



FLORIDA AFL-CIO
UNITED LABOR LOBBY



FINAL SESSION REPORT



2009 Legislative Session

A Publication of the Florida AFL-CIO
Cynthia Hall, President & Chief Lobbyist





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FLORIDA SENATE DISTRICTS AND SENATORS

District #- Office	Senator	Counties
S - 1 Jacksonville	Anthony C. "Tony" Hill, Sr. (D)	Duval, Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns, Volusia
S - 2 Crestview	Durrell Peaden, Jr. (R)	Bay, Escambia, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, Washington
S - 3 Inverness	Charles S. "Charlie" Dean (R)	Baker, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Taylor
S - 4 Ft. Walton Bch.	Dan Gaetz (R)	Bay, Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton
S - 5 Jacksonville	Stephen R. Wise (R)	Clay, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns
S - 6 Tallahassee	Alfred "Al" Lawson, Jr. (D)	Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Wakulla
S - 7 Daytona Beach	Evelyn J. Lynn (R)	Clay, Marion, Putnam, Volusia
S - 8 Jacksonville	James E. "Jim" King, Jr. (R)	Duval, Flagler, Nassau, St. Johns, Volusia
S - 9 Orlando	Andy Gardiner (R)	Orange, Osceola, Seminole
S - 10 Brandon	Ronda Storms (R)	Hillsborough, Pasco, Polk
S - 11 New Port Richey	Mike Fasano (R)	Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas
S - 12 Tampa	Victor D. Crist (R)	Hillsborough, Pasco
S - 13 Seminole	Dennis L. Jones (R)	Pinellas
S - 14 Gainesville	Steve Oelrich (D)	Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Gilchrist, Levy, Marion, Putnam, Union
S - 15 Lakeland	Paula Dockery (R)	Hernando, Lake, Osceola, Polk, Sumter
S - 16 St Petersburg	Charlie Justice (R)	Hillsborough, Pinellas
S - 17 Winter Haven	JD Alexander (R)	DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, Polk, St. Lucie
S - 18 Tampa	Arthenia Joyner (D)	Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas
S - 19 Orlando	Gary Siplin (D)	Orange, Osceola
S - 20 Eustis	Carey Baker (R)	Lake, Marion, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia
S - 21 Bradenton	Michael S. "Mike" Bennett (R)	Charlotte, DeSoto, Lee, Manatee, Sarasota
S - 22 Altamonte Springs	Lee Constantine (R)	Orange, Seminole
S - 23 Venice	Nancy Detert (R)	Charlotte, Manatee, Sarasota
S - 24 Melbourne	Thad Altman (R)	Brevard, Orange, Seminole
S - 25 N. Palm Beach	Jeffrey H. "Jeff" Atwater (R)	Broward, Palm Beach
S - 26 Melbourne	Mike Haridopolos (R)	Brevard, Indian River, Osceola, St. Lucie
S - 27 Greenacres	Dave Aronberg (D)	Charlotte, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Palm Beach
S - 28 Port St Lucie	Ken Pruitt (R)	Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, St. Lucie
S - 29 West Palm Beach	Chris Smith (D)	Broward, Palm Beach
S - 30 Delray Beach	Ted Deutch (D)	Broward Palm Beach
S - 31 Hallandale Beach	Eleanor Sobel (D)	Broward
S - 32 Margate	Jeremy Ring (D)	Broward
S - 33 Miami Gardens	Frederica S. Wilson (D)	Miami-Dade
S - 34 Sunrise	Nan Rich (D)	Broward, Miami-Dade
S - 35 Miami Beach	Dan Gelber (D)	Broward, Miami-Dade
S - 36 Miami	Alex Diaz de la Portilla (R)	Miami-Dade
S - 37 Naples	Garrett Richter (R)	Collier, Lee
S - 38 Miami	Alex J. Villalobos (R)	Miami-Dade
S - 39 Miami	Larcenia J. Bullard (D)	Broward, Collier, Hendry, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach
S - 40 Hialeah	Rudy Garcia (R)	Miami-Dade

Florida House Districts and Representatives



District # - Office	Representative	Counties
H - 1 Milton	Greg Evers (R)	Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa
H - 2 Pensacola	Dave Murzin (R)	Escambia
H - 3 Pensacola	Clay Ford (R)	Escambia, Santa Rosa
H - 4 Fort Walton Beach	Ray Sansom (R)	Okaloosa, Santa Rosa
H - 5 DeFuniak Springs	Brad Drake (R)	Holmes, Jackson, Okaloosa, Walton, Washington
H - 6 Panama City	Jimmy Patronis (R)	Bay, Franklin, Gulf
H - 7 Marianna	Marti Coley (R)	Bay, Calhoun, Gadsden, Jackson, Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa, Wakulla, Walton
H - 8 Tallahassee	Alan Williams (D)	Gadsden, Leon
H - 9 Tallahassee	Michelle Rehwinkel Vasalinda (D)	Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon
H - 10 Madison	Leonard Bemby (D)	Alachua, Columbia, Dixie, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Levy, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla
H - 11 High Springs	Debbie Boyd (D)	Alachua, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Suwannee
H - 12 Fernandina Beach	Janet Adkins (R)	Baker, Bradford, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Union
H - 13 Jacksonville	Jennifer Carroll (R)	Clay, Duval
H - 14 Jacksonville	Mia Jones (D)	Duval
H - 15 Jacksonville	Audrey Gibson (D)	Duval
H - 16 Jacksonville	Charles McBurney (R)	Duval
H - 17 Jacksonville	Lake Ray (R)	Duval
H - 18 Ponte Vedra Beach	Ronald Renuart (R)	Duval, St. Johns
H - 19 Orange Park	Mike Weinstein (R)	Clay, Duval, St. Johns
H - 20 St Augustine	William "Bill" Proctor (R)	Clay, Flagler, St. Johns
H - 21 Palatka	Charles Van Sant (R)	Bradford, Clay, Lake, Marion, Putnam, Volusia
H - 22 Ocala	Larry Cretul (R)	Alachua, Levy, Marion
H - 23 Gainesville	Charles "Chuck" Chestnut (D)	Alachua, Marion
H - 24 Ocala	Kurt Kelly (R)	Marion
H - 25 Umatilla	D. Alan Hays (R)	Lake, Seminole, Volusia
H - 26 DeLand	Pat Patterson (R)	Flagler, Volusia
H - 27 DeLand	Dwayne Taylor (D)	Volusia
H - 28 New Smyrna Beach	Dorothy Hukill (R)	Volusia
H - 29 Titusville	L. Ralph Poppell (R)	Brevard, Indian River
H - 30 Melbourne	Ritch Workman (R)	Brevard
H - 31 Melbourne	John Tobia (R)	Brevard
H - 32 Cocoa Beach	Steve Crisafulli (R)	Brevard, Orange
H - 33 Oviedo	Sandra "Sandy" Adams (R)	Orange, Seminole, Volusia
H - 34 Heathrow	Chris Dorworth (R)	Orange, Seminole
H - 35 Winter Park	Dean Cannon (R)	Orange
H - 36 Orlando	Scott Randolph (D)	Orange
H - 37 Altamonte Springs	Scott Plakon (R)	Orange, Seminole
H - 38 Apopka	Bryan Nelson (R)	Orange
H - 39 Orlando	Geraldine Thompson (D)	Orange
H - 40 Orlando	Eric Eisnagle (R)	Orange
H - 41 Winter Garden	Stephen Precourt (R)	Lake, Orange, Osceola
H - 42 The Villages	Marlene O'Toole (R)	Lake, Marion, Sumter
H - 43 Homosassa Springs	Ron Schultz (R)	Citrus, Hernando, Levy
H - 44 Spring Hill	Rob Schenck (R)	Hernando, Pasco, Sumter
H - 45 Holiday	Thomas Anderson (R)	Pasco, Pinellas
H - 46 Port Richey	John Legg (R)	Pasco
H - 47 Tampa	Kevin C. Ambler (R)	Hillsborough
H - 48 Tarpon Springs	Peter Nehr (R)	Pasco, Pinellas
H - 49 Orlando	Darren Soto (D)	Orange, Osceola
H - 50 Clearwater	Ed Hooper (R)	Pinellas
H - 51 St Petersburg	Janet Long (D)	Pinellas
H - 52 St Petersburg	Bill Heller (D)	Pinellas
H - 53 St Petersburg	Rick Kriseman (D)	Pinellas
H - 54 Belleair Bluffs	Jim Frishe (R)	Pinellas
H - 55	Darryl Ervin Rouson (D)	Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas, Sarasota
H - 56 Tampa	Rachel Burgin (R)	Hillsborough
H - 57 Tampa	Faye Culp (R)	Hillsborough
H - 58 Tampa	Michael Scionti (D)	Hillsborough
H - 59 Tampa	Betty Reed (D)	Hillsborough
H - 60 Temple Terrace	Ed Homan (R)	Hillsborough, Pasco

