

VOTE
like your
RIGHTS
depend!
on it!

It's never been more
important to cast your ballot.

On **November 8**, we have the chance to pass the Workers' Rights Amendment that will enshrine workers' rights in the Illinois Constitution.

We can also elect representatives to congress, the state legislature, and the state supreme court who will stand up for the best interests of our members, our professions, and those we serve.



Illinois Federation of Teachers
A Union of Professionals

ift-aft.org facebook.com/iftaft @iftaft

unionlink

Members fighting powerfully for a **strong**
union and the future we *all* deserve.

#VoteYesForWorkersRights



DANIEL J. MONTGOMERY
President

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TEACHERS, AFT, AFL-CIO

The 2022 General Election is just a few weeks away. Inside this issue of *Union Link* you'll find information about how and when to cast your ballot, the candidates who have earned our support through the IFT's democratic Political Action Committee (PAC) process (Spoiler alert – **JB Pritzker** for governor and **Alexi Giannoulias** for secretary of state are among them!), and the important supreme court races. We are proud to endorse **Judge Elizabeth Rochford** in the race for the Illinois Supreme Court's Second District and **Judge Mary K. O'Brien** for the Illinois Supreme Court's Third District, both of whom are committed to bringing equity and fairness to the court.

This election is an important one; it's a critical step toward electing lawmakers in November who share our union's values and will strive to create the future we all deserve.

The Workers' Rights Amendment (WRA) will be the first question on your ballot and it should be foremost on voters' minds. Here's why.

Put simply, if passed on November 8, the WRA will guarantee the fundamental rights of workers to unionize and collectively bargain by enshrining them in the Illinois Constitution. It would be an historic achievement for working people in our state and nation; only three other states (Hawaii, Missouri, and New York) have guaranteed these basic, fair rights.

Sadly, 27 states have enacted so-called "right-to-work" laws, which are designed to reduce workers' rights, weaken our unions, and benefit big corporations.

Think back to just a few years ago, and you'll no doubt remember that Bruce Rauner and his billionaire cronies tried to strip our bargaining rights with his "Turnaround Agenda." Their plan was to eliminate our voice on the job and lower wages. Neighboring states (Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin) with similar laws have seen hourly wages reduced by 3 percent (on average).

Thanks to the collective strength of IFT members and our union partners, we were able to stop these devastating laws. By passing the WRA, we would prohibit such unfair laws from ever being enacted in Illinois.

The Workers' Rights Amendment would further empower educators and school staff to bargain with employers to put students first by negotiating for smaller class sizes, additional technology for students, and more classroom resources.

And by passing the WRA, we would improve safety for all workers and our communities by protecting the right to speak up about dangerous conditions like food safety and low hospital staffing that puts patients' lives at risk.

As a dedicated public servant and proud union member, I know you understand better than anyone why it is essential that all workers have the right to bargain for fair pay, safe working conditions, and essential benefits. Like me, you've seen firsthand how having a union contract benefits not only you and your family, but our students and communities.

Union contracts ensure fair treatment for all – including equal pay for women and people of color. Fair wages help to create a stronger middle class that benefits union and non-union workers alike. The saying "a rising tide lifts all boats" could not be more true!

I urge you to learn more about the Workers' Rights Amendment and why you should support it. Tell your friends, family, and colleagues how the WRA will boost local economies and strengthen our communities. **Then, plan to vote YES to protect workers' rights when you cast your ballot in this important election.**

In solidarity,

Thoughts? Email me at emaildan@ift-aft.org.

ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

PROUDLY ENDORSES THESE ILLINOIS CANDIDATES



JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR



JULIANNA STRATTON
LT. GOVERNOR



MICHAEL FRERICHS
TREASURER



KWAME RAOUL
ATTORNEY GENERAL



SUSANA MENDOZA
COMPTROLLER



ALEXI GIANNOULIAS
SECRETARY OF STATE



Dues Redirection Notice

Union members who wish to redirect the portion (\$35) of their 2022-23 IFT per capita dues that might be used for contributions to political candidates may do so using the following process:

Obtain a numbered IFT redirection request form from your local president. (Only original numbered forms will be accepted. No photocopies.)

Fill out the form and return it to your local president. The president will certify (sign) the form to indicate your membership is in good standing in your local and mail your form to the IFT.

You may designate your redirection to one of the following Executive Board-approved alternative, non-political expenditures:

Carl J. Megel Special Education Scholarship

An IFT-sponsored scholarship awarded annually to a special education student.

IFT Robert G. Porter Scholarship

The union offers two \$10,000 scholarships annually to the children of IFT members who are high school seniors and will be enrolled in an Illinois public

university. Winning students receive \$2,500 per year for four years.

