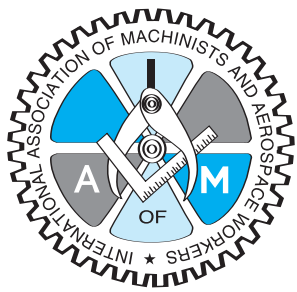


Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 1296  
Seattle, WA

IAM & AW District 160  
9135 15th Place South  
Seattle, WA 98108



# EVERGREEN LEADER

The Voice of I.A.M. & A.W. District 160 in Western Washington

Vol. No. 47



October 2008

## ELECTION 2008 EDITION

### Obama Will Restore Workers' Freedom to Form Unions and Bargain

Barack Obama is committed to ensuring that workers can choose to gain a union voice on the job and bargain with their employers for better wages, benefits and working conditions—without employer harassment or intimidation.

Obama Voted for Employee Free Choice Act. Obama co-sponsored and voted for the Employee Free Choice Act, which would restore workers' freedom to form unions and bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions without employer harassment. (H.R. 800, Vote 227, 6/26/07)

Obama Promises to Sign the Employee Free Choice Act into Law. Obama says, "We will pass the Employee Free Choice Act. It's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when." (Chicago Tribune, 3/4/07)

Obama: Employee Free Choice Act Gives Workers Majority Sign-Up. Obama said, "The Employee Free Choice Act will allow workers to form a union through majority sign-up and card-checks, and strengthen penalties for those employers who are in violation. The choice to organize should be left up to workers and workers alone. It should be their free choice."



Barack Obama



Joseph Biden

(Obama Senate Press Release, 6/20/07)

Obama Says Choice to Form Unions Belongs to Workers. "The choice to organize should be

left up to workers and workers alone. It should be their free choice." At an AFSCME forum, Obama said, "In this country, we believe that if the majority of workers in a company want a union, they should get a union. We can do this." (Take Back America Conference, 6/19/07; Obama Senate Press Release, 6/20/07)

Obama Says Workers Are Victimized by Current Law. Obama said workers are being victimized by current organizing laws. "The employers are abiding by the letter of the law...but it turns out we (still) have an overwhelming number of voters who would want to join a union...It would seem to me that we should change the law." (Investor's Business Daily, 3/30/07)

Obama Rallied With Resurrection Health Care Employees Promoting Passage of Employee Free Choice Act. Obama

attended a rally of 2,000 hospital employees, union members and supporters promoting passage of the Employee Free Choice Act. "Keep marching for justice," Obama told the Resurrection workers. "Where there is injustice anywhere, it suppresses justice everywhere. And organized labor has a history of bringing about justice." The rally brought attention to the Resurrection workers' campaign to form a union with AFSCME. (AFSCME 31, 3/5/07)

Obama Voted for Collective Bargaining Rights for Airport Screeners. Obama supported an amendment granting 43,000 airport screeners limited collective bargaining rights without the ability to strike or negotiate for higher pay. (S.Amdt. 316 to S.Amdt. 275 to S. 4, Vote 64, 3/7/07)

Obama Publicly Supports Workers Trying to Form Unions and Gain Contracts. In addition to his support for Resurrection staff, Obama has publicly supported workers in organizing and bargaining campaigns many times, from walking a picket line with Congress Hotel employees last year in Chicago to refusing to cross the picket line of striking television writers and urging the head of WMUR-TV in New Hampshire to negotiate a fair contract. (AFL-CIO Now blog, 11/26/07, 12/4/07, 12/28/07)

### Obama Would Create Good Jobs and Protect Wages

Barack Obama believes in an "aggressive strategy to create good, middle-class jobs" and would invest in education, training and workforce development to create high-wage jobs and compete in a global economy.

#### Obama Would Strengthen the Renewable Energy Sector to Create New Jobs.

Obama proposes a federal Renewable Portfolio Standard and to extend the Production Tax Credit, which have the potential to create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and increase renewable energy production. (Obama for America website)

#### Obama Voted Against Privatizing of Federal Jobs.

(S.Amdt. 4895 to H.R. 5631, Vote 234, 9/6/06) Obama voted for a major highway and transit program to create one million jobs. Obama voted for a six-year, \$286 billion reauthorization of the federal highway and transit construction program that would create one million jobs protected by Davis-Bacon prevailing wage standards. (H.R. 3, Vote 200, 7/29/05)

#### Obama Opposed Disqualifying Millions of Workers from Overtime and Equal Pay Protections.

Obama voted against a measure that would have disqualified as many as 10 million workers from minimum wage, overtime pay and equal pay protections under the Fair Labor Standards Act. (S.Amdt. 128 to S. 256, Vote 27, 3/7/05)