FLORIDA HOUSE DISTRICTS AND REPRESENTATIVES

District # - Office	Representative	Counties
H - 61 Wesley Chapel	Will Weatherfod (R)	Hillsborough, Pasco
H - 62 Plant City	Richard "Rich" Glorioso (R)	Hillsborough, Pasco
H - 63 Lakeland	Seth McKeel (R)	Hillsborough, Polk
H - 64 Lakeland	Kelli Stargel (R)	Polk
H - 65 Haines City	John Wood (R)	Polk
H - 66 Winter Haven	Baxter G. Troutman (R)	Hardee, Highlands, Polk
H - 67 Sarasota	Ron Reagan (R)	Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota
H - 68 Bradenton	Bill Galvano (R)	Hillsborough, Manatee
H - 69 Sarasota	Keith Fitzgerald (D)	Manatee, Sarasota
H - 70 Sarasota	Doug Holder (R)	Sarasota
H - 71 Port Charlotte	Ken Roberson (R)	Charlotte, Lee, Sarasota
H - 72 Punta Gorda	Paige Kreegel (R)	Charlotte, DeSoto, Lee
H - 73 Fort Myers	Nick Thompson (R)	Lee
H - 74 Cape Coral	Gary Aubuchon (R)	Charlotte, Lee
H - 75 Fort Myers	Trudi Williams (R)	Collier, Lee
H - 76 Naples	Tom Grady (R)	Collier
H - 77 Sebring	Denise Grimsley (R)	Collier, Glades, Hendry, Highlands
H - 78 Boynton Beach	Kevin Rader (D)	Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, St. Lucie
H - 79 Kissimmee	Mike Horner (R)	Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Polk
H - 80 Vero Beach	Debbie Mayfield (R)	Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie
H - 81 Port St Lucie	Adam Fetterman (D)	Martin, St. Lucie
H - 82 Stuart	William Snyder (R)	Martin, Palm Beach, St. Lucie
H - 83 Juno Beach	Carl J. Domino (R)	Palm Beach
H - 84 Riviera Beach	Priscilla Taylor (D)	Palm Beach
H - 85 Wellington	Joseph Abruzzo (D)	Palm Beach
H - 86 Delray Beach	Maria Sachs (D)	Palm Beach
H - 87 Delray Beach	Adam Hasner (R)	Broward, Palm Beach
H - 88 West Palm Beach	Mark Pafford (D)	Palm Beach
H - 89 Lake Worth	Mary Brandenburg (D)	Palm Beach
H - 90 Boca Raton	Kelly Skidmore (D)	Broward, Palm Beach
H - 91 Ft Lauderdale	Ellyn Setnor Bogdanoff (R)	Broward, Palm Beach
H - 92 Pompano Beach	Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed (D)	Broward
H - 93 Ft Lauderdale	Perry Thurston (D)	Broward
H - 94 Lauderhill	Hazelle Rogers (D)	Broward
H - 95 Coconut Creek	Jim Waldman (D)	Broward
H - 96 Coral Springs	Ari Porth (D)	Broward
H - 97 Parkland	Martin Kiar (D)	Broward
H - 98 Plantation	Franklin Sands (D)	Broward
H - 99 Hollywood	Elaine Schwartz (D)	Broward
H - 100 Davie	Evan Jenne (D)	Broward
H - 101 Naples	Matt Hudson (R)	Broward, Collier
H - 102 Hialeah Gardens	Eduardo "Eddy" Gonzalez (R)	Broward, Miami-Dade
H - 103 Miami Gardens	Oscar Braynon II (D)	Broward, Miami-Dade
H - 104 North Miami	Yolly Roberson (D)	Miami-Dade
H - 105 Pembroke Park	Joe Gibbons (D)	Broward
H - 106 Miami Beach	Richard Seinberg (D)	Miami-Dade
H - 107 Miami	Luis Garcia (D)	Miami-Dade
H - 108 North Miami	Ronald Brise (D)	Miami-Dade
H - 109 Miami	James Bush (D)	Miami-Dade
H - 110 Hialeah	Esteban Bovo (R)	Miami-Dade
H - 111 Miami	Erik Fresen (R)	Miami-Dade
H - 112 Miami	David Rivera (R)	Broward, Collier, Miami-Dade
H - 113 Miami	Carlos Lopez-Cantera (R)	Miami-Dade
H - 114 Miami	Anitere Flores (R)	Miami-Dade
H - 115 Miami	Juan-Carlos "J.C." Planas (R)	Miami-Dade
H - 116 Miami	Marcelo Llorente (R)	Miami-Dade
H - 117 Miami	Julio Robaina (R)	Miami-Dade
H - 118 Miami	Dwight Bullard (D)	Miami-Dade
H - 119 Miami	Juan C. Zapata (R)	Miami-Dade
H - 120 Tavernier	Ron Saunders (D)	Miami-Dade, Monroe



The United Labor Lobby provides a way for unions to work together during the legislative session. The Florida AFL-CIO and its union affiliates form the core of the coalition. Others with similar interests sometimes join in the combined efforts.

Each year lobbyists who are sponsored by industrial, building trades, service and public employee unions work on legislation that relates specifically to their unions' interests, as well as general labor legislation. Through the United Labor Lobby, the union lobbyists share information, take specific lobbying assignments and coordinate committee testimony. Following is a list of the ULL lobbyists who participated in the 2008 Legislative Session.

Florida AFL-CIO	Cynthia Hall, President & Chief Lobbyist Dwayne Sealy, Secretary-Treasurer Rich Templin, Communications Director Phyllis Garrett, Public Employee Director L. W. Fowler, VIP Director Lori Weems Manny Prieguez Christian Ulvert
AFSCME Council 79	Jeanette Wynn Doug Martin Alama Gonzalez Ted Pye
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers	Dave Lavery
Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen	R. Gus Demott John Gaige
CWA Council of Florida	Gail Marie Perry
Florida Education Association	Andy Ford Members of the FEA Lobbying Team
Duval Teachers United	Terrie Brady
United Teachers of Dade	Joe Minor
Florida Building Trades Council	Mike Williams
Florida Electrical Workers Assn.	J. B. Clark
Florida State Council of Machinists	Frank Ortis
United Transportation Union	Andres Trujillo

In addition to these lobbyists, many others journey to Tallahassee to help with our issues. These dedicated union members spend time in Tallahassee and provide a valuable service for us all. We wish to thank all of you for your help.

General Government

Constitutional Ban on the Employee Free Choice Act

Failed

SJR 1908 by Richter, Storms, Bennett, Wise, Gaetz, Oelrich, Baker, Haridopolos, Diaz de la Portilla, Altman, Pruitt, Dean; Fasano; Gardiner

HJR 1013 by Hasner, Adkins, Aubuchon, Bovo, Burgin, Coley, Crisafulli, Dorworth, Eisnagle, Ford, Fresen, Grady, Hays, Homan, Horner, Hudson, Hukill, Lopez-Cantera, Mayfield, McBurney, McKeel, Murzin, Nehr, O'Toole, Patronis, Plakon, Poppell, Precourt, K. Roberson, Stargel, Tobia, Van Zant, T. Williams, Wood, Workman

Florida AFL-CIO Position – **OPPOSE**

SJR 1908 – Passed the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee, Judiciary, Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations, **died in Rules Committee.**

HJR 1013 – Passed the House of Representatives, **died in Senate Messages.**

While the major legislative battles for the Employee Free Choice Act are being waged in D.C., an equally critical battle was fought...and won...right here in Florida.

There are numerous big-business front groups, commanding war chests that could run in the billions of dollars, working on all levels to block the Employee Free Choice Act. One group, Save our Secret Ballot (SOSBallot), is working to amend state constitutions to require a secret ballot election in all cases “where local, state, or federal law requires elections by the people for public office, requires public votes by the people on initiatives or referenda, or requires designations or authorizations of employee representation...”

Supporters of these measures want the average voter to think that the secret ballot is at risk in political elections, even though in most states the secret ballot is already protected. In Florida, secret ballots at the voting booth are already secure under Article VI, Suffrage and Elections, of the Florida Constitution. In reality, they are trying to create a constitutional requirement that all union elections use a secret ballot as opposed to majority sign-up, a major component of the Employee Free Choice Act. The point of the amendment was to block the Employee Free Choice Act in Florida and to deny millions of Florida’s workers the benefits of this groundbreaking change to the nation’s labor laws.

It is questionable whether or not a state constitutional provision can, in fact, trump federal law when it comes to labor. However, with the amount of money and power being brought to bear on this issue and the United States Supreme Court still firmly in the grip of the anti-worker majority, keeping this travesty out of Florida’s constitution was a fight we had to put everything into.

The Employee Free Choice Act is amazingly simple. If a majority of workers want a union, they can get one. More importantly, they will have the right to choose the manner in which they make that decision. If a company refuses to negotiate in good faith, an outside negotiator will do it for them. If corporations break the law and violate human rights, they will be penalized. However, the folks at SOSBallots are trying to confuse the issue, make it more complicated and trick workers into believe that somehow they will lose their rights if it passes.

There is nothing in the Employee Free Choice Act that infringes on anyone's right to a secret ballot...ever. The Employee Free Choice Act would put the choice of whether to form a union back in workers' hands by giving them the option of using majority sign-up, an alternative to the current company-dominated system. Under current law, if 30% of the workers sign cards saying they want a union they can request a NLRB election. If over 50% of workers sign these same cards, they can request voluntary recognition by the company; this is called majority sign-up or voluntary recognition. Large national companies with good profit margins and good labor relations, such as AT&T and Kaiser Permanente, have used majority sign-up successfully for years. Some companies refuse because they know that they can manipulate the elections process to suit their needs. The secret ballot will still be an option but if a majority say they want a union, companies will no longer be able to force workers into a rigged election process. It is just that simple.

In Florida, this measure was being pushed by Representative Adam Hasner, the powerful House Majority Leader who also happens to serve on the advisory board for the national front group SOSBallot. With such a powerful politician at the helm, we knew this was an uphill battle, especially in the more anti-labor Florida House. In the Senate, SJR 1908 was filed by freshman senator Garrett Richter.

As expected, HJR 1013 moved relatively quickly through the House. In committee meeting after committee meeting we helped coordinate testimony from teachers, health care workers, firefighters, construction trades workers and many others from across Florida. Supporters of the proposed constitutional amendment included a "who's who" of highly paid lobbyists representing the biggest business groups across the state...and of course the Majority Leader himself, who presented a whirlwind of spin and misinformation, repeating the same intentionally inaccurate (it is, after all, impolite to call them lies) over and over again, regardless of how many times his statements were demonstrated to be patently false. The measure moved along party lines at a fast pace until it hit the House floor.

