



In this special edition of *Election Connection*, we are excited to share highlights from the USW's Constitutional Convention held Aug. 8-11 in Las Vegas, as well as the subsequent launch of our 2022 election campaign in Pittsburgh on Aug. 23.

Labor and Elections (Part 3 of Series)

In our July newsletter, we took a closer look at our union's policy resolution on Political Action ([Resolution No. 14](#)) which was adopted 80 years ago at our union's first Constitutional Convention.

In Resolution 14, the USW pledged to fully invest in the work of organizing our members and families in local, state and federal elections, and to help elect lawmakers who demonstrate a genuine commitment to advancing workers' rights.

Further, Resolution 14 sought to encourage the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) and its affiliates to work collaboratively to help union members and all workers achieve greater political power.

Delegates passed two resolutions at the USW's 37th Constitutional Convention last month reaffirming these commitments and setting the stage for a robust, member-led campaign for the 2022 midterm elections and beyond.

[Resolution 13: Our Impact on Local, State, Provincial and Federal Elections](#) spelled out a number of key points, including:

1. The right of workers to peaceably assemble and organize in the political process was established by the First Amendment under the Constitution of the United States;
2. The United Steelworkers union, since its inception in 1942, has always encouraged members to engage in elections as one of the most immediate ways to have a direct influence on lawmaking and its impact on our daily lives;
3. Our union pledges to only support candidates who clearly demonstrate a strong commitment to supporting workers and upholding core USW values; and,
4. The USW will continue to pursue a rigorous, transparent process to assess where candidates and lawmakers stand on the issues that impact USW members and their families most directly.

[Resolution 28, entitled "Power to the People: Political action committees aid in worker power, and are essential for the future of the labor movement,"](#) sought to highlight an often-overlooked truth that the first political action committee was established by workers and their unions in 1943, under the name CIO-PAC, the Congress of Industrial Workers' Political Action Committee.

The CIO undertook this action at the recommendation of then-president Philip Murray, who later became the first president of the United Steelworkers union.

Federal law prohibited unions from using members' dues dollars for many election-related purposes, but the establishment of CIO-PAC enabled workers to make voluntary contributions to a separate fund that would be the foundation for a permanent structure within the labor movement that would:

1. Focus on organizing workers in the electoral process;
2. Provide financial backing for pro-labor candidates; and,
3. Provide the resources that would support the advancement of worker-first legislation in Congress.

Speaking to these resolutions on the convention floor, Mike Noll, a delegate from District 1 in Ohio, said, "All the things that affect our lives in any serious manner are decided on Capitol Hill, or in our state houses."

Holly Walsh, a delegate from District 7, reminded the convention hall that our right to organize and collectively bargain is protected by law, "If we don't back labor-friendly lawmakers, we will lose everything."



Pictured: USW Convention delegates (left) Mike Noll from District 1 and (right) Holly Walsh from District 7.

USW Launches 2022 Political Campaign with Training and Rally in Pittsburgh

The USW held its 2022 political campaign training August 19-22 in Pittsburgh following the excitement and solidarity of the Convention.

Nearly 100 union activists from across the country attended the training. They learned the fundamentals of union political organizing and rallied together with USW-endorsed candidates in key races in Pennsylvania.



Pictured: (left) Pennsylvania candidate for U.S. Senate John Fetterman; (right) PA-17 candidate Chris Deluzio.

Afterward, they headed to neighborhoods surrounding Pittsburgh to canvass union households and practice some of the skills they learned in the training.



Pictured: USW District 7 members (right) Krystal Hubble and (left) Derek Govert.

Biden, Secretary Walsh Celebrate Labor Day with USW Members, Families

President Joe Biden and Labor Secretary Marty Walsh celebrated Labor Day with USW members and families at USW Local 2227 in West Mifflin, Pa., on Sept. 5. AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, U.S. Senator Bob Casey, U.S. Representative Mike Doyle and others also attended the Steelworkers' event.



President Biden's speech reflected on his administration's historic rescue of more than 120,000 active and retired Steelworkers' pensions with the passage of the American Rescue Plan.

Additionally, he spoke about the recent move to allow Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices as part of the Inflation Reduction Act and the massive \$54 million investment to address supply chain vulnerabilities and the shortage of semiconductor chips, which will help spur the growth of manufacturing jobs across the United States.



Secretary Walsh also spoke about the significant pro-worker advancements at the National Labor Relations Board and the Department of Labor.

Did You Know...

You can get involved in our efforts to help elect pro-worker, pro-union local, state and federal lawmakers?

Whether it is from the comfort of your own home or in your own community, we have ways for every union activist to pitch in.

For more information, go to www.uswvoices.org/take-action.

Help get the word out about Election Connection!

Forward this [LINK](#) to your fellow Steelworkers and family so they can sign up to receive our monthly newsletter.

Do you have an idea for a future issue of Election Connection? Email Eric Russell at erussell@usw.org.

Paid for by United Steelworkers Political Action Fund, 60 Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, with voluntary contributions from union members and their families. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

