, Carl Rosen, President of UE, Susan Hurley, Director of Chicago Jobs with Justice and a number of janitors who lost their jobs under the new contract.

The group called on Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Chicago City Council to rebid the contract and to pass a "responsible bidder ordinance" that would set standards for contracting with private entities.

"This contract severely jeopardizes the well-being of close to 350 men and women who go to work every day to keep the world's busiest airport clean," said Ramirez. "These workers have done nothing wrong; yet on Friday, they will lose their jobs, their livelihoods, their health insurance, their retirement security and their dignity because of a public contract that rewards a low bidder who will cut wages, hours and benefits."

In November, the Executive Board of the Chicago Federation of Labor passed a resolution in support of the workers, who belong to the SEIU Local 1, and calling on the city to rebid the contract and pass the ordinance to protect workers and taxpayers.

"We believe the City of Chicago and its leaders should set standards that respect workers and the dignity of work," Ramirez added. "They should lead us in building a strong middle class around which our communities will thrive, rather than a race to the bottom."

The ordinance, named "Good Jobs, Quality Services: Responsible Bidder in Services Contracts," was introduced into the Chicago City Council earlier this year with 31 aldermen signed on in support. Yet it has since been stuck in the Workforce Development and Audit Committee chaired by Alderman Patrick O'Connor. The ordinance would establish responsible bidding criteria for all contractors bidding on janitorial, security and window washing contracts over \$50,000 in the City of Chicago.

Labor federations call on Gov. Quinn to end attack on bargaining rights

Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael Carrigan and Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez called on Governor Pat Quinn to reverse his unprecedented decision to terminate the union contract that covers some 35,000 state workers and to work to reach a new agreement.

"State employees are on the frontlines every day preserving public safety, safeguarding children and assisting families, caring for aging veterans, responding to disasters, and protecting our environment," Carrigan said. "Governor Quinn's effort to undermine their collective bargaining rights is unwarranted and virtually unprecedented in Illinois government."

In November, Quinn's administration terminated state government's contract with its largest union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 31. AFSCME has been in negotiations with the Administration for more than 10 months over a new collective bargaining agreement.



AFSCME MEMBERS HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR CONTRACT FAIRNESS WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS (PHOTO: AFSCME COUNCIL 31)

"Governor Quinn's action in terminating the AFSCME contract is inconsistent with the principles of collective bargaining," Ramirez said. "We cannot understand why our governor, who has stood with organized labor in the past, would be so eager to undermine our brothers and sisters."

Carrigan said that Governor Quinn's attempt to portray state employees as overpaid is an affront to all Illinois workers who have sacrificed and strived to make it into the middle class. "The governor's effort to drive down the wage levels of Illinois workers will

hurt the economy of our state in the long run," he added. "I know that AFSCME members are keenly aware of the state's fiscal woes. They have already taken unpaid furlough days, deferred wage increases and more to save the state over \$400 million."

"Instead of seeking confrontation, Governor Quinn should work with state employees," said Ramirez. "We urge him to reverse course, return to the bargaining table and negotiate in good faith to reach a settlement that is fair to all."

Unions call for transparency in privatization deals

The Chicago Federation of Labor announced its support for a reform measure to ensure greater openness and closer oversight when the City of Chicago considers privatizing public services.

The Privatization Accountability and Transparency Ordinance was introduced by chief sponsor Alderman Roderick Sawyer and 31 co-sponsors in the City Council. Past privatization deals—such as those for city parking meters and health clinics—have raised serious unanswered questions about service quality, cost, the loss of middle-class jobs for city residents and the best interests of all Chicagoans. A current proposal to contract out the city's water billing call center has raised the same issues.

"This ordinance would increase transparency when privatization is considered," said Jorge Ramirez, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor. "Too often, privatization is a rush to judgment, and promised savings don't pan out. In fact, our Budget Efficiency Report found many examples of outsourcing and privatization that actually cost taxpayers more. This ordinance is part of a thoughtful, collaborative approach bringing together workers, their unions, the City Council and management.

"Any time the City considers taking jobs away from residents and outsourcing them

to private companies, it owes those workers a fair chance to keep their jobs," Ramirez added. "Let's work together to keep those jobs here and continue to deliver vital services to taxpayers."

The ordinance provides that any city department considering the privatization of any part of its operations must:

- Conduct a study on the cost-effectiveness of privatizing the service prior to the award of any contract;
- Work with the potentially affected employees and their union to pursue all reasonable options to improve the quality of service in-house;
- Cooperate with the City Council Committee on Budget and Government Accountability which will hold at least one hearing on the proposed privatization plan; and
- Demonstrate that the economic benefits of privatization outweigh the public's interest in continued city operation of the service, among other reforms.

In 2011, the coalition of unions representing workers at the City of Chicago laid out a framework for privatization and managed competition that could help the city save money by working in partnership with organized labor to develop efficiency models. The City of Chicago 2012 Budget Efficiency Report submitted by the Coalition of Unionized Public Employees (COUPE) called for fair competition to help lower costs and even bring privatized work back in-house when it could be done more efficiently.



THE CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR HOSTED WILMA LIEBMAN, FORMER CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD, AT A RECENT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING. LIEBMAN, CURRENTLY A VISITING PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, DISCUSSED THE CURRENT AND FUTURE STATE OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS IN THE U.S.

2013

Delegate meeting calendar

Delegate Meetings for 2013

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Tuesday, April 2, 2013

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Tuesday, October 1, 2013

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

All meetings are scheduled to be held at Plumbers' Hall, 1340 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago at 6:00pm on the first Tuesday of the month. Please remember to bring your Delegate card for entry. Dates and times are scheduled to change. Please check for updates at www.chicagolabor.org.

Amendment to CFL Constitution

Delegates at the December meeting ratified unanimously an amendment to the Chicago Federation of Labor Constitution clarifying language dealing with membership and representation, executive board and revenue.

FOR INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.CHICAGOLABOR.ORG/AMENDMENT.





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CFL Delegates Meetings

Tuesday, March 5 • Tuesday, April 2 • Tuesday, May 7

START TIME: 6:00pm

WHERE: Chicago Plumbers Local 130 Hall
1340 W. Washington, Chicago



Delegates must present their current Chicago Federation of Labor membership card or this notice for admission. We look forward to full representation from your local union to assist the Federation in the development of its policies.

Robert G. Reiter, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer

Take Action: Get breaking news and action alerts on your cell phone.

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Text **HELP** for more info or **STOP** to end.

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