In the Senate the activity was very similar. While we had numerous moderate Republicans pledging their support, Senate leadership carefully assigned SJR 1908 to those committees stacked with anti-worker supporters of the measure (who had all signed on as co-sponsors) to ensure that there was no real debate and no opportunity to slow the bill down. On March 25th, when the bill was being considered in the Senate Judiciary Committee, over three dozen workers from all over Florida came to Tallahassee to urge the Senators to vote down this attack on Florida's workers. However, committee chair Senator Lee Constantine held off on hearing the bill until the final few minutes of the meeting. Workers were rushed through their comments, interrupted by procedural discussions and with only 2-minutes to go, most had not had the chance to speak. This after industry lobbyists had been given ample time to speak on items that were not even up for a vote. Senator Dan Gelber tried valiantly to extend the time for the meeting or delay the vote for a week so everyone could be given a chance to be heard. Unfortunately, the Republicans on the committee forced a vote and the measure passed with another party-line vote, leading to many boos from the audience, an uncommon show of defiance in these meetings.

Once HJR 1013 made it to the House floor, members of the ULL worked furiously to ensure that the Democratic Caucus locked down in opposition to the bill and to find the seven Republicans necessary to block its passage. (As a proposed constitutional amendment, the HJR required a 3/5 vote). On April 21st, during the second reading floor debate, the point where amendments can be adopted to the original measure, members of the Democratic Caucus did an amazing job asking questions and speaking in opposition, commanding over two hours of time on the House floor. **Two amendments of particular interest were offered.**

In the weeks leading up to this debate, Rep. Hasner had argued in committee meetings and the media that since the Democratic Caucus elected their own leadership through a secret ballot process, they were duty bound to ensure that workers be given the same consideration, whether they wanted to or not. While this made a good sound bite, it also showed the incredible hypocrisy of the Majority Leader and his own caucus. What he did not share was that he and other leaders of the Republican Caucus were NOT elected by a secret ballot but through a process of pledge cards...similar to the ones that would be use in majority sign-up under the Employee Free Choice Act! In order to point out this glaring hypocrisy, Rep. Ron Saunders, a strong supporter of the Employee Free Choice Act and the future Minority Leader, offered an amendment requiring that all leadership elections in the Florida House and Senate must also be decided by a secret ballot vote. **Three Republicans realized the absurdity and voted for this amendment...Representatives Domino, Murzin and Troutman. Thanks to Rep. Hasner and the Republican leadership, this amendment failed.**

Vote on Saunders Amendment—Our Position “Y”

Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote
Abruzzo(D)	Y	Domino(R)	Y	Hooper(R)	N	Plakon(R)	N	Schultz(R)	N
Adams(R)	N	Dorworth(R)	N	Horner(R)	N	Planas(R)	N	Schwartz(D)	Y
Adkins(R)	N	Drake(R)	N	Hudson(R)	N	Poppell(R)	N	Scionti(D)	NV
Ambler(R)	N	Eisnaugle(R)	N	Hukill(R)	N	Porth(D)	Y	Skidmore(D)	Y
Anderson(R)	N	Evers (R)	NV	Jenne(D)	Y	Precourt(R)	N	Snyder(R)	N
Aubuchon(R)	N	Fetterman(D)	Y	Jones(D)	Y	Procter(R)	N	Soto(D)	Y
Bembry(D)	Y	Fitzgerald(D)	Y	Kelly(R)	N	Rader(D)	Y	Stargel(R)	N
Bogdanoff(R)	N	Flores(R)	N	Kiar(D)	Y	Randolph(D)	Y	Steinberg(D)	Y
Bovo(R)	N	Ford(R)	N	Kreegel(R)	N	Ray(R)	N	D. Taylor(D)	Y
Boyd(D)	Y	Fresen(R)	N	Kriseman(D)	Y	Reagan(R)	N	P. Taylor(D)	Y
Brandenburg(D)	Y	Frishe(R)	N	Legg (R)	N	Reed(D)	Y	G. Thompson(D)	Y
Braynon(D)	Y	Galvano(R)	N	Llorente(R)	N	Rehwinkel Vasilinda(D)	Y	N. Thompson(R)	N
Brise(D)	Y	L. Garcia(D)	Y	Long(D)	Y	Renuart (R)	N	Thurston(D)	Y
Bullard(D)	Y	Gibbons(D)	Y	Lopez-Cantera(R)	N	Rivera(R)	N	Tobia(R)	N
Burgin(R)	N	Gibson (D)	Y	Mayfield(R)	N	Robaina(R)	N	Troutman(R)	Y
Bush(D)	Y	Glorioso(R)	N	McBurney(R)	N	K. Roberson(R)	N	Van Sant (R)	N
Cannon(R)	N	Gonzalez(R)	N	McKeel(R)	N	Y. Roberson(D)	Y	Waldman(D)	Y
Carroll(R)	N	Grady(R)	N	Murzin(R)	Y	Rogers(D)	Y	Weatherford(R)	N
Chestnut(D)	Y	Grimsley(R)	N	Nehr(R)	N	Rouson(D)	Y	Weinstein(R)	N
Clarke-Reed(D)	Y	Hasner(R)	N	Nelson(R)	N	Sachs(D)	Y	A. Williams(D)	Y
Coley(R)	N	Hays(R)	N	O'Toole(R)	N	Sands(D)	Y	T. Williams(R)	N
Cretul(R)	N	Heller(D)	Y	Pafford(D)	Y	Sansom(R)	NV	Wood(R)	N
Crisafulli(R)	N	Holder(R)	N	Patronis(R)	N	Saunders(D)	Y	Workman(R)	N
Culp(R)	N	Homan(R)	N	Patterson(R)	N	Schenck(R)	N	Zapata(R)	N

A second amendment, filed by Freshman Democrat **Rep. Richard Steinberg**, was designed to point out the fallacy that this constitutional amendment was really about protecting the sanctity of the secret ballot in Florida elections and not about simply trying to block the Employee Free Choice Act. His amendment added the language “Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, an election by secret ballot is not required when a group of employees states that a majority of its members desires to be represented by an individual or a labor organization acting on its behalf and a majority of those employees sign valid waivers of their right to a secret ballot.” This basically lays out the majority sign-up process. True to form and in a clear rebuke of all the claims made in the preceding months, House Republicans rejected the measure, offering proof positive that this entire exercise was an effort to deny millions of Florida the protections of their basic rights, offered by the Employee Free Choice Act.

Vote on Steinberg Amendment—Our Position “Y”

Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote
Abruzzo(D)	Y	Domino(R)	N	Hooper(R)	N	Plakon(R)	N	Schultz(R)	N
Adams(R)	N	Dorworth(R)	N	Horner(R)	N	Planas(R)	N	Schwartz(D)	Y
Adkins(R)	N	Drake(R)	N	Hudson(R)	N	Poppell(R)	N	Scionti(D)	NV
Ambler(R)	N	Eisnagle(R)	N	Hukill(R)	N	Porth(D)	Y	Skidmore(D)	Y
Anderson(R)	N	Evers (R)	N	Jenne(D)	Y	Precourt(R)	N	Snyder(R)	N
Aubuchon(R)	N	Fetterman(D)	Y	Jones(D)	Y	Procter(R)	N	Soto(D)	Y
Bembry(D)	Y	Fitzgerald(D)	Y	Kelly(R)	N	Rader(D)	Y	Stargel(R)	N
Bogdanoff(R)	N	Flores(R)	N	Kiar(D)	Y	Randolph(D)	Y	Steinberg(D)	Y
Bovo(R)	N	Ford(R)	N	Kreegel(R)	N	Ray(R)	N	D. Taylor(D)	Y
Boyd(D)	Y	Fresen(R)	N	Kriseman(D)	Y	Reagan(R)	N	P. Taylor(D)	Y
Brandenburg(D)	Y	Frishe(R)	N	Legg (R)	N	Reed(D)	Y	G. Thompson(D)	Y
Braynon(D)	Y	Galvano(R)	N	Llorente(R)	N	Rehwinkel Vasilinda(D)	Y	N. Thompson(R)	N
Brise(D)	Y	L. Garcia(D)	Y	Long(D)	Y	Renuart (R)	N	Thurston(D)	Y
Bullard(D)	Y	Gibbons(D)	Y	Lopez-Cantera(R)	N	Rivera(R)	N	Tobia(R)	N
Burgin(R)	N	Gibson (D)	Y	Mayfield(R)	N	Robaina(R)	N	Troutman(R)	N
Bush(D)	Y	Glorioso(R)	N	McBurney(R)	N	K. Roberson(R)	N	Van Sant (R)	N
Cannon(R)	N	Gonzalez(R)	N	McKeel(R)	N	Y. Roberson(D)	Y	Waldman(D)	Y
Carroll(R)	N	Grady(R)	N	Murzin(R)	N	Rogers(D)	Y	Weatherford(R)	N
Chestnut(D)	Y	Grimsley(R)	N	Nehr(R)	N	Rouson(D)	Y	Weinstein(R)	N
Clarke-Reed(D)	Y	Hasner(R)	N	Nelson(R)	N	Sachs(D)	Y	A. Williams(D)	Y
Coley(R)	N	Hays(R)	N	O'Toole(R)	N	Sands(D)	Y	T. Williams(R)	N
Cretul(R)	N	Heller(D)	Y	Pafford(D)	Y	Sansom(R)	NV	Wood(R)	N
Crisafulli(R)	N	Holder(R)	N	Patronis(R)	N	Saunders(D)	Y	Workman(R)	N
Culp(R)	N	Homan(R)	N	Patterson(R)	N	Schenck(R)	Y	Zapata(R)	N

On April 22st, the day following the floor debate referenced above, HJR 1013 was placed on Third Reading for final passage. Members of the ULL and their allies were cautiously confident that there were a sufficient number of moderate Republicans who had committed to vote against the bill...IF THEIR VOTE WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Voting against the Majority Leader is a very risky proposition and the Republicans who wanted to support Labor acknowledged that if the measure was going to pass anyway, they would have to vote in favor. On April 22nd, when the measure came up for a final vote, a motion was made by Rep. Hasner to temporarily postpone the bill...he did not have the votes. On April 23rd, the bill came up again and it was temporarily postponed. Rumors circulated that the issue would not come up again until Rep. Hasner could wrangle the necessary votes for passage. By the United Labor Lobby's count he was one vote short.

