

Vote In Your Best Interest Nov. 6th



By Frederick Wright

Pennsylvania has passed the most stringent voter ID law in the country. One legislator was caught bragging about how the new law will allow Mitt Romney to win in Pennsylvania.

Where some of us are civic minded and vote in every election, others feel that their vote doesn't count and no matter who wins the election it will have no affect on their lives. The latter, I can attest to is completely false. Over the last two years, we hard workers' of the middle class are experiencing; deep layoffs, pay cuts, no cost of living increases, ever rising medical costs and increased workloads. These things are because of the Republican platform of; less taxes (for the wealthy), smaller government, right-to-work (for less) legislation and the dismantling of the social safety net. This political platform affects each and every one of us in our communities, families and workplaces.

This right-wing political agenda affects all of our employers who depend on contributions and government grants, in this weak economy. The JCC's, Kaiserman and the Klein branches depend on funding from the Jewish Federation, whose contributions are down

Unless you have been hiding under a rock for the past nine months, you have been inundated with infomercials, misinformation, tracking polls, and speeches about the upcoming Presidential election in November. This election cycle, we have seen the process changed to where the Republican legislature here in Penn-

sylvania has passed the most stringent voter ID law in the country. One legislator was caught bragging about how the new law will allow Mitt Romney to win in Pennsylvania. Where some of us are civic minded and vote in every election, others feel that their vote doesn't count and no matter who wins the election it will have no affect on their lives. The latter, I can attest to is completely false. Over the last two years, we hard workers' of the middle class are experiencing; deep layoffs, pay cuts, no cost of living increases, ever rising medical costs and increased workloads. These things are because of the Republican platform of; less taxes (for the wealthy), smaller government, right-to-work (for less) legislation and the dismantling of the social safety net. This political platform affects each and every one of us in our communities, families and workplaces. This right-wing political agenda affects all of our employers who depend on contributions and government grants, in this weak economy. The JCC's, Kaiserman and the Klein branches depend on funding from the Jewish Federation, whose contributions are down

due to the economy. JCC Klein also gets funding from the Philadelphia Corporation of Aging, whose funding is in jeopardy. JFCS receives funding from the Jewish Federation as well as the Department of Human Services. JEVS Human Services and SPIN receive most of their funding from the Pa Department of Welfare. DPW has been in a reduction in services mode for the last two years. SEAMAAC, Trevor's Campaign and TURN all receive grants from the City of Philadelphia. The city has been experiencing revenue shortfalls, thus either reducing their funding or keeping it flat.

Unless you are working for fun, you cannot afford to support the Republican right-wing extremist agenda. We all know someone who is currently unemployed or underemployed, because of the recession resulting from the economic policies of President Bush. Although the current economy is not ideal, it can become worse if more conservative social hawks get elected. We need to elect a Senator and President that cares about ordinary working class men and women. We need a congress that will pass the "Jobs Bill" that President Obama gave the House of Representatives over a year ago. We need a President who will protect Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, the Affordable Healthcare Act and a woman's right to make choices that are in line with her doctor, her family and her faith.

This is truly an election of choice and its time now to pay close attention to what's at stake. You need to vote for your best interests and not be swayed by the commercials and political ads of the far right.

Please vote, because your job may depend on the outcome of this election.

AFSCME Local 1739

Community and Social Agency Employees
Building Community • Protecting Dignity • Delivering the Future

Fred Wright
President

Caldwell Grant
Vice President

James Baylor
Treasurer

Ricky Taylor

Corresponding Secretary

Dorothy Lazenbury Gibbs
Recording Secretary

1606 Walnut Street • Philadelphia, PA 19103
Tel: 215.893.3710 • Fax: 215.732.4876



Election Day Volunteers Needed
PAID: \$100 (full day until polls close)
Tues., Nov. 6th
Sign up Today!
215-893-3726

Requirements:
- Be a DC 47 member.
- Be a registered voter.
- Attend training in Oct.