#### Obama Supports Prevailing Wage and Project Labor Agreements.

Obama opposes stripping prevailing wage requirements from bridge construction projects and says, "The government uses project labor agreements to encourage completion of projects on time and on budget." (S.Amdt. 2844 to H.R. 3074, Vote 334, 9/12/07; Barack Obama speech to Building Trades Conference, 4/15/08)

#### Obama Voted to Raise the Federal Minimum Wage in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

He also opposed repealing the federal minimum wage. (S.Amdt. 4322 to S. 2766, Vote 179, 6/21/06; S.Amdt. 44 to S. 256, Vote 26, 3/7/05; H.R. 2, Vote 23, 1/24/07; S.Amdt. 116 to S.Amdt. 100 to H.R. 2, Vote 24, 1/24/07)

#### Obama Voted for Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

Obama voted for the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to restore protections against pay discrimination that were eliminated by a U.S. Supreme Court decision. (H.R. 2831, Vote 110, 4/23/08)

### Clinton Rallies Machinists for Obama

After a rousing address to the Convention and a call to endorse Presidential candidate Barack Obama, Senator Hillary Clinton received an honorary IAM membership, only the third person in the last sixty years to do so.

Shouts of welcome echoed through the halls of the Convention when delegates gave a rousing welcome to a close friend of the Machinists union, Senator Hillary Clinton. The packed convention hall rose to their feet repeatedly during Clinton's remarks and displayed unequivocal support for her request to back the candidacy of Illinois Senator Barack Obama.

"You were with me from the start, and I want you to know that I will stand with you as we try to change what's going on in this country," Clinton told the delegates. "I believe this country is worth fighting for, and that's why I am fighting to elect Barack Obama the next president of the United States.

"I don't think there's ever been higher

stakes in an election than what we're facing this November. Barack and I may have started on different paths, but we are on one journey now, and it's a journey to take back our country because Americans do better when we have a Democratic president," declared Clinton.

"I know Senator Obama. I've seen his passion and determination. He understands both the economic stresses here at home and the strategic challenges around the world," said Clinton. "We've got to start with a president who actually understands the changes we have to make. And no one has more at stake in this election than the American labor movement."

Immediately following her remarks, delegates unanimously passed a resolution endorsing Barack Obama for president. "This union is not half-hearted with its endorsements," said IAM President Tom Buffenbarger, who was an early and strong



Hillary Clinton

supporter of Sen. Clinton in the primary race. "We will have boots on the ground in every state to make sure our members understand that Barack Obama is the best chance in a generation to reclaim the American Dream for working families."

The endorsement of Obama will trigger a massive education campaign among IAM members and extensive publicity in union publications and worksites nationwide. The IAM is a significant political presence in the key industrial states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin.

The IAM, which was the first union to endorse Clinton's presidential campaign, paid tribute to the close friendship with the Senator from New York by awarding an honorary IAM membership, only the third person in the last sixty years to do so.

#### NOTICE

**Local Lodge 695** will be voting to continue their current dues assessment at their regular meeting in November. 7:00 pm November 12, 2008  
119 1/2 North Capitol Way  
Olympia, Wa

#### ATTENTION LOCAL LODGE 289 MEMBERS

At the 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 5th at the Local Lodge 289 meeting at the Union Hall (Boeing strike may force a new location) we will vote to continue our existing one (1) year dues assessment.

**\$1.00 To the Special Fund (our savings account)**  
**\$1.00 To the Education Fund (send members to various schools)**  
**\$2.00 To the General Fund (operating budget)**

The vote will be to continue this assessment for 2009.

## WASHINGTON GOVERNOR'S RACE

### Gregoire Has Earned Our Vote

Gov. Gregoire has been a strong union supporter since day one. She has worked hard to protect the collective voice of working men and women. Under her leadership, the state has negotiated several contracts with successful results.

Gov. Gregoire grew up in Auburn and was raised by a single mother who worked as a short order cook. Her mom worked hard everyday and taught her what it's like to take on tough challenges. From her experiences growing up, Gov. Gregoire understands how difficult it can be for those struggling to make a living and she is determined to continue strengthening our economy so working families can prosper.

Over the last four years Gov. Gregoire helped create programs that train young people with the skills they need to succeed in union jobs, manufacturing and service trades. She doubled the amount of apprenticeships and created Running Start for the Trades, which connects high school students to apprenticeship programs.

It's programs like these that helped make it

possible for Gov. Gregoire to bring 225,000 new jobs to Washington in her first term. Many of those jobs are good-paying union jobs, in manufacturing, construction and the service trades.