IFT Union Professional Development Program

The union's newest program designed to provide quality, accessible professional development opportunities for all IFT members.

Your redirection of the \$35 COPE (Committee on Political Education) portion of IFT dues will be good for the current dues year only and is not retroactive. You may reapply each year between Sept. 1-30.

Workers' Rights Amendment

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q WHAT IS THE WORKERS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT?

A The Workers' Rights Amendment (WRA) will be the first item on voters' ballots in the November election. If passed, the WRA will amend the Illinois Constitution to guarantee the fundamental rights of workers to unionize and collectively bargain.

Put simply, the Workers' Rights Amendment would guarantee the rights of workers to bargain for safe working conditions and fair pay and benefits.

Q HOW WILL THE WORKERS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT PROTECT MY RIGHTS?

A The WRA would prohibit Illinois from passing any state law (and any municipality from passing a local ordinance) "that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively over their wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment and workplace safety." That means **the WRA would prohibit the passage of any so-called "right-to-work" laws in our state, which are designed to reduce workers' rights and benefit big corporations.** Neighboring states (Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin) with these laws have seen reduced hourly wages (by 3 percent) and a lag in economic growth.

Q I'M A UNION MEMBER, SO MY RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED BY MY CONTRACT. WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT THE WORKERS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT?

A Union members receive benefits and protections in contracts bargained between the union and employer. But as we've seen in Illinois and other states, anti-union lawmakers and big corporations (for example, Bruce Rauner, Ken Griffin, and the Koch brothers) have tried to undermine or eliminate your right to collectively bargain. **By passing the WRA, we can permanently enshrine the fundamental right to collectively bargain in the Illinois Constitution.**

Q WILL THE WORKERS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT HELP SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS?

A YES! The Workers' Rights Amendment empowers educators and school staff to put students first by negotiating for smaller class sizes, improved technology for students, and additional classroom resources. These things have been proven to increase student learning, help teachers teach, and improve our schools.

Q HOW WILL THE WORKERS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT HELP THE ECONOMY?

A Union contracts guarantee fair treatment for all, including equal pay for people of color and women. When people can secure good jobs with fair pay, that boosts local economies. The WRA will put more money in families' bank accounts and strengthen our communities by building the middle class. This benefits everyone, both union and non-union workers alike.

NOVEMBER 8, HELP ILLINOIS' WORKING PEOPLE ACCESS GOOD JOBS AND SECURE A RESPECTED VOICE IN THEIR WORKPLACE. VOTE YES FOR WORKERS!

Q DOES THE WORKERS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT CHANGE ILLINOIS' LABOR LAWS?

A The amendment does not change our state's current labor laws, it only creates a constitutional floor for collective bargaining that will prevent future attacks on workers' rights like those we've seen in many other states.

Q HOW WILL THE WORKERS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY?

A The WRA will keep workers and our communities safe by protecting their right to speak up about dangerous situations without fear of being fired. Unsafe construction, food safety issues, and dangerously low hospital staffing are threats to everyone when workers are afraid to report these conditions.

Q WHEN CAN I VOTE FOR THE WORKERS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT?

A On Tuesday, November 8, 2022, Illinois voters will have the opportunity to vote YES to protect worker rights. (You can also vote early in-person in many communities beginning September 29 or apply to vote by mail. Learn more about how you can vote at ift-aft.org/vote.)

Q WILL THE WORKERS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT INCREASE MY PROPERTY TAXES?

A No. Workers don't determine property tax rates. Opponents of the WRA are trying to scare voters by saying the WRA will increase property taxes. What the WRA will do is guarantee the rights of workers to bargain for fair wages and benefits. This means Illinois families would be better able to afford the rising cost of everything from gas to groceries to property taxes.



Q HOW WILL THE WORKERS' RIGHT AMENDMENT APPEAR ON YOUR BALLOT?

A The WRA will be the first item on your ballot. You will be asked whether the Illinois Constitution should be amended to add a new section to the Bill of Rights Article of the Illinois Constitution that would guarantee workers the fundamental right to organize and to bargain collectively and to negotiate wages, hours, and working conditions, and to promote their economic welfare and safety at work. To support the Workers' Rights Amendment vote "Yes" on the question.

Q HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

A In the weeks ahead, please watch for more information about how we can pass the Workers' Rights Amendment.



For more information about the Workers' Rights Amendment, visit ift-aft.org/wra or contact your field service director.

NOVEMBER 8 GENERAL ELECTION | IFT-ENDORSED CANDIDATES

VOTE

ADVOCATING FOR OUR MEMBERS IS THE IFT'S TOP PRIORITY.

