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New Hart Research Shows Overwhelming Support for Employee Free Choice Act: Press Release from the National AFL-CIO (1/8/09)

Nearly four in five adults (78 percent) favor legislation that "makes it easier for workers to bargain with their employers for better wages, benefits and working conditions," according to new opinion research conducted by one of the country's most respected polling firms, and 73 percent specifically support the Employee Free Choice Act, legislation that would give workers the freedom to bargain collectively for a better life.

The survey of 1007 adults, conducted by Hart Research Associates from Dec. 4 to Dec. 10 and commissioned by the AFL-CIO, shows overwhelming support for the Employee Free Choice Act and its three main provisions.

"In today's economic squeeze, workers need the freedom to bargain their way into the middle class more than ever," said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. "This new research confirms that the vast majority of Americans support workers' freedom to form unions to improve their lives and support the Employee Free Choice Act, which is key to making our economy work for everyone."

Support for the Employee Free Choice Act is broad across political

party and state lines. Three-quarters of moderate/liberal Republicans, 87 percent of Democrats and 69 percent of Independents support the legislation. Opposition is confined to Republicans who identify as conservatives (36 percent of them support the Employee Free Choice Act).

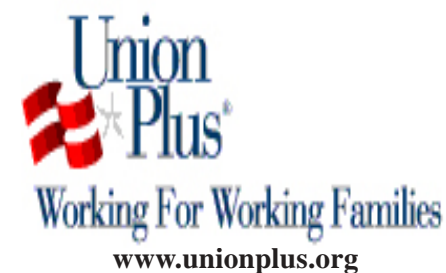
Of the three parts of the Employee Free Choice Act, the broadest public support is for the majority sign-up provision, which puts the choice of how to form a union in the hands of workers, not corporations. Seventy-five percent of adults favor allowing employees to have a union once a majority of employees in a workplace sign authorization cards saying they want one, including 44 percent who strongly support the idea. Strong majorities also support strengthening penalties for companies that illegally intimidate or fire employees who try to organize unions and establishing third party binding arbitration if necessary to ensure that workers who choose to form a union can get a contract.

The AFL-CIO is engaged in a massive campaign to mobilize the public around restoring workers' freedom to join unions. In all 50 states, proponents of the legislation have worked with local community and elected leaders to discuss the needs for the Employee Free Choice Act. Over one million people have signed cards indicating their support for legislation.

For more information visit
www.employeechoice.org

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The Secretary Speaks.....

Douglas E. Sizemore
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Sisters and Brothers,

As we begin this New Year with our country facing the most troubling economic times it has seen since the Great Depression, we must dedicate ourselves to do all we can to help working families that are suffering as a result of this severe economic downturn. The Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council is committed to use all available resources to make sure that we do everything possible to help our brothers and sisters in need.

Even in the face of the great challenges that are before us, thanks to your hard work, dedication, and commitment to change we go into 2009 with more hope than we have had in many years. Many may ask how could there possibly be a sense of hope when our country is facing its most troubling economic times since the Great Depression? We have hope because we understand that the swearing in of President Barack Obama on January 20th, 2009 marks the beginning of the end of policies that have hurt working families and devastated the middle class. Thankfully, we now have a President that knows that this struggling economy is a direct result of those failed policies.

On Inauguration Day, I could not help but reflect on the effort that all of you put forth to help make that day possible. From the first Labor 2008 training session in December 2007, to election night when the results came in and Barack Obama was projected to be our next President, working men and women were committed to change. As has been proven in the past, the Labor Movement was in the forefront to make change once again. With every rally you attended, every door you knocked on, every phone call you made, every leaflet you handed out at your worksite, every time you talked to a co-worker or a family member about the issues in this election that affect their lives, every mailing you sent out to your members, and last but not least, by casting your vote, you have helped make history.

I cannot describe in words how proud I am of each and every one of you for the dedication, commitment, and sacrifice that you made so that we could be successful on November 4th. Even though we still have a lot of work to do to get things turned around, we can all be proud that because of our collective efforts, January 20th, 2009 will be a reminder to working families for generations to come that we in the Labor Movement once again stood up and led the way to change when it was so badly needed in this great country of ours. By carrying on the proud tradition of the Labor Movement, future generations of workers will look back at what we have done with pride and a strong sense of confidence knowing that they too will have the ability to stand together and make a difference.

In this newsletter, you will find information about the Employee Free Choice Act. This critical legislation will give workers the freedom to bargain collectively for a better life. I ask that you focus the same dedication and effort you displayed for the 2008 election toward the passage of this historic legislation.

Fraternally,

Douglas E. Sizemore

Ohio AFL-CIO Workers' Comp Seminar February 16-20, 2009

Starts at 9am each day

Will end at 1pm on final day

NOTE: Start time on Monday is 1pm

The Renaissance Hotel
(50 North 3rd St. Columbus, OH)
\$300.00 per participant

For a registration form contact:
Stephanie Weisner
(513) 421-1846

AFL-CIO National Boycotts DO NOT BUY

Pacific Beach Hotel
Luxury Hotel, Waikiki, Hawaii
■ILWU

ECHOSTAR DISH NETWORK
Satellite Television Service
■CWA

BLUEMAN PRODUCTIONS
■International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE)

VINCENT BACH DIVISION, CONN-SELMER, INC.;
Elkhart, Indiana
■UAW

R.J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO CO.
■Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers & Grain Millers Union

Delegates Meeting

2/4/2009 at 7 PM

Laborers Local 265 Hall
(3457 Montgomery Road)



Happy New Year!

We hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season. This year will be a busy one, with the 2009 elections and other projects and events. Please take a moment now to add the Labor Council Delegates meetings to your 2009 calendar. The meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at the Laborers Local 265 Hall (3457 Montgomery Rd).

*** MARK YOUR CALENDARS ***

Coming this April....

LABOR RELIGION INTERFAITH DINNER (4/21//09)

Coming this May....

GOLF OUTING (5/8/09)

The details regarding these events will be announced as soon as possible.

Calendar

January 30: *Cincinnati Workers' Compensation Seminar*, 8:30am-1:00pm, Letter Carriers Hall (4100 Colerain Ave.)
Call Stephanie Weisner @ 513.421.8146 for more information.

February 4: *Delegates Meeting*, Laborers Local 265 Hall (3457 Montgomery Road) 7:00 PM

March 5- April 2 (every Thurs.): *UCAN*, United Way Building (2400 Reading Rd.) 6:00pm-8:30pm. Sign up by February, 27th. Contact Sandy Engel at 513-762-7126/sandy.engel@uwgc.org or Stephanie Weisner at 513-421-1846.

UPCOMING.....

April 21: *Annual Labor-Religion Dinner* *SAVE-THE-DATE*

May 8: *Annual CLC Golf Outing* *SAVE-THE-DATE*

*** *MARK YOUR CALENDARS* ***

Unless otherwise noted, call Stephanie Weisner at 513.421.1846 for more information

Inside:

- **Secretary Speaks.....**
- **Delegate Meeting Minutes (1/7)**
- **Workers' Comp Seminar Dates**
- **AFL-CIO DO NOT BUY LIST**

Next Delegates Meeting

February 4, 2009 - 7:00 PM

Laborers Local 265 Hall

(3457 Montgomery Road)