



The United Voice

"USW Local 310's Information Resource"

10/11/2018

Sisters and Brothers,

We are only a few short weeks away from what is undoubtedly the most important election of our lifetime. In the past I have tried to keep politics out of our newsletters due to the fact that any mention of the subject and people almost instantly go to their opposite corners of the ring. Politics is so polarizing nowadays that it is hardly the subject to bring up if one of your main goals is to build a membership that works together to ensure that we are successful in all of our efforts. I believe that we have made significant progress in the last few years. The gains that we have made at the bargaining table on the last two contracts only happened due to our strength and solidarity. The problem is, nowadays the opponent that stands in front of us, not just at the bargaining table but in all our endeavors, isn't the company. The Republican Party and their billionaire corporate allies are out to destroy unions and inflict economic harm on all working people. One only has to look at Iowa's last legislative session for proof. Some examples are:

In February, 2017 Republicans passed House File 291. This law stripped collective bargaining rights from more than 120,000 public sector workers in Iowa. This law makes it so you can only bargain for wages in contract talks, nothing else. This bill, that they hoped would destroy unions, makes it illegal to have dues automatically deducted from members paychecks like we do. All unions must have a recertification election before every round of bargaining. Every non vote is counted as a no vote. Our sisters and brothers have done an amazing job by recertifying nearly all of the bargaining-units since this law went into effect. This anti worker legislation was pushed by Americans for Prosperity, the anti- union political organization chaired by David Koch. The only person who was allowed in the room to witness Governor Branstad's signing of this disastrous bill was Drew Klein, who is the state chair for Americans for Prosperity.

In March of 2017 Republicans passed HF518 which made it much more difficult for workers who were injured on the job to qualify for workers compensation benefits. Since the passage of this legislation we have seen benefits drastically cut. Some are receiving 1/4th the benefit they would have previously received.

In April, 2017 Republicans passed SF438 which prohibited cities and counties from using Project Labor Agreements (PLA's) on construction projects. The PLA's ensure the public's safety by having skilled labor do the work, not some out of state non-union crew who are notorious for their shoddy workmanship. Republicans also passed HF203 that eliminated Davis/Bacon on secondary roads and bridges. Davis/Bacon ensures that laborers and mechanics will be paid the prevailing wage of the area while working on the project.

When you look at all this anti-union, anti-worker legislation and add it to the Republican passed legislation that continually underfunds our schools, closed virtually all facilities that provide services for the mentally ill, and the disastrous privatization of the state's Medicaid program, it is absolutely clear that the Republicans in power are working for someone else and not for the working people in Iowa. The Republicans have already stated that private sector unions like us are next. It is time for a change! I know that our members vote for their choice of candidates for a multitude of reasons and I respect everyone's choices. First, I'm asking that every one of you go out and vote on Tuesday, November 6th. Early voting has already started. Secondly, I'm asking that you **VOTE YOUR JOB, and LOBBY YOUR HOBBY!!!**

In Solidarity,

Steve Vonk

President USW Local 310L

USW 310L VOTING GUIDE

Take this Voting Guide to the polls and vote for the union endorsed candidates

Vote Tuesday, November 6th

Polls are Open 7:00 AM-9:00 PM

REMEMBER: There is no more straight party voting so make sure you vote for all categories on the ballot and turn the ballot over to vote for all races.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES				
<i>District 1</i> Abby Finkenauer	<i>District 2</i> Dave Loeb sack	<i>District 3</i> Cindy Axne	<i>District 4</i> J.D. Scholten	
GOVERNOR and LT. GOVERNOR				
Fred Hubbell and Rita Hart				
STATEWIDE OFFICES				
<i>Secretary of State</i> Deidre Dejean	<i>Auditor of State</i> Rob Sand	<i>Treasurer of State</i> Mike Fitzgerald	<i>Secretary of Agriculture</i> Tim Gannon	<i>Attorney General</i> Tom Miller
STATE SENATORS				
<i>Senator District 11</i> Sara Ramsey	<i>Senator District 13</i> Vicky Brenner	<i>Senator District 15</i> Dan Neiland	<i>Senator District 17</i> Tony Bisignano	<i>Senator District 19</i> Amber Gustafson
<i>District 21</i> Claire Celsi	<i>District 23</i> Herman Quirnbach	<i>District 25</i> Tracy Freese		
STATE REPRESENTATIVE				
<i>District 12</i> Peter Leo	<i>District 20</i> Warren Varley	<i>District 21</i> Denise O'Brien	<i>District 25</i> Ryan Marquardt	<i>District 26</i> Scott Ourth
<i>District 27</i> Richard Foster	<i>District 28</i> Ann Fields	<i>District 29</i> Wes Breckenridge	<i>District 30</i> Kent Balduchi	<i>District 31</i> Rick Olson
<i>District 32</i> Ruth Ann Gaines	<i>District 34</i> Bruce Hunter	<i>District 36</i> Marti Anderson	<i>District 37</i> Andrew Rasmussen	<i>District 38</i> Heather Matson
<i>District 39</i> Karin Derry	<i>District 40</i> John Forbes	<i>District 41</i> Jo Oldson	<i>District 42</i> Kristin Sunde	<i>District 43</i> Jennifer Konfrst
<i>District 45</i> Beth Wessel-Kroeschell	<i>District 46</i> Lisa Heddens	<i>District 47</i> David Weaver	<i>District 48</i> Tim Winter	<i>District 49</i> Brenda Brink
<i>District 71</i> Mark Smith	<i>District 72</i> Mindy Benson	<i>District 76</i> Ann Egley	<i>District 80</i> Susan McDaniel	

How you vote is a personal decision. USW has done the research and believes these candidates are the best for working families.