Four days later, on April 27th, disgraced former House Speaker Ray Sansom returned to the legislature after weeks of self-imposed exile following his indictment by a Tallahassee Grand Jury. Rep. Hasner had the one vote he needed to tip the balance; the measure would pass regardless of our Republican supporters, who now had to vote in favor. **At 5:19 PM, the bill passed thanks to the presence of disgraced former House Speaker Sansom, who himself had not been chosen by a secret ballot to be House Speaker, and was now indicted for corruption...a fitting final act to a fundamentally corrupt piece of legislation.** The only Republican to vote against the measure was Rep. Julio Robaina, a former member of the Communications Workers of America. **(see vote next page)**

In the Senate, SJR 1908 stalled in the Senate Rules Committee, chaired by Senator Alex Villalobos, a long-time friend to Florida's workers who expressed serious problems with this bill. HJR 1013 was sent to the Senate and died in Senate Messages.

Final House Vote EFCA Ban — Our Position “N”

Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote
Abruzzo(D)	N	Domino(R)	Y	Hooper(R)	Y	Plakon(R)	Y	Schultz(R)	Y
Adams(R)	Y	Dorworth(R)	Y	Horner(R)	Y	Planas(R)	Y	Schwartz(D)	N
Adkins(R)	Y	Drake(R)	Y	Hudson(R)	Y	Poppell(R)	Y	Scionti(D)	N
Ambler(R)	Y	Eisnaugle(R)	Y	Hukill(R)	Y	Porth(D)	N	Skidmore(D)	N
Anderson(R)	Y	Evers (R)	Y	Jenne(D)	N	Precourt(R)	Y	Snyder(R)	Y
Aubuchon(R)	Y	Fetterman(D)	N	Jones(D)	N	Procter(R)	Y	Soto(D)	N
Bembry(D)	N	Fitzgerald(D)	N	Kelly(R)	Y	Rader(D)	N	Stargel(R)	Y
Bogdanoff(R)	Y	Flores(R)	Y	Kiar(D)	N	Randolph(D)	N	Steinberg(D)	N
Bovo(R)	Y	Ford(R)	Y	Kreegel(R)	NV	Ray(R)	Y	D. Taylor(D)	N
Boyd(D)	N	Fresen(R)	Y	Kriseman(D)	N	Reagan(R)	Y	P. Taylor(D)	N
Brandenburg(D)	N	Frishe(R)	Y	Legg (R)	Y	Reed(D)	N	G. Thompson(D)	N
Braynon(D)	N	Galvano(R)	Y	Llorente(R)	Y	Rehwinkel Vasilinda(D)	N	N. Thompson(R)	Y
Brise(D)	N	L. Garcia(D)	N	Long(D)	N	Renuart (R)	Y	Thurston(D)	N
Bullard(D)	N	Gibbons(D)	N	Lopez-Cantera(R)	Y	Rivera(R)	Y	Tobia(R)	Y
Burgin(R)	Y	Gibson (D)	N	Mayfield(R)	Y	Robaina(R)	N	Troutman(R)	Y
Bush(D)	N	Glorioso(R)	Y	McBurney(R)	Y	K. Roberson(R)	Y	Van Sant (R)	Y
Cannon(R)	Y	Gonzalez(R)	Y	McKeel(R)	Y	Y. Roberson(D)	N	Waldman(D)	N
Carroll(R)	Y	Grady(R)	Y	Murzin(R)	Y	Rogers(D)	N	Weatherford(R)	Y
Chestnut(D)	NV	Grimsley(R)	Y	Nehr(R)	Y	Rouson(D)	N	Weinstein(R)	Y
Clarke-Reed(D)	N	Hasner(R)	Y	Nelson(R)	Y	Sachs(D)	N	A. Williams(D)	N
Coley(R)	Y	Hays(R)	Y	O'Toole(R)	Y	Sands(D)	N	T. Williams(R)	Y
Cretul(R)	Y	Heller(D)	N	Pafford(D)	N	Sansom(R)	Y	Wood(R)	Y
Crisafulli(R)	Y	Holder(R)	Y	Patronis(R)	Y	Saunders(D)	N	Workman(R)	Y
Culp(R)	Y	Homan(R)	Y	Patterson(R)	Y	Schenck(R)	Y	Zapata(R)	Y

Giving working people the freedom to form unions and bargain collectively is key to turning around the economy and rebuilding America’s middle class. Union members are 52 percent more likely to have job-provided health care, nearly three times more likely to have guaranteed pensions and earn 28 percent more than nonunion workers. No matter what else we do to turn around America’s economy and rebuild the middle class, we will not have broadly shared prosperity until we restore workers’ free choice to bargain with their companies for a better life—without corporate intimidation.

The Florida Legislature should have been working to help Florida’s workers, solve our budget crisis and figure out ways to get the economy moving. Instead, some spent valuable time and money pursuing an ideological witch hunt, using our state legislature as a pawn in a national game pitting hard working Americans against the same wealthy CEO’s and special interest groups that helped create the current financial meltdown, both here in Florida and around the country.

The situation in Washington is very fluid and a version of the Employee Free Choice is expected to pass before the next legislative session. In order to do the bidding of the big corporations that want to keep wages low in Florida and keep the economy working for them rather than all of us, it is extremely likely that this measure will return next year. It is imperative that we all stay in touch with our elected Senators and Representatives and make sure that they know that we expect them to do the people’s work...not the corporations.

CSX Union Busting / Corporate Welfare

Failed

SB 1212 by Constantine, Gardiner, Baker, Haridopolos, Altman

HB 7009 by Murzin, Aubuchon, G. Thompson, Van Zant

HB 1021 by Aubuchon, Ambler

SB 582 by Baker

Florida AFL-CIO Position: **OPPOSE**

SB 1212 – Passed The Senate Transportation Committee, Judiciary, Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations, **died on Senate Calendar.**

HB 7009 – Passed House Economic Development and Community Affairs Policy Council, **no further action taken.**

HB 1021 – Virtually every single bill that even mentioned transportation became a possible vehicle for the CSX Railroad deal. An amendment to add the CSX language to this transportation was offered on the floor of the Senate and failed by a 17-23 vote. Two Senators (Gaetz, Smith) changed their votes from “no” to “yes” after the fact leaving a final vote tally of 19-21. **HB 1021 passed and was signed by the Governor without any language pertaining to CSX.**

SB 582 – There was an attempt to tack on CSX to this transportation bill during the final hours of the legislative session. **This final push failed by a vote of 16-23. This bill was then substituted by HB 1021.**

During the 2008 Legislative Session, the CSX deal, which was crafted largely by the Jeb Bush administration, broke onto the political scene following several years of hiding in the shadows. The Central Florida Commuter Rail project was an extremely contentious effort by some in the Legislature to give between \$491 to \$650 million of taxpayer money to the CSX company to allow them to update their own freight transportation systems and certain segments of track lines in Central Florida while fundamentally changing the way rail projects are done in Florida to cut out our rail workers' unions. In return, CSX would lease back portions of the improved tracks for a commuter rail system in Central Florida. What began as a controversial issue became all out war in the Legislature and came to dominate much of the 2008 Legislative Session. Thanks to the efforts of the United Labor Lobby, Senator Paula Dockery and the Florida Justice Association, the deal was blocked in the final hours of session.

Realizing that the “cat was out of the bag,” CSX and its supporters like Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, Congresswoman Corrine Brown and some of the most powerful business and development interests in Florida knew they would have a much tougher time this session. They rebranded the entire project “Sunrail” and launched a multi-million dollar PR campaign to convince both a skeptical public and many lawmakers that this was an economic stimulus project that would create thousands of jobs. They also promoted the myth that if this project was not approved...exactly as crafted by the CSX company...millions in federal dollars would be lost and Central Florida would never have a commuter rail system.

The Florida AFL-CIO has long advocated for commuter, high-speed and light rail projects as solutions to the state's growing transportation challenges that create good, high-skill, high-wage jobs. We supported the constitutional amendment to create a high speed rail project and then took an incredible political risk by standing up to some of the most powerful political forces in the state to fight against its repeal. Now we know why many politicians were against the high-speed rail amendment...they already had their own sweetheart deal for CSX in the works! This deal would have provided an incredible amount of taxpayer money to one of Florida's biggest, most powerful and politically well-connected companies. Corporate greed fueled this fight, not a real commitment to mass transportation.

It is important to remember why the Florida AFL-CIO was so opposed to this deal

- ◆ The state would have purchased 61.5 miles of track from CSX for \$150 million, even though the track is valued at about \$22 million. The state also would have paid for \$609.7 million in capital costs for the project.
- ◆ CSX would still have had exclusive use of the track for 12 hours a day for about \$1.3 million per year. The state, however, would have covered all costs for maintenance, security and other operations. Also, CSX would have had no liability for any accidents involving their trains; the people of Florida would have paid for that. A single major accident could have cost the taxpayers billions of dollars, even if the CSX corporation was at fault.
- ◆ CSX would have gotten an additional \$491 million taxpayer giveaway to update their own lines and overpasses around the state...aspects of CSX's own business that had nothing to do with commuter rail.
- ◆ After seven years, local governments along the commuter rail line would have had to pick up the cost for maintaining and operating the system. With estimates as high as \$80 million a year and no identifiable source of local government revenue, this project could have led to massive budget shortfalls in the already cash-strapped local government budgets. Current local leaders like Mayor Buddy Dyer were willing to put their communities on the hook with little ability to pay for it.

Additionally, the arrangement between CSX and Department of Transportation indicated that the workers on this line will be denied union representation in favor of contract workers and that many workers already represented by a union would have been terminated. This is a major threat to public safety since the best trained, most experienced workers in the area of rail safety would have been banned from working on this project. The legislation's supporters had publicly stated that this deal was to be the template for all future rail deals in Florida, meaning that if this deal had gone through, the futures of all union railway workers would have been in serious doubt.