When she took office, Gov. Gregoire faced a \$2.2 billion budget deficit, but still managed to balance the state's budget without compromising her values, and without cutting funding for health-care and education. She established a constitutionally protected rainy day fund to increase Washington's budget reserve and safeguard the state in the event of an economic crisis.

Right now our state is experiencing the fallout of the national economic crisis and because of Gov. Gregoire's leadership our state will weather this turbulent storm better than most states across this country.

Gov. Gregoire is a dedicated leader who will always stand up for working men and women. She will continue to take on tough challenges, create good-paying jobs and grow the state's economy from the working class on up.



Chris Gregoire

### Gregoire Meets Workers on the Job

"We need to keep working and we need to put America back to work," said Governor Chris Gregoire as she donned hard hat, safety vest, glasses and even gloves to get out to three different work sites in the Puget Sound area. She came to thank building trades members for their commitment to her and the partnership they have developed over the past four years.

Speaking at Tacoma General Hospital, Governor Gregoire told more than 70 workers, "When we came into office, we made a commitment that we would work together and we have."

The Governor reminded the workers that 4 years earlier the legislature hurt construction workers when they slashed UI benefits and stopped 2 quarter averaging, but once in office, she restored those benefits and introduced apprentice utilization as well.

"We have doubled the number of apprenticeships in the state," she said. "We want our young folks involved in a trade... so we started 'Running Start for the Trades' and it is working. We've put billions of dollars into construction so that locals will be able to build the future communities across our state," she told the crowd. "We've put over \$13 billion in construction transportation alone."



Gov. Gregoire, left, meets with construction workers at Tacoma General Hospital.

## What Union Members Should Know About Governor Chris Gregoire

Delegates representing labor unions across the State of Washington voted UNANIMOUSLY in May to support the reelection of Gov. Chris Gregoire in 2008. Why?

Following is a list of some examples of pro-working family policies and legislation that Gov. Chris Gregoire has supported during her first term as Governor of Washington. Many other worker-friendly legislators share in the credit for these accomplishments, but Gov. Gregoire's support -- whether it was by signing legislation, by requesting legislation, or by implementing policies through state agencies in her administration -- was critical for each one of these accomplishments.

#### Gov. Chris Gregoire's accomplishments for Washington's Working Families:

- Created 222,000 new jobs
- Washington ranked as the 3rd Best State to Do Business in Forbes Magazine.
- Washington ranked 4th in union membership density, proving that creating a good climate for Washington's working families also helps business.
- Lowest unemployment in the country.
- Highest minimum wage in the country.
- On track to ensure every Washington child has health care insurance by 2010.
- Named "Public Official of the Year" by Governing Magazine.
- Washington State earned a prestigious A- ranking by The Pew Center on the States for its performance in managing public resources.
- The Governor's accountability effort, Government Management Accountability and Performance (GMAP), was selected as a Top 50 program by Harvard's Kennedy School. This program holds state agencies responsible for their performance and is used to show citizens that their tax dollars are being wisely invested.

#### 2008 Legislative Session:

- Laid the groundwork to create 25,000 family wage, green economy (collar) jobs in Washington State.
- Signed a supplemental capital budget that authorizes \$277 million in construction which will support more than 1,100 jobs a year over the next four years including nearly \$1 B school construction.
- Helped create and institute new heat stress rules to ensure that workers toiling in high temperature/humidity conditions are safe and protected from undue heat stress injuries.
- Signed the Working Families Tax Credit giving 350,000 low-wage working families in Washington a 5% tax

rebate to help deal with economic realities.

- Signed a bill granting continuation of time-loss and medical benefits if an employer appeals those benefits ensuring that injured workers will not be forced to settle claims for less than they would have been entitled if an employer questions their claim.
- Signed a \$3 million initiative for a joint labor/management apprenticeship program for the IAM to train and educate workers in new composite technology and aerospace related fields.
- Signed legislation authorizing construction for up to six new ferries for communities served by the Washington State Ferry system. The legislation also calls for the ferries to be built in Washington, with the goal of maintaining and growing the maritime building industry, providing local family-wage jobs and maintaining Washington's shipbuilding infrastructure.
- Approved loans totaling nearly \$278 million to 52 Washington communities by the state Public Works Board. The loans will help local governments improve sanitary sewer, solid waste, road and domestic water infrastructure while creating good family wage jobs.
- Granted collective bargaining rights for academic employees at Washington State University.
- Signed a bill to begin financing the conversion of part-time to full-time faculty positions at community and technical colleges.
- Signed agreement between Washington State hospitals and major nurse organizations to enhance patient safety by improving hospital staffing policies.
- Increased salaries for Washington teachers.
- Signed legislation to place a labor representative on the forest practices board.
- Made sure Viaduct and 520 construction improvements keep rolling.