Chapter Reports

Members of Local 1739, their families and Pres. Fred Wright enjoyed themselves at Clementon Park Splash World in July.



American Friends Service Committee

The AFSC has decided to reorganize the program department by retrenching several union members in the goal leadership and constituency outreach programs. Management combined the job duties and responsibilities in these departments into new job descriptions and informed the Union that the incumbents of these previous positions did not have the skills for the new positions.

After a decade of cordial labor/management relations, we will have our first arbitration over at the AFSC. It seems that the AFSC, a Quaker organization who prides itself in Quaker values of peace and economic justice and consensus is operating like other “for-profit” corporations.

Union members will be receiving a pay increase on October 1st which will be directly linked to the Consumer Price Index as of August 30th.

Jewish Community Centers

Kaiserman: There has been a managerial change at JCC - Kaiserman. Executive Director Farrell Borine has left the agency and has been replaced in the interim by Amy Foster.

Klein: Management has been very accommodating to Local 1739, by allowing the union to utilize their space for meetings with other chapters located in the northeast. Both the union and management is encouraging union members to participate in the new Tax Deferred Compensation Plan. The agency will match employees' contributions up to a maximum of two percent (2%).

Tenant Union Representative Network

TURN and the union are scheduled for a wage re-opener in December, to determine a pay increase for 2012 and 2013.

Trevor's Campaign for the Homeless

Because of the PA State budget and the City of Philadelphia's fiscal crisis, Trevor's Campaign continues to struggle financially. This has adversely affected our union members.

Chapter Reports

Jewish Employment & Vocational Services

The union and JEVS negotiated a two-year contract extension until September 30, 2014. The new pact granted employees a two percent (2%) bonus on June 30th and a three percent (3%) wage increase on July 1, 2013. There will be a new medical insurance option for employees called the "Health Reimbursement Account" where a \$3,000 deductible must be met before the insurance starts. However, JEVS will pay the first \$1,500 of the deductible. Of course, employees may elect to continue to remain with their current plan, but at an additional cost.

In the very near future, JEVS will be adding GPS devices to

their vehicles in CLHS houses. These devices will allow JEVS to monitor employees driving habits, routes and usage of agency vehicles at all times.

After much work and lobbying expense by both JEVS and Local 1739, JEVS was unsuccessful in obtaining the Fiscal Management Services contract from Harrisburg. We will continue our lobbying efforts in Harrisburg to hopefully maintain our current funding and programs. Finally, Fred Wright continues to serve on the Governor's Pa Rehab Council which advises the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. The board consists of advocates for individuals with disabilities all across the State.

Jewish Family & Children's Service

As of the writing of the newsletter, Local 1739 and JFCS are in the midst of contract negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement. The Union negotiating team consists of; Lenore Borowski, Amal El-Nageh, Angela Griffiths, Barbara Lerner and Zakiyyah Snead.

of Human Services to increase the salaries of employees in the Truancy program. Some employees will receive an additional pay increase on top of the wage increase negotiated by the union. Key union supporter still haven't had their hours restored, but we continue to pursue our legal options.

Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Association Corporation

SEAMAAC received additional funding from the Department

Special People in Northeast

Local 1739 and SPIN are in wage re-opener negotiations which started on September 19th. The union negotiating team consists of; Andre Alexander, Michelle Hills, April Pettis, Mary Shore, Thomas Steele, Ricky Taylor, PJ Walking and Robert Wallington.

Local 1739 Membership Meeting

In accordance with Article V Section 1 of our Local Constitution, on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at our regularly scheduled General Membership meeting. The election committee will take nominations for the following offices;

President
Treasurer
Recording Secretary
Two (2) Trustees

Vice-President
Corresponding Secretary
Three (3) Members-at-Large

To be eligible for office, a member must be in good standing for one year immediately preceding the election.