When totaled, the cost of this project was a minimum of \$10,552,845 per mile of track, representing the costliest railroad deal in United States history! At a time when the budgets for schools, basic health care and other critical services were being slashed (and probably will continue to be next year), we believed that it was unconscionable to give all of this taxpayer money to a private company, which posted record profits (\$29 billion) over the past two years.

With billions in taxpayer gravy at stake, this became one of the most hotly lobbied issues of the 2009 session. **The press reported that CSX and its backers, including several city and county governments and local chambers of commerce had hired over 200 lobbyists to push for the deal's passage. In stark contrast, there were only 8 lobbyists, almost all from the United Labor Lobby, standing in opposition!** However, we had a powerful, not-so-secret weapon in Senator Paula Dockery. Dockery, a long-time rail supporter, led the fight against this deal last session. She spent the past year doing an amazing amount of homework, becoming the legislature's leading expert on both commuter rail programs in general and the intricacies of FDOT's deal with CSX. Her leadership and dogged commitment to spreading the word about this deal to anyone who would listen (and some who wouldn't) helped solidify a solid block of Republican opposition in the Florida Senate. The real problem became members of the Democratic caucus.

Congresswoman Corrine Brown, in whose district the powerful CSX company is located and who has a long relationship with the freight rail company put the full-court press on members of the Black Legislative Caucus to oppose the deal. Mayor Dyer and business leaders from Central Florida also pressured area Democrats.

The biggest threat came late in session. When it became apparent that Senator Dockery had the Republican votes needed to block the deal, CSX supporters attached a funding proposal to rescue Tri-Rail in order to entice Democrats from Southeast Florida to jump ship and vote for CSX. The proposal was ridiculous...it allowed for a referendum to attach a surcharge to all rental cars to fund the financially strapped (but amazingly successful) Tri-Rail. It is important to note that at no time was there any stand-alone deal to protect Tri-Rail even though the heavily used rail system has been in trouble for many years. There was no option to save Tri-Rail without the CSX deal. This was never about Tri-Rail but about holding South Florida Democrats hostage to get what CSX wanted all along...a big fat taxpayer give-away.

CSX supporters continued to sweeten the deal for Tri-Rail by the hour and Democrats in South Florida were put in a terrible position. Do they vote for the bad CSX deal and provide much needed support for a very worthwhile and popular program in their districts or do they reject CSX and deny their constituents the chance to save Tri-Rail?

In the end, only **Senators Jeremy Ring, Chris Smith and Larcenia Bullard** bowed to the will of the hostage takers and voted to support the CSX deal.

Senators Aronberg, Deutch, Gelber, Sobel, Rich and Wilson stood strong with Labor and the taxpayers and refused to be intimidated, vowing to find others ways to save Tri-Rail without sticking the people with the CSX deal.

Senator Siplin also showed incredible courage by voting in opposition, against the bulk of his Central Florida delegation and as always, Senator Hill put the needs of working families above his own when he supported our fight against one of the most influential companies in his Jacksonville area district. Senator King also deserves special mention for not only voting against the Jacksonville based company, but also for bucking his party's leadership to do the right thing.

This was a major victory, one that sent shockwaves through Tallahassee's power structure and made it abundantly clear that Florida's labor movement was on the rise. It was made possible by all of the Republicans led by Senators Paula Dockery and Alex Villalobos and the Democrats who stood strong on principle in the face of the most intense political and financial pressure seen in recent memory. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the incredible grass-roots support of our members, their friends and families. **(see vote on next page)**

LATE BREAKING: AS THIS PUBLICATION WAS GOING TO PRINT, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE ALEX SINK CAME OUT IN SUPPPORT OF CSX. THE CSX COMPANY EXTENDED THE DEADLINE TO FINISH THE DEAL AND ORLANDO MAYOR BUDDY DYER AND SENTAOR LEE CONSTANTINE HAVE PLEDGED TO BRING THE DEAL BACK EITHER DURING A SPECIAL SESSION OR DURING NEXT YEAR'S REGULAR SESSION. GOVERNOR CRIST HAS SAID PUBLICALLY THAT HE WOULD BE OPEN TO DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE DURING A SPECIAL SESSION. THIS AIN'T OVER YET!

Senate CSX Vote - Our Position “N”

Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote
Alexander(R)	Y	Detert(R)	N	Hill(D)	NV	Rich(D)	N
Altman(R)	Y	Deutch(D)	N	Jones(R)	N	Richter(R)	Y
Aronberg(D)	N	Diaz de la Portilla(R)	Y	Joyner(D)	N	Ring(D)	Y
Atwater(R)	Y	Dockery(R)	N	Justice(D)	N	Siplin(D)	N
Baker(R)	Y	Fasano(R)	Y	King(R)	N	Smith(D)	Y
Bennett(R)	N	Gaetz(R)	Y	Lawson(D)	N	Sobel(D)	N
Bullard(D)	Y	Garcia(R)	Y	Lynn(R)	N	Storms(R)	N
Constantine(R)	Y	Gardiner(R)	Y	Oelrich(D)	N	Villalobos(R)	N
Crist(R)	N	Gelber(D)	N	Peaden(R)	N	Wilson(D)	N
Dean(R)	N	Haridopolos(R)	Y	Pruitt(R)	Y	Wise(R)	N

Unemployment Insurance Modernization

Failed

SB 516 by Hill

HB 1333 by Rader

Florida AFL-CIO Position – **SUPPORT**

SB 516 – Passed the Senate Commerce Committee, **died in Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means**

HB 1333 – **Not considered**

Florida’s unemployment rate continues to be among the highest in the nation at 10.2% and thousands of additional workers have been removed from the roles because they have been out of work for so long. The huge number of people out of work is placing an incredible strain on our economy. The majority of the nation’s top economists agree that the unemployment insurance system is one of the most successful tools available to policy makers to stimulate the economy. The time tested theory is quite simple. In times of high unemployment, low consumer confidence or economic downturn, the demand for goods and services drops off. This lack of consumer activity forces more businesses to lay off workers which in turn leads to greater losses which in turn leads to more layoffs... creating a downward spiral of economic stagnation. The best way to stimulate the economy is to increase the purchasing power of those most likely to immediately pump money back into the economy; namely, low and moderate income working families. As the economy begins to rebound...jobs are created...people can get back to work and the cycle stabilizes. This is the major reason that the Unemployment Insurance system was created.

Unfortunately, Florida’s 70-year old UI system is unable to function in the new economy and has received failing grades in several comprehensive state by state analysis of UI systems by the National Employment Law Project, the Economic Policy Institute and others. For years, the Florida AFL-CIO has worked to introduce legislation that would make the necessary changes to the unemployment insurance system so that it serves as the effective safety net and economic stimulus tool it was designed to be.

The economic stimulus package passed by Congress and signed by President Obama included the provisions of the “Unemployment System Modernization Act”, a groundbreaking piece of legislation designed to help the states make critical changes to their UI systems with important financial incentives designed to help fund these changes.

In short, the legislation outlines five policy improvements that states should adopt to modernize their own UI systems with \$7 billion worth of incentives to help pay for those changes. States receive a share of this funding based on how many of the five modernization upgrades they are willing to make or already have on the books. These changes will help over 500,000 workers each year have access to the UI system, which means more training and more opportunities for the unemployed to find good jobs, while keeping the economy going during the retraining and job search process. **Florida currently has none of the proposed requirements for this funding. This legislation would have made three of the five changes outlined in the Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act.**

- ◆ Implementing the alternative base period for eligibility
- ◆ Enable workers to qualify for benefits if they must leave work for “compelling family reasons” such as a spouse relocating, family illness and domestic violence
- ◆ Enable workers to qualify for benefits if they can only seek part-time work

The Florida AFL-CIO worked with our allies in the Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy, Florida Legal Services and the National Employment Law Program to craft legislation that made the above referenced changes. Senator Tony Hill, who has championed reforming the state’s unemployment insurance system for years, agreed to take the lead and was supported by Freshman Representative Kevin Rader in the House. The business community, led by Florida United Businesses Association, the Florida Chamber of Commerce and the Associated Industries of Florida have been opposed to these changes for years. They believe that the marginal costs to expand this eligibility will cause the system’s trust fund to fall to a level that would trigger a small tax increase for businesses. In the past they were correct, although many experts believe that any small tax increase would be more than offset by the benefits of an improved UI system. However, **in this case, with the amount of federal money available to pay for these upgrades, this legislation would actually have prevented a tax increase which was sure to be on the horizon due to the high number of unemployed workers drawing from the trust fund!** Consider these figures:

◆ **In Florida, an estimated 30,000 workers are automatically excluded from eligibility due to the current base period for eligibility.** These are typically workers from the construction and service sectors whose work is more transient by nature. If Florida had adopted the alternative base period, not only would these workers have been able to participate in their local economies and support retail and other local businesses, **Florida would have received \$145.4 million dollars for its trust fund and \$31.6 million in administrative costs. The estimated cost for this change in terms of benefits is \$45.2 million.**

◆ The second provision of these bills provides coverage for those workers who must seek new employment due to “compelling family reasons,” including a spouse who must relocate for their own work, illness or domestic violence. **This change could help an additional 6,393 workers at a cost of \$18.3 million. In return, that state would receive \$290.825 million, a 2/3 share of the total available in the stimulus package.**

◆ The final provision included is coverage for those who can only seek part-time work. This is already an established practice by the Agency for Workforce Innovation that has not been promulgated in statutes. **This change would cover an additional 6,294 workers at a cost of \$8 million. In return, Florida would receive the full allotment of \$436.238 million plus the \$32 million administrative cost allocation.**

In sum, this legislation would have cost the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund approximately \$71.5 million. In return however, the federal government would have reimbursed the trust fund \$468 million.