#### 2007 Legislative Session:

- Requested legislation that began "Running Start to the Trades" to return the industrial arts education as a high-wage, high-demand profession to better inform and prepare students to receive college level education and earn while they learn.
- Placed \$8 million in Safety Health and Innovative Programs grants to support Labor's increased safety awareness and health on the job.
- Negotiated and signed a state budget that includes \$3.3 billion in capital expenditures, creating thousands of good paying jobs.

- Negotiated and signed a transportation budget that creates \$4.6 billion in new transportation projects, creating thousands of good paying jobs.
  - Signed collective bargaining agreements with over twenty state employee unions that provide significant overall salary increases and additional adjustments for many categories of state workers.
  - Created a Container Ports Initiative that invests significant dollars to help with freight mobility issues and to modernize our ports for the future.
  - Negotiated and signed an education budget that invests over \$900 additional dollars per pupil in the K-12 system (the largest single investment in the history of the system) to lower class size and improve teacher salaries; adds 10,000 slots to our higher education institutions, including an additional 300 for apprenticeship programs at the community colleges; adds \$85 million in scholarships and grants to be sure that all children, regardless of income, have an opportunity to get the education they deserve.
  - Signed legislation that corrects the hour bank problem for building and construction workers, investigates the underground economy, reforms the vocational rehabilitation system (Governor's request legislation), corrects problems in the prevailing wage surveys, improves the benefits in the workers' comp. system, protects workers in the self-insured system.
  - Signed legislation to promote crane safety and require better oversight of contractors.
  - Signed legislation to allow adult family home providers to collectively bargain.
  - Signed legislation to help unions clarify the use of non-members agency fees monies.
  - Helped negotiate and signed legislation that provides for family leave insurance to help working families care for a newborn or adopted child.
  - Signed legislation that requires a study and recommendations for dealing with employers that do not provide health benefits.
  - Signed legislation that requires 15% apprenticeship utilization requirement for school construction projects over a certain dollar amount.
  - Began twenty initiatives to address both cost and access to health care.
- #### 2005-06 Legislative Sessions:
- Backed and signed a \$3.3 billion construction budget that provides more than 24,000 jobs for Washington workers.
  - Negotiated and signed an \$8.5 billion

transportation package that will create thousands of good, family wage jobs across the state.

- Approved legislation to require that 15 percent of workers on all state projects are apprentices, ensuring with each building we build, we are investing in the workforce for the next building.
- Supported the "Helmets to Hardhats" program that provides returning service men and women with information and access to a training and education package to help them get started on a productive career in the building and construction trades.
- Signed legislation to roll back four quarter averaging of unemployment insurance benefits in order to have time to produce a long-term solution that doesn't disproportionately affect workers in seasonal industries.
- Approved legislation to provide outside audits of the industrial insurance funds to ensure confidence and transparency in the workers' compensation system.
- Provided changes to Unemployment Insurance system to eliminate provisions that disproportionately reduced benefits for women, people of color, and low-income workers, and to protect the experience rated tax structure that many employers want to preserve.
- Enacted Legislation to give full collective bargaining rights to the State Patrol.
- Approved a budget that fully funded negotiated raises for state employees.
- Signed seven master agreements with state employees negotiated through the collective bargaining process for the first time in Washington history.
- Approved legislation to improve training programs for long-term care workers.
- Chose to sign as her first bill apprenticeship utilization legislation that placed Washington as a leader in addressing the skills gap in the construction industry that has created double the opportunity for the next generation of building and construction trades professionals.
- Called together Washington Learns to begin breaking down the transitional barriers between K-12 and higher education and to address serious funding inequities and to improve student outcomes.
- Signed a proclamation supporting veterans civilian reemployment and career opportunities in Helmets to Hardhats.

See page 3 for information on Gregoire's opponent, Dino Rossi

## 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT RACE

# Darcy Burner Stands Up for the Middle Class

First of all, I want to thank the Machinists for your early and strong support in my campaign.

Today, more than ever, we need strong organizations like the Machinists Union working to strengthen the middle class. The cost of living and health care continue to rise, wages are dropping, and Americans are seeing their debt grow and their savings shrink. Our country is headed in the wrong direction. Too many good paying jobs in this country are being eliminated or outsourced, and under the policies of the last few years things are getting worse, not better.