**This meeting will be held at
AFSCME District Council #47
1606 Walnut Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.**

Living Wage Committee Meets



Councilman Wilson Goode

The first meeting of the Living Wage and Benefits Review Committee, established and constituted pursuant to Phila. Code § 17-1311 and Resolution No. 110807, happened in City Council Chambers on Tuesday,

Sept. 18. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 10:00 a.m. The new Philadelphia ordinance, introduced by Councilman W. Wilson Goode, required certain businesses that receive contracts or subsidies from the city of Philadelphia provide full-time employees with paid sick leave beginning July 1, 2012. The measure was approved by the Philadelphia City Council on October 13, 2011 and became law without the mayor's signature on October 26, 2011.

The ordinance amends Philadelphia's 21st Century Minimum Wage and Benefits Standard. It requires a covered employer to provide one hour of paid sick leave for every 40 hours worked. Under the ordinance, an employee of a business with more than five but fewer than 11 workers can accrue up to four days a year of paid sick leave and employees of larger businesses (greater than 11 workers) can accrue a maximum of seven days a year.

The ordinance's paid sick leave requirement does not apply to all businesses operating in the city of Philadelphia. The ordinance, which will be enforced by the newly created Living Wage and Benefits Review Committee, only applies to the following businesses:

The city of Philadelphia, including all its agencies, departments and offices.

For-profit service contractors, which receive or are sub-contractors on contract(s) for \$10,000 or more from the city in a 12-month period, with annual gross receipts of more than \$1,000,000.

Non-profit service contractors which receive or are sub-contractors on contract(s) from the city of more than \$100,000 in a 12-month period.

Recipients of city leases, concessions, or franchises, or subcontractors thereof, which employ more than 25 employees.

City financial aid recipients. Compliance shall be required for a period of five years following receipt of aid.

Public agencies which receive contract(s) for \$10,000 or more from the city in a 12-month period.

Mayor Nutter has indicated that he will invoke a provision of the ordinance that allows the city to waive the paid sick leave requirement if its enforcement results in additional, unaffordable costs to the city.



Tom Corbett, Governor
Carol Aichele, Secretary of the Commonwealth

PENNSYLVANIA'S VOTER ID LAW

FAQ – DEPARTMENT OF STATE IDENTIFICATION CARD

What is a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PHOTO ID CARD?

- Beginning in the end of August, 2012, PennDOT will begin issuing FREE Department of State photo ID cards that registered voters can use to vote at the polls.

Who is eligible for a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PHOTO ID CARD?

- Only registered voters who do not have another photo ID acceptable for voting, who do not possess all of the documentation required to obtain the FREE PENNDOT PHOTO ID and cannot obtain the needed documentation, or cannot obtain the documentation without the payment of a fee will be eligible for a FREE Department of State photo ID card. Examples of missing documents include a certified copy of a birth certificate or Social Security card. All other eligible voters will be given a FREE PENNDOT PHOTO ID.

Where will a voter be able to receive a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID CARD?

- Registered voters who cannot obtain the proper documentation needed for a FREE PENNDOT PHOTO ID card will be able to obtain a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID CARD at their local PennDOT Driver's License Center. PennDOT Driver's License Center locations can be found on the web at www.dot.state.pa.us or by phone through PennDOT's CUSTOMER CALL CENTER at 1-800-932-4600.

What is the process for obtaining a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PHOTO ID for voting?

- All registered voters seeking to obtain a FREE Department of State ID for voting purposes must first apply for a FREE PENNDOT PHOTO ID for voting.
- When a PennDOT customer service representative determines that a registered voter does not have the necessary documentation to receive a FREE PENNDOT PHOTO ID, the PennDOT employee will then begin the process of issuing a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PHOTO ID for voting.
- In order for a registered voter to obtain a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID for voting, a registered voter must complete an Oath/Affirmation form affirming they have no other acceptable identification and a [Request For Initial Issuance Of Pennsylvania Department Of State ID For Voting Purposes form](#).