That's why we work to elect legislators in Springfield and Washington, D.C., who will stand up for the best interests of our members, our professions, and those we serve.



CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE

U.S. SENATE

Tammy Duckworth (D)

U.S. HOUSE

1st Jonathan Jackson (D)
2nd Robin Kelly (D)
3rd Delia Ramirez (D)
4th Chuy Garcia (D)
5th Mike Quigley (D)
6th Sean Casten (D)
7th Danny Davis (D)
8th Raja Krishnamoorthi (D)
9th Jan Schakowsky (D)*
10th Brad Schneider (D)
11th Bill Foster (D)
12th Chip Markel (D)
13th Nikki Budzinski (D)
14th Lauren Underwood (D)
17th Erin Sorensen (D)

STATEWIDE

JB Pritzker, Governor
Julianna Stratton, Lt. Governor
Kwame Raoul, Attorney General
Alexi Giannoulias, Secretary of State
Susana Mendoza, Comptroller
Michael Frerichs, Treasurer

IL SENATE

1st Javier Cervantes (D)
2nd Omar Aquino (D)
3rd Mattie Hunter (D)
4th Kimberly Lightford (D)
5th Patricia Van Pelt (D)
6th Sara Feigenholtz (D)
7th Mike Simmons (D)
8th Ram Villivalam (D)
9th Laura Fine (D)
10th Robert Martwick (D)
11th Mike Porfirio (D)
12th Celina Villanueva (D)
13th Robert Peters (D)
14th Emil Jones, III (D)

17th Elgie Sims (D)
18th Bill Cunningham (D)
19th Michael Hastings (D)
20th Cristina Pacione-Zayas (D)
21st Laura Ellman (D)
22nd Cristina Castro (D)
23rd Suzanne Glowiak Hilton (D)
24th Lauren "Laurie" Nowak (D)
25th Karina Villa (D)
26th Maria Peterson (D)
27th Ann Gillespie (D)
28th Laura Murphy (D)
29th Julie Morrison (D)
30th Adriane Johnson (D)
31st Mary Edly-Allen (D)*
34th Steve Stadelman (D)
36th Michael Halpin (D)
38th Sue Rezin (R)
39th Don Harmon (D)
40th Patrick Joyce (D)
41st John Curran (R)
42nd Linda Holmes (D)
43rd Rachel Ventura (D)
46th Dave Koehler (D)
47th Neil Anderson (R)
48th Doris Turner (D)
49th Meg Loughran Cappel (D)*
52nd Scott Bennett (D)
56th Kris Tharp (D)
57th Christopher Belt (D)
58th Terri Bryant (R)
59th Dale Flower (R)

IL HOUSE

1st Aaron Ortiz (D)*
2nd Lisa Hernandez (D)
3rd Eva Dina Delgado (D)
4th Lilian Jimenez (D)
5th Lamont Robinson (D)
6th Sonya Harper (D)
7th Chris Welch (D)
8th La Shawn Ford (D)
9th Lakesia Collins (D)*

10th Omar Williams (D)*
11th Ann Williams (D)
12th Margaret Croke (D)
13th Hoan Huynh
14th Kelly Cassidy (D)
15th Michael Kelly (D)
16th Kevin Olickal (D)
17th Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz (D)
18th Robyn Gabel (D)
19th Lindsey LaPointe (D)
21st Abdelnasser Rashid (D)
22nd Angie Guerrero-Cuellar (D)
23rd Edgar Gonzalez, Jr. (D)
24th Theresa Mah (D)
26th Kam Buckner (D)
27th Justin Slaughter (D)
28th Bob Rita (D)
30th Will Davis (D)
31st Mary Flowers (D)
32nd Cyril Nichols (D)
33rd Marcus Evans (D)
34th Nick Smith (D)
35th Frances Hurley (D)
36th Kelly Burke (D)
38th Debbie Meyers-Martin (D)
39th Will Guzzardi (D)
40th Jaime Andrade (D)
41st Janet Yang Rohr (D)
42nd Terra Costa Howard (D)
43rd Anna Moeller (D)
44th Fred Crespo (D)
45th Jenn Ladisch Douglass (D)
46th Diane Blaire-Sherlock (D)
49th Maura Hirschauer (D)
50th Barbara Hernandez (D)
51st Nabeela Syed (D)
52nd Mary Morgan (D)
53rd Mark Walker (D)
54th Mary Beth Canty (D)
55th Marty Moylan (D)*
56th Michelle Mussman (D)
57th Jonathan Carroll (D)