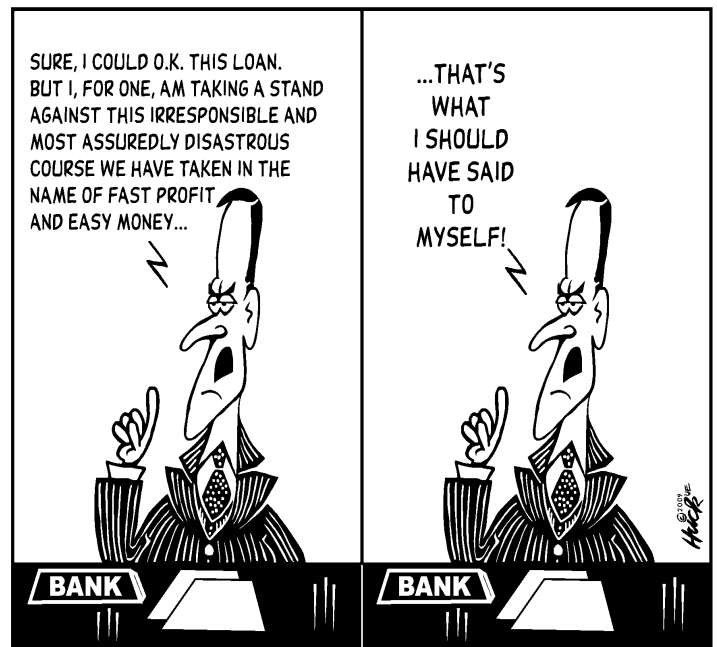
This legislation would have provided a net gain of over \$396 million that could have been used to keep from raising taxes on business! More importantly, over 35,000 workers who are currently excluded from the system would finally have been able to receive the unemployment benefits they are entitled to. Imagine the boost to the state if 35,000 new consumers were added to local economies.

Unfortunately, in spite of an incredibly valiant effort by Senator Tony Hill and support from many key Republicans in the Senate, the business community exerted its incredible power to keep the measure from passing. Even an attempt by Senator Rudy Garcia to work out a last minute compromise was thwarted when these groups and their lobbyists refused to actually look at the numbers and instead relied solely on their tired old, anti-worker ideology to deny themselves a tax cut.

Senate Commerce Committee - UI - Our Position "Y"

Senate Commerce Committee			
Crist	Y	Peaden	Y
Detert	Y	Rich	Y
Justice	Y	Sobel	Y
Lynn	N	Gelber	Y
Oelrich	N	Garcia	Y

In the House, the opposition was even more despicable. Much like the radical right-wing governors in Louisiana and South Carolina, the House simply did not want to accept the Obama stimulus money! They were totally prepared to let Florida and its workers suffer through one of the worst unemployment crises in history simply because the ideologues in the House leadership like Rep. Adam Hasner did not want to take "Democratic" stimulus funds! During the final days of the Session, Representative Rader led a valiant effort to amend this language to a related bill, but after over 90 minutes of debate, the Republican caucus closed ranks and blocked the measure. **(vote on following page)**



Unemployment Insurance - Our Position “Y”

Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote
Abruzzo(D)	Y	Domino(R)	N	Hooper(R)	N	Plakon(R)	N	Schultz(R)	Y
Adams(R)	NV	Dorworth(R)	N	Horner(R)	N	Planas(R)	N	Schwartz(D)	Y
Adkins(R)	N	Drake(R)	N	Hudson(R)	N	Poppell(R)	N	Scionti(D)	Y
Ambler(R)	N	Eisnaugle(R)	N	Hukill(R)	Y	Porth(D)	Y	Skidmore(D)	Y
Anderson(R)	N	Evers (R)	N	Jenne(D)	Y	Precourt(R)	N	Snyder(R)	N
Aubuchon(R)	N	Fetterman(D)	Y	Jones(D)	Y	Procter(R)	N	Soto(D)	Y
Bembry(D)	Y	Fitzgerald(D)	Y	Kelly(R)	N	Rader(D)	Y	Stargel(R)	N
Bogdanoff(R)	N	Flores(R)	N	Kiar(D)	Y	Randolph(D)	Y	Steinberg(D)	Y
Bovo(R)	N	Ford(R)	NV	Kreegel(R)	N	Ray(R)	N	D. Taylor(D)	Y
Boyd(D)	Y	Fresen(R)	N	Kriseman(D)	Y	Reagan(R)	N	P. Taylor(D)	Y
Brandenburg(D)	Y	Frishe(R)	N	Legg (R)	N	Reed(D)	Y	G. Thompson(D)	Y
Braynon(D)	Y	Galvano(R)	N	Llorente(R)	N	Rehwinkel Vasilinda(D)	Y	N. Thompson(R)	N
Brise(D)	Y	L. Garcia(D)	Y	Long(D)	Y	Renuart (R)	N	Thurston(D)	Y
Bullard(D)	Y	Gibbons(D)	Y	Lopez-Cantera(R)	N	Rivera(R)	N	Tobia(R)	N
Burgin(R)	NV	Gibson (D)	Y	Mayfield(R)	N	Robaina(R)	N	Troutman(R)	N
Bush(D)	Y	Glorioso(R)	N	McBurney(R)	N	K. Roberson(R)	N	Van Sant (R)	N
Cannon(R)	N	Gonzalez(R)	N	McKeel(R)	N	Y. Roberson(D)	Y	Waldman(D)	Y
Carroll(R)	N	Grady(R)	N	Murzin(R)	N	Rogers(D)	Y	Weatherford(R)	N
Chestnut(D)	NV	Grimsley(R)	N	Nehr(R)	N	Rouson(D)	Y	Weinstein(R)	N
Clarke-Reed(D)	Y	Hasner(R)	N	Nelson(R)	N	Sachs(D)	Y	A. Williams(D)	Y
Coley(R)	N	Hays(R)	N	O'Toole(R)	N	Sands(D)	Y	T. Williams(R)	N
Cretul(R)	N	Heller(D)	Y	Pafford(D)	Y	Sansom(R)	N	Wood(R)	N
Crisafulli(R)	N	Holder(R)	N	Patronis(R)	N	Saunders(D)	Y	Workman(R)	N
Culp(R)	N	Homan(R)	N	Patterson(R)	N	Schenck(R)	N	Zapata(R)	N

This was probably the most disheartening result of the entire legislative session...watching big business and extreme right ideologues rob Florida’s unemployed workers and their families of almost a half-a-billion dollars in aid they desperately need. Fortunately, states have two years to make the necessary changes to qualify for the allocation so this issue will certainly be back next year.

Unemployment Insurance Extension

Passed

SB 810 by Garcia, Lynn, Hill

HB 7141 by Murzin

Florida AFL-CIO Position – **SUPPORT**

SB 810 – Passed the Senate, House, Signed **by the Governor on June 1st**.

HB 7147 – Substituted by SB 810, **died on 3rd reading.**

While big business leaders and House Republicans refused to reform the state’s failing Unemployment Insurance system (thus giving away almost \$500 million in federal funds for our unemployed workers), they did agree to take advantage of \$400 million in federal money to extend unemployment for an additional 20 weeks. These funds are awarded to the states for the sole purpose of extending benefits to those already eligible; they do nothing to expand eligibility, which is one of the biggest problems in Florida.

This legislation also included a provision crafted by business interests that will temporarily increase the amount of money that businesses pay into the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. One of the reasons that the Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act (see previous issue) was so important is that Florida’s Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is crumbling under the weight of the current high unemployment.

This means that the statutory “trigger” to raise rates which goes into effect when the trust fund is reduced to a specific amount is likely to activate in the next year. In order to control the amount of the tax increase and make sure that it is temporary, business groups crafted this short-term increase. If the Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act had passed, this trigger would have been delayed much longer but it would have required an expansion of eligibility that business groups oppose. It is important to remember that Unemployment Insurance payments by businesses in Florida have been some of the lowest in the nation for decades and continue to be even with these temporary increases.

While this legislation represents a positive development, it is a small band-aid for a system that is terminally ill because it does not meet the needs of Florida’s unemployed workers and by extension, our overall economic health. The business community threw workers some crumbs with this legislation but only because there was little cost to them and they get to remain in control.

Workers’ Compensation – Attorney’s Fees

Passed

SB 2072 by Richter, Baker

HB 903 by Flores, Cannon, Crisafulli, Horner, McKeel, Murzin, Patronis, Stargel, T. Williams

Florida AFL-CIO Position – **OPPOSE**

SB 2072 – Passed Senate Banking and Insurance Committee, Judiciary, General Government Appropriations, **substituted by HB 903**.

HB 903 – Passed the House, Senate, **signed by the Governor on May 29th**.

In 2003, Florida passed one of the most draconian workers’ compensation “reform” packages in history. Consequently, Florida’s injured workers face a harder time getting the benefits they need and deserve than workers just about anywhere else in the nation. Some of the provisions in the 2003 legislative package included:

- Removes social security standard for Permanent Total Disability (PTD)
 - Allows for the ability to do sedentary work to be a reason to deny benefits
 - Stops Permanent Total Disability (PTD) payments at age 75 if employee is eligible for social security
 - Reduces PTD COLA from 5% to 3%
 - Stops COLA payments at age 62 if eligible for social security
 - Reduces impairment benefits by 50% if earning Average Weekly Wage
 - Eliminates psychiatric treatment and benefits to 6 months after reaching physical maximum medical improvement (MMI)
 - Limits psychiatric injuries to 1% impairment
 - Eliminates obligation to rehire once a worker is ready to return to work
 - Reduces training benefits for injured workers
 - Reduces amount and access to nursing care for severely injured workers
 - Allows for only one Independent Medical Examination (IME)
 - The party requesting the IME pays upfront – if employee prevails the carrier will pay
- Non-prevailing party pays court costs in a dispute

The total annual estimated loss of benefits to Florida’s injured workers because of these changes is a whopping \$345 million. So, in return for modest reduction in workers’ compensation insurance premiums, the insurance carriers got the right to deny otherwise valid claims in wholesale fashion, thus boosting their profits while workers and small businesses suffer.

One of the most damaging provisions was a statutory legal fee schedule and a hard cap on attorney fees for injured workers at \$1500 with *NO LIMIT* on fees for the insurance companies. Since even routine traffic fines can cost more than \$1500 in attorneys' fees, this cap all but eliminated the chance for injured workers to have their day in court if the big insurance companies denied their claims. Numerous studies have shown that since this provision was adopted, the number of routine claims denied has increased and the number of cases taken to court by injured workers has decreased - just the right mix to maximize profits!