We are in the middle of a financial crisis, but

we're also in the middle of a much more fundamental economic crisis. The middle class – the backbone of the American economy – is shrinking, and for too many working families the American dream is slipping farther away. Rather than bailing out Wall Street with billions of taxpayer dollars, we should be working to help ordinary Americans on Main Street.

Our current situation isn't inevitable. We can change things in Washington D.C. and start putting the middle class first again. My economic plan calls for targeted investments to create new jobs here at home, a return to fiscal responsibility, and a \$4,000 tax-cut for middle

class families. And we need to put in place new policies that will strengthen our unions so that they can once again deliver a better life quality of life for the people of this region and this country.

But I would not be able to bring this promise of change for Washington without the support of the Machinists Union and the many other groups that fight every day to protect the middle class and give every American the opportunity to realize the American dream. I look forward to working with you – and for you – in Washington, D.C. next year.

– Darcy Burner



Darcy Burner

## Reichert Has Been Ineffective as a Member of Congress

The Burner for Congress campaign late yesterday released a 30-second television ad on local broadcast and cable that provides voters with important information, drawn from independent non-partisan sources, about Rep. Dave Reichert's lack of effectiveness as a member of Congress. The Burner campaign believes that after nearly four years in office, Congressman Reichert's lack of accomplishments and low effectiveness rating is a serious weakness.

Reichert's poor performance in office is widely recognized even by his Republican colleagues. Nationally syndicated conservative political columnist Bob Novak, until his recent retirement widely recognized as the mouthpiece for conventional wisdom among Republican Party insiders in Washington, D.C., wrote earlier this year that Reichert, "has not distinguished himself during three years in Congress" and said that his "sole qualification" for a seat on the powerful Appropriations Committee "appears to be that he is the most endangered Republican House member in 2008 and needs to bring home the bacon to Seattle." (Despite his very public pleas, Reichert's Republican colleagues eventually passed Reichert over for the Appropriations seat, instead awarding it to Alabama Congressman Jo Bonner, a champion of efforts by Airbus to strip thousands of Boeing jobs from the 8th Congressional

District.) As voters learn the truth about Reichert's poor performance in office the Burner campaign has good reason to believe they will choose not to reelect him this November.

### Reichert has not passed any substantive legislation

In his four years Reichert has not passed a single bill into law. According to Govtrack.us, an independent congressional tracking service, "Dave Reichert has sponsored 31 bills since Jan 4, 2005, of which 27 haven't made it out of committee and 0 were successfully enacted." Similarly, OpenCongress.org, a joint project of the Participatory Politics Foundation and the Sunlight Foundation, also points out that Reichert has passed no bills since taking office. In fact, the sum total of Reichert's direct legislative accomplishments is the passage through the House of two non-binding resolutions, one declaring the month of April "Autism Awareness Month" and a second recognizing the efforts of women scientists and technologists. The voters of the 8th Congressional District have a right to expect more results from their representative in Congress.

### Reichert is ranked 401st in effectiveness

According to the widely-cited effec-

tiveness ratings compiled annually by Congress.org, a non-partisan independent rating service, Reichert is ranked as the 401st most effective member of Congress in 2008 (out of 439 members). This is a slight improvement over his 2007 ranking of 419, but Reichert remains mired in the bottom 10 percent of U.S. House members.

Reichert has himself previously acknowledged the legitimacy of the Congress.org ratings. As the Tacoma News Tribune pointed out at the time, as recently as this April Reichert's campaign web site included a link to the Congress.org site which was quietly removed in an effort to conceal Reichert's rock-bottom ranking. And earlier this year the Reichert campaign was passing out campaign literature that used a long out-of-date Congress.org ranking to claim, falsely, that Reichert is "ranked 2nd most powerful U.S. Representative in Washington State."

Actually, the 401st ranking places Reichert dead last among the nine members of the Washington State delegation in effectiveness. While membership in the minority party and his relatively short tenure in Congress have some influence on the ratings, it should be noted that Reichert ranks a full 45 slots behind Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers of the 5th Congressional District. McMorris

Rodgers is also a Republican who entered Congress at the same time Reichert did. In fact, compared with the members who entered Congress in 2005 along with Reichert, he is ranked a lowly 33rd of 40 in effectiveness.

Reichert's effectiveness rating is so low that he significantly trails even some non-voting members of the House representing unincorporated territories of the United States like American Samoa (rank: 344) and Guam (rank: 313).

### Reichert scores well in one category: earmarks

In the specific criteria used by Congress.org to compile the effectiveness rankings, Reichert scores well in only one area: earmarks. Reichert is currently ranked 73rd in the House of Representatives in his effectiveness in earmarking taxpayer dollars. In 2007, Reichert secured 36 earmarks valued at \$27,267,450, according to data compiled by Taxpayers for Common Sense.