58th Bob Morgan (D)
59th Daniel Didech (D)
60th Rita Mayfield (D)
61st Joyce Mason (D)
62nd Laura Faver Dias (D)
63rd Brian Meyers (D)
66th Suzanne Ness (D)
67th Maurice West II (D)
68th Dave Vella (D)
70th Jeff Keicher (R)
72nd Gregg Johnson (D)
76th Lance Yednock (D)*
77th Norma Hernandez (D)
78th Camille Lilly (D)
79th Erin Slone (D)
80th Anthony DeLuca (D)
81st Anne Stava-Murray (D)
83rd Matt Hanson (D)
84th Stephanie Kifowit (D)
85th Dagmara "Dee" Avelar (D)*
86th Larry Walsh, Jr. (D)*
89th Tony McCombie (R)
92nd Jehan Gordon-Booth (D)
94th Norine Hammond (R)
96th Sue Scherer (D)
97th Harry Benton (D)
98th Natalie Manley (D)
103rd Carol Ammons (D)
104th Mike Marron (R)
111th Joe Silkwood (D)
112th Katie Stuart (D)
113th Jay Hoffman (D)*
114th LaToya Greenwood (D)
116th Dave Severin (R)
117th Patrick Windhorst (R)

ILLINOIS JUDICIAL

2nd Supreme Elizabeth Rochford (D)
3rd Supreme Mary K. O'Brien (D)
1st Appellate Debra Walker (D)
1st Appellate Raymond Mitchell (D)
2nd Appellate Chris Kennedy (D)
3rd Appellate Sonni Choi Williams (D)

*This list reflects only districts in which the IFT has endorsed a candidate. *Union Member*

Your VOTE is your voice

IFT members know what's at stake in November 2022. From passing the Workers' Rights Amendment to electing candidates who will stand up for workers' rights, protect employee pensions, and invest in the public education and services that benefit all Illinoisans.

In the **November 8 General Election**, the decisions about which candidates our union is endorsing were not made lightly, and they were made from the ground up. The IFT and our local unions worked hard over the last few months to ensure every member had the opportunity to have a voice in these important choices.

IFT political action committees (PACs) held meetings throughout the state where IFT members conducted interviews and reviewed voting records, position papers, questionnaires, and other information about candidates for the state legislature and congress. Regional PACs then forwarded their endorsement recommendations to the statewide PAC to finalize a list of endorsements before sending it to the IFT's elected executive board for approval.

No matter how you choose to vote, be sure to first review the **IFT's 2022 General Election endorsements on the previous page** to learn which women and men have earned our union's support through this rigorous process. Tear it out and take it with you to the polls, or download a copy at ift-aft.org/candidates.

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE.

Be sure to cast your ballot in this critical General Election on **November 8, 2022**.

IMPORTANT DATES

ELECTION DAY | **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

VOTE
like your
RIGHTS
depend!
on it!

MORE AT
IFT-AFT.ORG/VOTE

✓ REGISTER

First, check your registration status at ift-aft.org/vote. If you need to register, follow the prompts to do so online. **Grace Period is Wednesday, October 12, 2022 - Election Day. Election Day Registration & Voting is Tuesday, November 8, 2022.**

✓ VOTING BY MAIL

If you have not received a mail ballot application at your home address, visit the elections.il.gov to apply now.

✓ EARLY VOTING

You can also cast your ballot in person before Election Day at select locations. **Early voting is open now through Monday, November 7, 2022.**

✓ ELECTION DAY

If you don't vote early or by mail, Election Day registration and voting will still be available on **Tuesday, November 8, 2022.**

➤ #VoteYesForWorkersRights

President Montgomery stresses the importance of voting for pro-labor candidates and passing the Workers' Rights Amendment.

➤ Workers' Rights Amendment FAQs

Learn more about the Workers' Rights Amendment and why it is crucial to enshrine these rights in the Illinois Constitution.

➤ VOTE!

Important election information and a complete list of IFT's endorsements for the **November 8, 2022 General Election**.

events

➤ IFT Convention

October 21-23, 2022 | Marriott St. Louis Grand

➤ Fall ULI

November 5-6, 2022 | IFT Robert M. Healey Center



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A Union of Professionals

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I PLEDGE TO

VOTE YES
4W  **ORKERS**

MAKE A PLAN TODAY.

VOTER REGISTRATION

In-person registration is available through Election Day at select sites.

EARLY VOTING

Begins Thursday,
September 29.

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 8.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Contact your local union office or email volunteer@ift-aft.org to find opportunities in your area.

VISIT [IFT-AFT.ORG/VOTE](https://ift-aft.org/vote) FOR MORE INFORMATION.