In October, 2008, the Florida Supreme Court in *Murray v. Mariner Health and ACE USA* knocked down this provision, arguing that it conflicted with other portions of state law and that claimants' attorneys had the right to "reasonable attorney's fees" and that the restrictions were not reasonable. This legislation was designed to answer the court's ruling, change other statutes in the law and reinstate the caps on fees. This was a major opportunity for legislators to begin the process of correcting the injustices done to Florida's workers and businesses under the 2003 law. Unfortunately, a full-court press by the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Associated Industries of Florida and others (representing in this case not the business community but the insurance carriers) pressured most lawmakers **including some Democrats** to vote for these shameful provisions.

Democrats in the House who voted very wrong on this issue were: Representatives Abruzzo, Bemby, Boyd, Brandenburg, Fitzgerald, Long, Saunders, Scionti and Taylor. The only Republican to vote right in the House was Representative Homan.

House Workers' Comp. Vote—Our Position "N"

Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote
Abruzzo(D)	Y	Domino(R)	Y	Hooper(R)	Y	Plakon(R)	Y	Schultz(R)	Y
Adams(R)	Y	Dorworth(R)	Y	Horner(R)	Y	Planas(R)	Y	Schwartz(D)	N
Adkins(R)	Y	Drake(R)	Y	Hudson(R)	Y	Poppell(R)	Y	Scionti(D)	Y
Ambler(R)	Y	Eisnaugle(R)	Y	Hukill(R)	Y	Porth(D)	N	Skidmore(D)	N
Anderson(R)	Y	Evers (R)	Y	Jenne(D)	N	Precourt(R)	Y	Snyder(R)	Y
Aubuchon(R)	Y	Fetterman(D)	N	Jones(D)	N	Procter(R)	Y	Soto(D)	N
Bembry(D)	Y	Fitzgerald(D)	Y	Kelly(R)	Y	Rader(D)	N	Stargel(R)	Y
Bogdanoff(R)	Y	Flores(R)	Y	Kiar(D)	N	Randolph(D)	N	Steinberg(D)	N
Bovo(R)	Y	Ford(R)	Y	Kreegel(R)	Y	Ray(R)	Y	D. Taylor(D)	N
Boyd(D)	Y	Fresen(R)	Y	Kriseman(D)	N	Reagan(R)	Y	P. Taylor(D)	Y
Brandenburg(D)	Y	Frishe(R)	Y	Legg (R)	Y	Reed(D)	N	G. Thompson(D)	NV
Braynon(D)	N	Galvano(R)	Y	Llorente(R)	Y	Rehwinkel Vasilinda(D)	N	N. Thompson(R)	Y
Brise(D)	N	L. Garcia(D)	N	Long(D)	Y	Renuart (R)	Y	Thurston(D)	N
Bullard(D)	N	Gibbons(D)	N	Lopez-Cantera(R)	Y	Rivera(R)	Y	Tobia(R)	Y
Burgin(R)	Y	Gibson (D)	N	Mayfield(R)	Y	Robaina(R)	Y	Troutman(R)	Y
Bush(D)	N	Glorioso(R)	Y	McBurney(R)	Y	K. Roberson(R)	Y	Van Sant (R)	Y
Cannon(R)	Y	Gonzalez(R)	Y	McKeel(R)	Y	Y. Roberson(D)	N	Waldman(D)	N
Carroll(R)	Y	Grady(R)	Y	Murzin(R)	Y	Rogers(D)	N	Weatherford(R)	Y
Chestnut(D)	N	Grimsley(R)	Y	Nehr(R)	Y	Rouson(D)	N	Weinstein(R)	Y
Clarke-Reed(D)	N	Hasner(R)	Y	Nelson(R)	Y	Sachs(D)	N	A. Williams(D)	N
Coley(R)	Y	Hays(R)	Y	O'Toole(R)	Y	Sands(D)	N	T. Williams(R)	Y
Cretul(R)	Y	Heller(D)	N	Pafford(D)	N	Sansom(R)	Y	Wood(R)	Y
Crisafulli(R)	Y	Holder(R)	Y	Patronis(R)	Y	Saunders(D)	Y	Workman(R)	Y
Culp(R)	Y	Homan(R)	N	Patterson(R)	Y	Schenck(R)	Y	Zapata(R)	Y

Senate Workers' Comp Vote - Our Position "N"

Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote
Alexander(R)	Y	Detert(R)	Y	Hill(D)	NV	Rich(D)	N
Altman(R)	Y	Deutch(D)	N	Jones(R)	N	Richter(R)	Y
Aronberg(D)	N	Diaz de la Portilla(R)	Y	Joyner(D)	N	Ring(D)	N
Atwater(R)	Y	Dockery(R)	N	Justice(D)	N	Siplin(D)	Y
Baker(R)	Y	Fasano(R)	Y	King(R)	Y	Smith(D)	Y
Bennett(R)	Y	Gaetz(R)	Y	Lawson(D)	N	Sobel(D)	N
Bullard(D)	N	Garcia(R)	N	Lynn(R)	Y	Storms(R)	NV
Constantine(R)	Y	Gardiner(R)	Y	Oelrich(D)	Y	Villalobos(R)	N
Crist(R)	Y	Gelber(D)	N	Peaden(R)	N	Wilson(D)	N
Dean(R)	Y	Haridopolos(R)	Y	Pruitt(R)	Y	Wise(R)	Y

Elections

Failed

SB 956 by Alexander

HB 7149 by Murzin

Florida AFL-CIO Position: **OPPOSE**

SB 956 – Passed Senate Ethics and Elections, withdrawn from committees and placed on calendar, **died on Senate calendar**

HB 7149 – Passed House Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council, **died on House calendar**

The 2008 election in Florida was one for the record books. There was a record number of new voters registered, a record turnout, a record for people using early voting and voting by absentee ballot. There were still some problems with the process, like deficiencies in the number of early voting sites and the controversial “no-match – no vote” program, but for the most part, the national media proclaimed that Florida had finally washed out the stain of the disastrous 2000 election. Most political watchers agree that the huge number of people participating in the process was a primary factor in labor’s endorsed candidate, President Barack Obama big win in a state that most had written out of the “blue” column. This is why powerful partisans in the Florida Legislature rolled out one of the most sweeping elections bills in a generation late in the 2009 session. This massive elections law re-write was called “the worst elections bill in over a hundred years” by Leon County Supervisor of Elections and voting rights advocate Ion Sancho. This power grab package addressed everything unions and others did right in the last election and then one by one made them impossible or illegal.

The way this travesty of public policy was rammed through the process was illustrative. On Thursday, April 16th, in the late-afternoon, a strike-all amendment was added to SB 956, a “shell bill” meaning that the bill had a number and title only, no actual language. This 80-page amendment was quickly voted out of the committee with a party-line vote after public testimony from groups like the Florida AFL-CIO was limited to only one minute. **In order to be fair, it is important to note that the bulk of the offensive provisions of this bill came in the strike-all amendment filed by Senator Diaz de la Portilla, the Senate Majority Leader. Senator Alexander, the bill’s original sponsor, expressed serious concerns about what was done to his bill although he did vote in favor.**

While the Senate committee was still meeting, nearly identical language was filed in the House as a proposed committee bill. The Democrats on the committee and the public received almost no notice and the staff analysis was not released until 11:30 that night. The bill was then promptly scheduled for an 8:00 am meeting the very next day. Advocates from the Florida AFL-CIO, League of Women Voters, Florida Public Interest Research Group, the Advocacy Center for the Persons with Disabilities and the NAACP worked through the night to prepare testimony for this meeting and provide a detailed analysis to the Democrats on the committee. When the bill was taken up on Friday morning, **Republican Representative Jennifer Carroll** used a procedural move to block debate. After less than 30-seconds of public testimony, **Republican Representative Robert Schneck** insisted that Representative Carroll's motion also blocked any public comment, so that was halted as well. So, with less than 6-minutes of discussion and 30-seconds of public input, the bill passed the House Economic Development and Community Affairs Policy Committee and was on its way to the full House for a final vote.

Why was this legislation made available only during the final days of session? Why was debate and public comment so restricted? The answer is simple; this legislation represented the single biggest threat to Florida's voters since the days of Jim Crow and the less the public knew about it, the less opportunity there was for the people to stop the partisan power grab. There was so much in this bill to be terrified of and so many provisions that were most likely unconstitutional that it is hard to adequately address all those issue in a single newsletter, much less a single article. Here are some the major provisions that were included in the bill.

- ◆ These bills would have made it nearly impossible for groups like the Florida AFL-CIO, Jobs with Justice, League of Women Voters and the NAACP to register their members and others to vote.
- ◆ These bills would have made it much more difficult or voters to exercise their constitutional rights to amend Florida's Constitution. The legislation contained provisions that would have created expensive new bureaucracies, allowed valid signatures on petition forms to be discarded and forced grassroots groups to pay for needless registration and training fees for their workers. If these regulations had been in place, Florida voters would have never been able to vote on the Class Size Amendment, Universal Voluntary Pre-K, the state minimum wage or financial reporting requirements for politicians.
- ◆ SB 956 and its House counterpart would have greatly restricted or eliminated our non-partisan election protection programs on Election Day. The bills banned any type of legal advice for anyone waiting in line and extended the "no solicitation" boundary from 100-feet away from the polling place to 100-feet away from the end of the line. Remember how long lines were for voting? There was also a ban on "solicitation by audio and video methods" which could have prevented voters from talking to election hotlines while waiting in line to vote.
- ◆ The legislation eliminated transparency in campaign financing so that wealthy special interests could use their money to hijack elections in Florida – and the public would have never known how. Voters would have lost their right to change their address on Election Day. This improvement to the process helped thousands of voters vote without using the dreaded provisional ballot in 2008. Florida spent millions developing the technology to allow voters to changes their address on Election Day and the system worked extremely well. Apparently too well, because the supporters of this legislation wanted to make it illegal.