✓ **Information requested** will include:

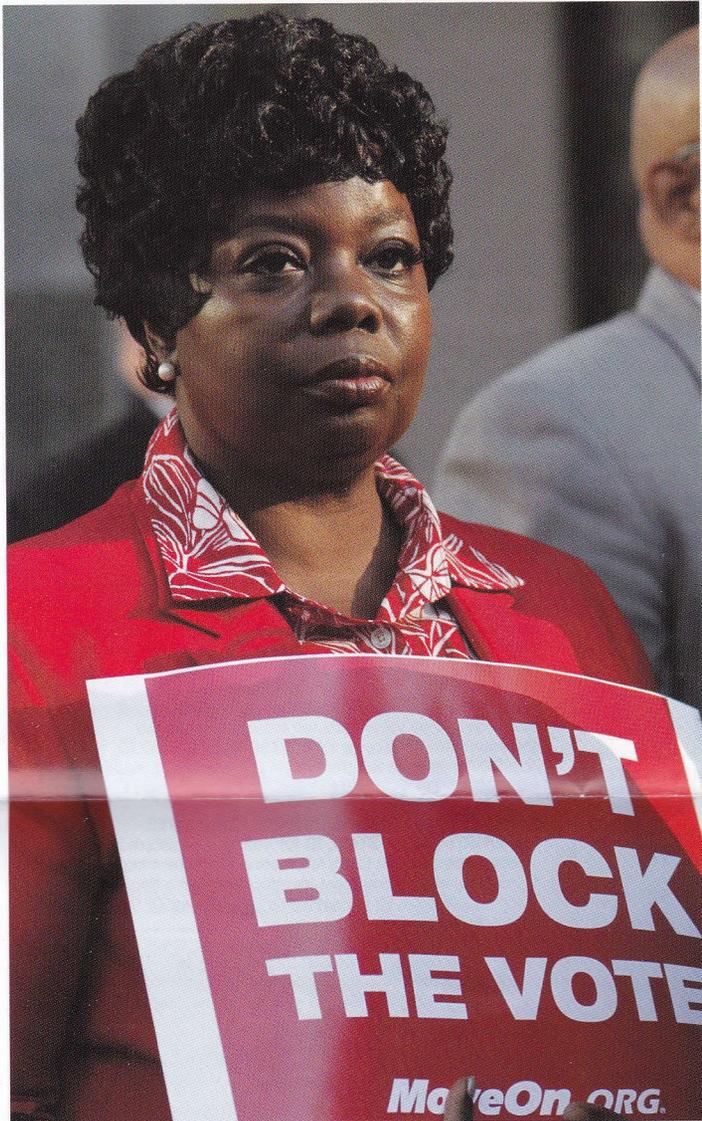
- A name
- Address
- Social Security Number
- Proof(s) of residence
- County
- Previous name and/or address if changed within the past 12 months

✓ **Voters who have registered within the past 30 days** will be able to indicate that by marking a box on the form.

- After confirming the voter's identity and voter registration with the Department of State, the registered voter will then be issued a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PHOTO ID Card.

City Election Commissioner Stephanie Singer would like to hear if you have any problems getting your Voter ID. You can call her office at 215-686-3460.

Pa Supreme Court Rules On Voter ID Law



Protester at Voter ID rally before Supreme Court hearing on Voter ID law

The Pa Supreme Court issued a ruling on Tuesday, Sept. 18, concerning Act 18 of 2012, commonly called the Pa Voter ID law.

Union Tech-Based Election Outreach

Workers United and the AFL-CIO have a new grassroots initiative that turns campaign grunt work – like phonebanking – into currency for other political activities.

The program, called “RePurpose,” is designed to put grassroots initiatives in the hands of the voters.