The people of Washington State's 8th Congressional deserve effective representation in Washington, D.C. This November they will have an opportunity to finally get it by electing Darcy Burner to Congress.

*These are excerpts from Darcy Burner's web site.*

## What Union Members Should Know About Dino Rossi, Republican Candidate for Governor

Meet Dino Rossi. He's a Republican real estate salesman and a former State Senator who ran for Governor in 2004, but lost by 133 votes. Now he's running for Governor again. But this time, given that Washington voters haven't elected a Republican governor in 24 years, Rossi is running as a "GOP" candidate, apparently because about *one in four* Washingtonians don't know that GOP means the same thing as Republican.

Delegates representing labor unions across the State of Washington **voted UNANIMOUSLY** in May to oppose Rossi's candidacy and support incumbent Gov. Chris Gregoire for re-election in 2008. Why?

Similar to his transparent attempt to disguise his party affiliation, Rossi calls himself a "compassionate conservative." But there's no compassion in his voting record on working family issues. He voted for a lower minimum wage, voted against letting people use sick leave to care for ailing family members, voted to deny unemployment benefits to victims of domestic violence forced to quit their jobs to flee their abusers, and wrote a budget cutting 40,000 kids in low-income families off health insurance at the same time he renewed -- and expanded -- special interest business tax breaks.

That's just for starters.

Rossi's 6% voting record with the Washington State Labor Council ranks among the worst -- and most partisan -- of any legislator during his 1997-2003 tenure in the State Senate. He managed only five positive votes in 77 chances, and those were on issues with which labor, business and the leadership of both parties were all in agreement. For example, his one positive vote out of 15 in 2003 was to approve the 5-cent gas-tax increase to fund transportation improvements.

On all other labor issues, Sen. Rossi has voted with his party leadership and against the interests of Washington's working families every time, including when other moderate Republicans sided with Democrats to approve legislation. Here are a few examples (click on the years to see more detail on that year's WSLC Voting Record):

**2003** -- Rossi voted for changes to the unemployment system that dramatically cut benefits for workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own; for cutting workers' compensation benefits for victims of job-related hearing loss; for repealing the workplace ergonomic safety rule; for freezing the state minimum wage; for adopting federal wage-and-hour standards (in anticipation of the

Bush administration proposal to exclude some 8 million Americans from the right to overtime pay); and for authorizing charter schools.

**2002** -- Rossi voted against granting collective bargaining rights to state employees, 4-year college faculty and UW academic student employees; against the prescription drug utilization bill to create a "buying pool" negotiating lower drug prices in Washington; against allowing use of sick time or other paid leave to care for sick family members; and against allowing dues deduction for home-care workers who choose to join a union.

**2001** -- Rossi voted against granting unemployment benefits to victims of domestic violence who are forced to quit their jobs to flee their attackers (at an annual estimated cost of just \$144,000); against implementation of the state ergonomic safety rule; and against prohibiting public employers from firing or misclassifying employees to avoid providing benefits.

**2000** -- Rossi voted against the retraining bill designed to assist laid-off Boeing Machinists, timber workers and others; against providing unemployment benefits to workers locked out of their jobs (like

those at Kaiser Aluminum); against promoting apprenticeship on public-works projects; and against empowering health care workers to avoid and prevent needle-stick injuries. He voted for privatization of certain ferry runs.

**1999** -- No labor voting record that year.

**1998** -- Rossi voted against increasing agency home-care workers' wages to an average \$8.50 an hour and against a "pay gap" measure designed to grant bigger raises to state employees whose wages lag behind their private sector counterparts.

**1997** -- Rossi voted for overturning a unanimous Supreme Court decision (*Birkliid v. Boeing*) granting legal immunity to employers that intentionally injure workers; for partial privatization of our state workers' compensation system; for lowering state standards protecting workers from secondhand smoke; and for granting legal immunity to job site contractors who negligently injure workers who are not their employees.

For more information about these and other anti-labor votes taken by Dino Rossi, contact David Groves at 206-281-8901.

## Volunteer for Labor Neighbor!

With the election just a few weeks away, NOW is the time for union leaders, staffers and rank-and-file members to get involved. **Volunteer** for a Labor Neighbor shift at one of this weekend's walks in Seattle, Tacoma, Everett, Spokane or Vancouver.

**SEE THE OCTOBER LABOR NEIGHBOR SCHEDULE** for details on where and when you can volunteer.

### Phone banks are running

In the meantime, Labor Neighbor phone-banking is happening Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma and Everett. To participate, contact WSLC Field Mobilization Director **Lori Province** at 206-281-8901 x24 or 1-800-542-0904 x24.

