



SOLIDARITY

In The Sunshine

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Florida's Labor Movement Pulls off the Biggest Single Campaign Door-to-Door in Florida History!

"We are painters, electricians, plumbers, college faculty, state workers, classroom teachers, health care workers...you name it. We are here because we want to send a message that Florida's labor movement is more united than ever before behind Senators Obama and Biden" - Robert Ray, President West Central Florida Federation of Labor

On Saturday, October 18th, over 600 workers from Pensacola to the Florida Keys and all points in between gathered at the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) union hall to participate in the single largest canvass event in Florida history. Union members boarded vans and buses in the wee hours of the morning to hit the streets in this historically Republican area. We came to show that Florida's labor movement is 100% united behind the Obama/Biden campaign to bring desperately needed change to the lives of Americas working families and to make sure that all union members, regardless of where they live, heard our message. This effort was just one part of our commit-

ment to make direct contact with every single union member in the state for our endorsed candidates. We did the research and discovered that with over 600 participants knocking on thousands of doors, this event represented the largest single canvass event in the history of Florida politics.

The members, most wearing matching blue shirts, gathered for a rally held outside the union hall shortly before the volunteers left for their assigned neighborhoods. At the rally Robert Ray, the president of the West Central Florida Federation of Labor (the central labor council for the area) said, "We have gathered today in the heart of the I-4 corridor, in an area that most pundits argue will never vote for a Democratic candidate because we know that Florida's workers are hungry for the change that the Obama/Biden ticket will bring to the United States of America. We are painters, electricians, plumbers, college faculty, state workers, classroom teachers, health care workers...you name it. We are here because we want to send a message that Florida's labor movement is more united than ever before behind Senators Obama and Biden and a slate of the best local candidates we have ever had the opportunity to support." Mike Williams, President of the Florida Building Trades Council said, "While the Republicans are having a victory rally at a super fancy hotel in Orlando, you have all shown up from all over the state to roll up your sleeves and do the work to deliver Florida's 27 electoral votes for Barack Obama...of course that's what you always do...you are the labor movement!"

Obama Campaign Deputy Director Steve Hildebrand, Congressional candidate (District 12) Doug Tudor, Polk County Commission candidate (District 3) Nancy Z. Daly, Florida Senate Candidate (District 17) Scott Thompson and Lakeland City Commissioner Justin Troller also spoke at the rally.

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Following the walk, union members celebrated with music and barbeque until boarding vans and buses for their home cities. In a short statement, Florida AFL-CIO President Cindy Hall praised the workers saying, "Many of you got on buses and into vans at 3:30 this morning, 4:00 this morning, just to be here in the heart of an area that the pundits claim is a Republican area. You know that all workers, regardless of party affiliation, are sick and tired of the way things are and are hungry for change. Thanks to your efforts today, the pundits are going to have to change their tune when the polls close on November 4th."

See History Being Made for Yourself

Most of the so-called "liberal mainstream media" chose to attend the Republican Party of Florida's "Victory Rally" in Orlando taking place at the same time as our truly historic event. They chose to journey to a luxury hotel for an event that by most media accounts was poorly attended, compared to our event that met and greatly exceeded our wildest expectations. Fear not however, the power of the Internet allows you to get a good look at our labor walk.

Videos, including several interviews of the participants can be found on our own You Tube site at <http://www.youtube.com/user/FloridaAFLCIO>.

Pics of the event can be found on our website at www.flafclio.org



Get Out The Vote

The polls are changing every day Florida, indicating an incredibly dynamic and competitive race. Current polls vary from a 5 point lead for Barack Obama to a 2 point lead for John McCain. We also can't forget our numerous competitive congressional races and our critical legislative races. The Republican Party of Florida is widely recognized as having the best voter turnout programs in the country, which could eat up any of the leads our endorsed candidates currently enjoy in the polling. We need all hands on deck in the next two weeks and on Election Day. Make sure that you vote as soon as possible so that you can be available for our voter turnout efforts. To find out about the GOTV efforts in your area, please contact one of the Zone Coordinators or staff persons below to find out how you can plug in.

LOCATION	ATTENTION	CITY	CONTACT PH
South Florida CLC Office	Deborah Dion	Miami	305-593-8886
Broward County AFL-CIO	Sheena McCleary	Plantation	850-228-9842
Iron Workers Local 402	Pablo DeLeon	Riviera Bch	954-856-9142
IBEW Local 606	Stacy Stepanovich	Orlando	850-228-9831
IBEW Local 756	Joy Krom	Port Orange	386-756-2756
Space Coast AFL-CIO	Claudie Pouncey	Cocoa	321-298-9590
WC FL CLC Office	Joshua Anijar	Tampa	850-228-9841
CWA Local 3106	Nicholas Dix	Jacksonville	850-228-9829
IBEW Local 1205	Lanny Mathis	Gainesville	352-871-2345
Florida AFL-CIO	Phyllis Garrett	Tallahassee	850-566-9281
UA Local 366	Charlie Schyver	Pensacola	251-895-4047
Southwest Florida	Jim Kattner	Bonita Springs	239-641-8980
State Wide	Janet Conner	State Wide	954-240-9936



Protect Your Vote!