The program allows you to go onto the RePurpose website and search the candidates that the AFL-CIO supports. There, by volunteering to do a phone bank, knocking on doors, signing a petition, and many other ways of participation, you gain points on your

“The order of the Commonwealth Court is VACATED, and the matter is returned to the Commonwealth Court for further proceedings consistent with this Order. The Commonwealth Court is to file its supplemental opinion on or before October 2, 2012,” said the Supreme Court.

Governor Tom Corbett reacted quickly to the ruling. “Now that the court has upheld the constitutionality of the law, we can continue to focus our attention on ensuring that every Pennsylvania citizen who wants to vote has the identification necessary to make sure their vote counts,” Gov. Corbett said.

Stephanie Singer, chairwoman, Philadelphia Election Commission, is disappointed that the law was not thrown out entirely.

“I think the decision does go to the crux of a real problem with Simpson’s (Commonwealth Court Judge Robert E. Simpson Jr.) decision, which is that he based his decision on his guess, really his guess, that what the Department of State had planned in terms of voter ID would really take care of everybody,” Commissioner Singer said.

Meanwhile, State Rep. W. Curtis Thomas applauded the court’s decision. Thomas views this decision as a partial victory.

“In my opinion, that’s a victory and I applaud the four justices for their expedited stewardship in recognizing that the voter ID law is bad at its conception and worse in trying to implement.”

“I strongly encourage the courts to resolve this issue in a clear, concise manner before the last day to register in Pennsylvania.”

Secretary of the Commonwealth Carol Aichele, whose department oversees elections in Pennsylvania, also issued a statement:

“I am pleased Judge Simpson affirmed the constitutionality of the voter ID law. This law will reinforce the principle of one person, one vote. By giving us a reliable way to verify the identity of each voter, the voter ID law will enhance confidence in our elections.”

State Sen. Anthony H. Williams also weighed-in on the ruling.

“This ruling amounts to a victory today. By its own admission, the state cannot demonstrate that all the people who don’t have voter ID will have it by Election Day. There’s not enough staff, not enough materials, and they still haven’t reached all the people this would affect. Because there’s not enough time.”

The deadline to register to vote before the November 6, 2012 General Election is October 9.

account.

These points then get “RePurposed” toward that particular candidate, somewhat like money. You spend your points towards a phone bank, door to door canvass, even an ad. The more points toward a particular action, the more likely an ad gets put up or the more phone banks per week etc.

The candidates that can be searched are limited to the candidates that Workers United and AFL-CIO support..

The link to the AFL-CIO RePurpose website is: <http://www.afl-cio.org/Blog/Other-News/Introducing-RePurpose-Politics-Will-Never-Be-the-Same>

Know your "Weingarten Rights"

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the National Labor Relations Act gives workers the right to request union representation during investigatory interviews by supervisors, security personnel and other managerial staff. These are called Weingarten Rights.

An investigatory interview occurs if;

1. Management questions you to obtain information
2. You have reasonable apprehension that your answers could be used as a basis

for discipline or other adverse action.

You must ask for union representation either before or during an investigatory interview. Management does not have the responsibility to remind you of this right.

If your request is refused and management continues asking questions, you may refuse to answer. Your employer is guilty of an unfair labor practice and charges may be filed.

Therefore, if you are called to a meeting with management, please remember the following statement.

"If this interview could in anyway lead to my being discipline or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I

respectfully request that my union representative, officer or steward be present at this meeting. Until my representative arrives, I choose not to participate in this discussion". This statement above could save your job!

Local 1739 Trustees

Thomas Steele, Trustee
 Dolores Dorsey, Trustee
 Lenore Borowski, Trustee
**Executive Board Members
 at-Large**

Marie Askew
 Marie Seldon-Nkruma
 Riat Starling-Taylor

In Memorial

James Gary Wilson our beloved union brother of JEVS Orleans Technical Institute passed away on Wednesday, August 22nd. James was a Residential Electrical Instructor and union member of Local 1739 for approximately six years.

Rest in Peace Brother Wilson.



Local 1739
1606 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103



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