## POLITICAL ACTION

# A Pivotal Moment in American History

by **Craig Sullivan**  
Local Lodge 289 Member

Here we are, a little over two weeks from what could possibly be a "pivotal moment in American history". This phrase has been recycled & changed a bit and may be the most over used this election cycle. However, it is factual.

With what we, organized labor, have been put through in the last 8 years of Bush in office, I could not imagine what life could be like under McCain-Palin.

I could ramble on and give you the same reasons, statistics & stories many others have on why we need to elect Obama to be our next President, or why we need to continue with Gregoire as our Governor or why, if you happen to live in the 8th Congressional District, you should elect Darcy Burner instead of Dave Reichert.

Brothers and Sisters, with this article I hope to focus your attention upon these very important political races. Organized Labor represents you the worker on the job and also by going to our friends in the Legislative arena where we try gaining favorable laws to make our work places safer, our environment healthier and laws which help us level the playing field between the workers and our corporate bosses.

Labor gains legislative support by electing people with similar views into office. It is in this vein I am asking you to set aside some time between now and the election to ring door bells, volunteer for one of the campaigns placing yard signs or phone banking at our headquarters.

All these jobs take away precious time from our families I will agree. However, if we do not change the tide in political climate in this country and very SOON, we the unionized, American middle class income worker will go the way of the

dinosaur. So if you need another reason for getting involved just think of what we can pass down to our children and grandchildren. We can sit there at home all comfortable in the recliner watching this year's baseball playoffs, or we can spend a few hours in these very pivotal 30 days working in support of people who will allow us to give our children and grandchildren a pathway and ability to live the American dream.

So what do we need? We need YOU! IAM District 160 of the Machinists Union has partnered with the Washington State Labor Council (WSLC) through which we will doorbelling and phone-banking other union member's households. Everything you need to be successful will be supplied to you by the WSLC. You will be talking to people like you!

"Labor to Neighbor" is the WSLC program. Doorbelling happens either Saturday or Sunday on the weekends and one or two nights a week up to the date of the election depending on which county you live in. You can obtain more information at the WSLC website: [www.wslc.org](http://www.wslc.org). Look for the "political education" tab, click on it and you will be directed on how to volunteer

Your Machinist District will also be doing phone banking from our Union hall. We will be calling our members just a few days before the election to remind them of the importance of voting and see if they need any assistance getting to their polling place. Please assist in any way you can.

District 160 phone banking will be done every Tuesday evening in two shifts, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We need 8-10 volunteers per shift. Please call me to volunteer. My email is [craig@iam160.com](mailto:craig@iam160.com) and my cell phone is 360-790-0943.

# Labor Leaders Speak Out for Change in November

Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) President Bill Lucy urged delegates to throw their support behind Barack Obama and end the failed policies of the Bush administration.

"Organized labor has the opportunity to change the course of this nation, a course that for eight years has seen the nation slide backwards into economic chaos for millions of working families," said Lucy. "Barack Obama has jumped through every hoop, leaped over every hurdle and shattered every barrier to assume the leadership of this party, and he has done it with dignity and class," said Lucy.

The most impassioned response from delegates came after Lucy spoke frankly about race relations in our

country. "There are folks who say, 'I just can't bring myself to vote for him. I just - I just can't do it,'" said Lucy. "Well, we've got the incredible opportunity of choosing a black friend or a white enemy, one of the two."

Transportation Communications International Union (TCU) Bob Scardelletti also addressed the delegates, echoing Lucy's call for change in the upcoming elections. TCU affiliated with the IAM in 2005. "Senator McCain is North American workers' worst nightmare," said Scardelletti. "He is no friend to our veterans. He is no friend to our senior citizens. He must be defeated at all costs. Barack Obama needs the fighting Machinists. We need him and America needs Barack Obama."