Every year since the passage of the Help America Vote Act following the 2000 stolen elections in Florida, the Florida Legislature has passed huge “overhauls” of Florida’s voting system. Why have we had a major overhaul every year, even before a major vote has taken place to measure the effectiveness of the prior year’s changes? Well, legislative leaders have been constantly tweaking our elections system to ensure that it maximizes the ability for the party in power to win elections. All the research shows that when voter participation goes up, the party in power doesn’t fare as well, so the goal has been to make voting as scary, complicated and difficult as possible. Here are a couple of reminders and clarifications help you protect your vote.

When to Vote

- ◆ Early voting is going on now, every registered voter is able to early vote at locations determined by your local Supervisor of Elections. Contact their office to find early voting locations.
- ◆ Election Day is Tuesday, November 4th from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM. **You have the right to vote if you are in line by 7:00 PM.**
- ◆ If you vote absentee, make sure you ballot is returned to the supervisor’s office by 7:00 PM on Election Day.

Where to Vote

- ◆ **You must vote at your assigned polling place on Election Day.** Check your voter information card now to find you polling location, or call your local supervisor.
- ◆ If you are at the wrong polling place, ask a poll worker for the right polling place for your precinct. **Don’t cast a provisional ballot at the wrong polling location, it will never be counted.**

While Voting

- ◆ **You must have a photo I.D. and a proof of your signature with you to vote.** Acceptable forms of I.D. include; Florida driver’s license, Florida I.D. Card, U.S. Passport, A debit or credit card with your photo on the card, military or student I.D. card, retirement center I.D. card, neighborhood association I.D. card or a public assistance I.D. card. **The address on your I.D. does not have to match your address on the voter file.**
- ◆ You have the right to carry voter information (palm cards etc.) into the voting booth with you.
- ◆ If you make a mistake on your ballot or the voting machine refuses your ballot, tell a poll worker. You have the right to have up to two replacement ballots. If you think there is a problem with the machine you can request a new machine.
- ◆ If someone challenges your right to vote ask for a written copy of the challenge that must have been made under oath. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot even if you are being challenged.
- ◆ Provisional ballots are not usually counted. **Only use a provisional ballot if you have exhausted all attempts to vote using a regular ballot.** If you can’t vote with a regular ballot make sure to cast a provisional ballot – it is the only way to make sure your vote is counted later.
- ◆ Take you time, read all instructions carefully and look over your ballot before casting your vote. **You have the right to spend up to 5 minutes in the voting booth.**





There is Help on Election Day!

Florida's electoral votes are absolutely critical for the McCain campaign so don't surprised if we see some of the same shenanigans...2000 style. If you experience problems or witness problems, don't hesitate to use these numbers.

- ◆ National Election Protection Hotline – 1-866-OUR-VOTE
- ◆ Florida Division of Elections Voter Assistance Hotline: 1-866-308-6739
- ◆ Florida Division of Elections Voter Intimidation Hotline: 1-877-868-3737
- ◆ U.S. Department of Justice: 1-800-253-3931

Don't Forget the Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Amend. #1 - Property Rights - No Position

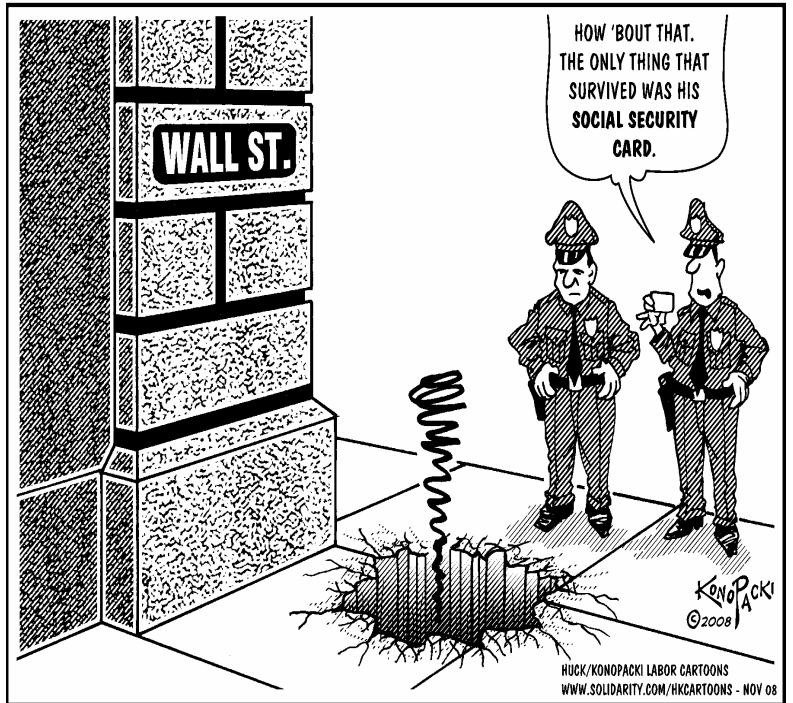
Amend. #2 - "Marriage Protection" - NO

Amend. #3 - Tax Exemption/ Home Improvements - NO

Amend. #4 - Tax Exemption / Conservation Land - NO

Amend. #6 - Tax Exemption / Working Waterfronts - NO

Amend. #8 - Local Option / Community Colleges - No Position



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