## GENERAL ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS

Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council, AFL-CIO

### Federal Races

- U.S. Congress, 1st Dist. Rep. . . . . Jay Inslee (D)
- U.S. Congress, 2nd Dist. Rep. . . . . Rick Larsen (D)
- U.S. Congress, 7th Dist. Rep. . . . . Jim McDermott (D)
- U.S. Congress, 8th Dist. Rep. . . . . Darcy Burner (D)
- U.S. Congress, 9th Dist. Rep. . . . . Adam Smith (D)

### Statewide Races

- Governor . . . . . Chris Gregoire (D)
- Lieutenant Governor . . . . . Brad Owen (D)
- Secretary of State . . . . . Sam Reed (R)
- State Treasurer . . . . . Jim McIntire (D)
- Auditor . . . . . Brian Sonntag (D)
- Attorney General . . . . . John Ladenburg (D)
- Insurance Commissioner . . . . . Mike Kreidler (D)
- Public Lands Commissioner . . . . . Peter Goldmark (D)
- Sup't. of Public Instruction . . . . . Terry Bergeson (NP)

### 1st Legislative District

- Senate . . . . . Rosemary McAuliffe (D)
- House Pos. 1 . . . . . Al O'Brien (D)
- House Pos. 2 . . . . . Mark Ericks (D)

### 5th Legislative District

- Senate . . . . . Phyllis Huster (D)
- House Pos. 1 . . . . . Jon Viebrock (D)

### 11th Legislative District

- Senate . . . . . Margarita Prentice (D)
- House Pos. 1 . . . . . Zack Hudgins (D)
- House Pos. 2 . . . . . Bob Hasegawa (D)

### 30th Legislative District

- House Pos. 1 . . . . . Mark Miloscia (D)
- House Pos. 2 . . . . . Carol Gregory (D)

### 31st Legislative District

- House Pos. 1 . . . . . Ron Weigelt (D)
- House Pos. 2 . . . . . Chris Hurst (D)

### 32nd Legislative District

- House Pos. 1 . . . . . Maralyn Chase (D)
- House Pos. 2 . . . . . Ruth Kagi (D)

### 33rd Legislative District

- House Pos. 1 . . . . . Tina Orwall (D)
- House Pos. 2 . . . . . Dave Upthegrove (D)

### 34th Legislative District

- Senate . . . . . Joe McDermott (D)
- House Pos. 1 . . . . . Eileen Cody (D)
- House Pos. 2 . . . . . Sharon Nelson (D)

### 36th Legislative District

- House Pos. 1 . . . . . John Burbank (D)
- House Pos. 2 . . . . . Mary Lou Dickerson (D)

### 37th Legislative District

- House Pos. 1 . . . . . Sharon Tomiko-Santos (D)
- House Pos. 2 . . . . . Eric Pettigrew (D)

### 39th Legislative District

- Senate . . . . . Fred Walser (D)
- House Pos. 1 . . . . . Scott Olson (D)

### 41st Legislative District

- Senate . . . . . Fred Jarrett (D)
- House Pos. 1 . . . . . Marcie Maxwell (D)
- House Pos. 2 . . . . . Judy Clibborn (D)

### 43rd Legislative District

- House Pos. 2 . . . . . Frank Chopp (D)

### 45th Legislative District

- House Pos. 1 . . . . . Roger Goodman (D)
- House Pos. 2 . . . . . Larry Springer (D)

### 46th Legislative District

- House Pos. 1 . . . . . Scott White (D)
- House Pos. 2 . . . . . Phyllis Kenney (D)

### 47th Legislative District

- House Pos. 1 . . . . . Geoff Simpson (D)
- House Pos. 2 . . . . . Pat Sullivan (D)

### 48th Legislative District

- House Pos. 1 . . . . . Ross Hunter (D)
- House Pos. 2 . . . . . Deb Eddy (D)

### Judicial Races

- State Supreme Court, Pos. 3 . . . . . Mary Fairhurst
- State Supreme Court, Pos. 4 . . . . . Charles Johnson
- State Supreme Court, Pos. 7 . . . . . Debra Stephens
- State Court of Appeals, Pos. 3 . . . . . Kevin Korsmo
- King County Superior Court, Pos. 1 . . . . . Tim Bradshaw
- King County Superior Court, Pos. 10 . . . . . Regina Cahan
- King County Superior Court, Pos. 22 . . . . . Holly Hill
- King County Superior Court, Pos. 37 . . . . . Jean Rietschel & Barbara Mack (Dual Endorsement)
- King County Superior Court, Pos. 49 . . . . . Monica Benton (NP)
- King County Superior Court, Pos. 53 . . . . . Mariane Spearman (NP)

### Initiatives

**Vote NO on Initiative 985:** I-985 would worsen our state's traffic by opening carpool lanes during rush hour and forcing the state to widen highways. Language deep in the initiative explicitly prohibits spending money on buses, rail, bicycle lanes, park and rides, or ferries.

**Vote YES on King County Prop. 1/Mass Transit Now:** This would increase bus service, expand light rail and offer real solutions to some of our area's worst traffic problems.

**Vote YES on Seattle Prop. 1:** This property tax levy would provide the funding necessary to make major, critical repairs to the 100 year old Pike Place Market facility and keep it running for future generations.