The Florida AFL-CIO and ULL quickly went to work with a statewide coalition of voters' rights advocacy groups to get the word out about these attacks on Florida's Democracy. Within 72-hours, newspapers across the state were publishing editorials admonishing the Republican leadership for their late session power grab.

A press conference was quickly called at the Capitol and over two dozen Democratic lawmakers attended. The New York Times ran two separate exposés on the issue nationwide. Additionally, our E-Activists and E-Messenger subscribers helped generate thousands of emails, phone calls and letters to our legislative leaders and the Governor and within 36-hours, the Governor hinted that he would veto the bill. The night before the bill was to be heard on the House floor, we worked with Democratic legislators to file over 100 amendments to the bill, enough to temporarily shut down the legislature's computer system that handles filed amendments. These amendments coupled the intense public pressure kept the issue from being heard on second reading, the last day it could have been taken up without a waiving of House rules. The next day, House Majority Leader, Representative Adam Hasner, claimed that the legislation would have to wait until the next session, while refusing to concede that the public outcry had anything to do with the legislation's hang-up. **Senator Mike Haridopolos** did manage to pull the Senate version out of its committees so it could be heard on the Senate floor but ULL lobbyists carefully monitored the calendar to make sure that the issue was not taken up and that our allies on both sides of the aisle were ready if it did.

In the end, this legislation died on the calendar in the House and in the Senate Rules Committee. This fight has major implications on multiple fronts. There is no reason to believe that after our successes in the 2008 elections that the Republican dominated legislature will not try to change our elections process next year. Now we know some of the areas of the system they will be targeting. More importantly, our success at quickly mobilizing the public to fight this sneak attack shows the value of the alliances we have made with other groups over the past few years. It also clearly demonstrates the power of an involved labor movement.

Constitutional Amendment – TABOR

Failed

SJR 1906 by Haridopolos, Gaetz, Bennett

HJR 1263 by Flores, Hasner, Holder, Mayfield, Schenck, Stargel, Van Zant, T. Williams

Florida AFL-CIO Position - **OPPOSE**

SJR 1906 – Passed Senate Community Affairs Committee, **died in Governmental Oversight and Productivity.**

HJR 1263 – Passed the House Military and Local Affairs Policy Committee, **died in Finance and Tax Council.**

Many of Florida's union members are well educated on the travesty of public policy that is often called the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, or TABOR. Florida's labor movement has been incredibly active in pushing back against this idea during the past two legislative sessions and when it was proposed during the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission process.

Proposals that have been dubbed "**TABOR**" (**Taxpayer Bill of Rights**) have several basic elements in common:

- ◆ A limit or cap on state taxes and expenditures.
- ◆ Is enacted in the form of a constitutional amendment.
- ◆ Revenue and/or expenditure caps are calculated and then allow for growth equal to the sum of inflation plus population change.
- ◆ These limits or caps can be set aside, but only with the approval of the voters.

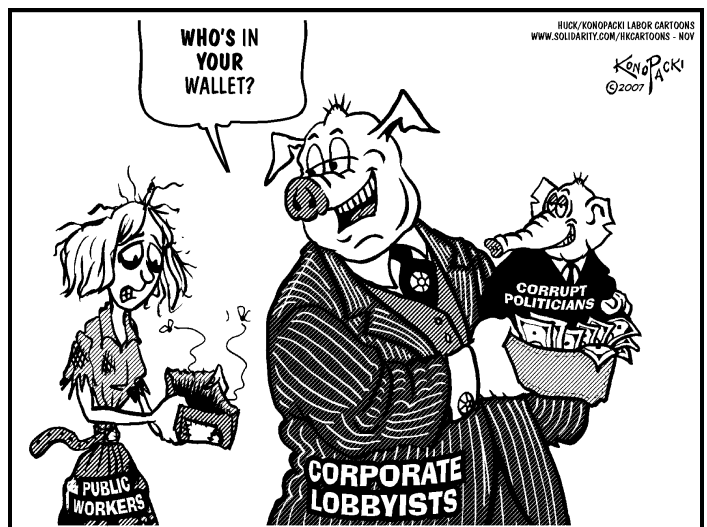
TABOR started life in Colorado in the early '90s. Big business special interests joined forces with anti-tax/anti-government zealots and convinced the population to adopt hard caps on tax revenues in the state constitution. These caps had a devastating impact on a wide variety of social services and provided ample evidence that the growth formula attached to the caps was insufficient to keep up with the needs of the populace. TABOR spending limits forced Colorado to consistently underfund key public services. For example, funding for K-12 education plummeted, dropping Colorado to 49th in the nation in education funding; the proportion of low-income children who lacked health insurance in Colorado doubled. At one point, Colorado had to suspend the requirement that children had to be fully immunized before enrolling in school, because there were not enough state funds to buy vaccines! The situation in Colorado got so bad that in 2005, the voters suspended TABOR in their state, after a campaign led by many of the same business groups that supported it 13 years earlier.

In 2008, BEFORE the past three budget cutting exercises, Florida ranked 48th in total school spending per capita income, 50th in the nation for higher education spending, 42nd for high school diploma completion, 41st in general health care delivery, 47th in terms of people with health care coverage and 44th when it comes to children's health care. Why are we at the bottom of the barrel in these and other key areas? Is it because we are a poor state? Well, according to the US Census we are now home to the third wealthiest population in the nation, so that's not it. The problem is that Florida currently ranks 34th in the nation for total tax revenue, 43rd in the nation for per capita expenditures (up from 50th in 2006) and 48th in the nation for per capita federal dollars we draw down. This amendment would have made our tax structure even more unfair and the situation for working families even worse.

The energy behind this move was purely ideological and as the budget numbers continued to worsen each week during session, it did nothing to dissuade the radicals in the House and Senate from pushing this proposed amendment. In essence, this legislation was nothing but a 10-second political commercial with no real careful policy consideration behind it. The formula for revenue collection was far too simple and the provisions were far too unwieldy to allow Florida to survive the ongoing financial crisis. The last time any careful study of TABOR in Florida was conducted, it was estimated that the state budget would take a whopping \$6 billion hit. At the local level, the damage could be far worse. TABOR would have impacted every aspect of our lives, including public safety, infrastructure improvements, education, health care and the ability for state and local governments to provide any additional services such as parks and recreation. If there was a list of the worst ideas

Senate Community Affairs Committee Tabor Vote - Our Position "N"

Senate Community Affairs Committee			
Altman	Y	Ring	N
Deutch	N	Storms	Y
Garcia	Y	Wise	Y
Gardiner	Y	Siplin	N
Hill	N	Bennett	Y



In spite of all the problems with this legislation and the unassailable fact that this was the worst possible time to experiment with tax caps in the constitution, Senator Mike Haridopolis, who is slated to be the Senate President in 2011, continued to push this legislation with almost religious fervor. Week after week the issue came up in the Senate Governmental

House Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee					
Abruzzo	N	Fresen	Y	Renuart	Y
Bovo	Y	Hukill	Y	Schultz	N
Boyd	N	Long	N	Van Zant	NV
Dorworth	Y	Pafford	N	Wood	Y
Fitzgerald	N	Proctor	Y	Workman	Y

Oversight and Productivity Committee but was postponed because it became apparent that the votes were not there for passage. In the House, this measure had the support of some of the most powerful insiders of the Republican Majority, including Majority Leader Adam Hasner. However, without the Senate the House bill would have been meaningless so the measure was held back. There is no way that this devastating legislation will not be revived and that we will not have to fight TABOR again in the future. We will continue to monitor this issue very closely.

Constitutional Amendment – Property Tax Caps Failed

SJR 738 by Bennett

HJR 385 by Rivera, Bovo, Gonzalez, Hasner, Homan, Hukill, Llorente, Lopez-Cantera, Schenck, T. Williams

Florida AFL-CIO Position – **OPPOSE**

SJR 738 – Passed the Senate Community Affairs Committee, **died in Finance and Tax.**

HJR 385 – Passed the House, **died in Senate Messages**

Last year, Governor Charlie Crist and many of our legislative leaders succeeded in passing “Amendment 1” during a special election. This amendment made many fundamental changes to Florida’s property tax structure, not the least of which was a major power grab in which the legislature and Governor capped local property tax rates, effectively eliminating a major component of local home rule. As Florida’s labor community and our allies predicted, this “one size fits all” overly simplistic tax policy has been a disaster. Remember, one of the major reasons that property taxes rose so dramatically over the past few years is because the legislature passed the buck for much of the funding responsibilities for critical programs to local governments. Jeb Bush’s \$40 billion in tax cuts were largely paid for by shifting funding for essential services from state general revenue and trust funds to city and county governments. In 2008, Florida ranked 8th in the country for the state share of taxes for services, meaning only 7 states in the nation expect their local governments to do as much as ours. For example, education spending, formerly a 70%-30% state/county effort has shifted to a 40%-60% state/county effort. Increased demand on local governments forced counties to maximize their constitutional limit on millage rates for property taxes.

This proposed constitutional amendment would have applied an additional, even more draconian “one size fits all” tax cap on local governments. This cap would be 1.35% on the parcel’s “highest taxable value.” This was the solution being advocated by then House Speaker Marco Rubio and the most extreme right during the special session that gave us amendment 1. The discussions surrounding this proposed amendment were pure bumper sticker politics and ignored the fact that as this measure was being considered, Florida was already in the midst of the greatest financial and budget crisis of a generation.

With the 2010 elections on the horizon, this populist sounding proposal was being pushed as a way to finally, in the Governor's words, "drop property taxes like a rock." It had everything to do with high profile elections and nothing to do with sound fiscal policy. Consequently, many democrats in the House and Senate felt compelled to vote for this measure, unwilling to be painted as soft on tax cuts in their next race. The economy is in turmoil, the housing market has become incredibly volatile and unpredictable and no one knows the impact this would have on long-term property values and taxes. This was not the time to tie the hands of local governments with overly simplistic tax policies that are more about electioneering and politics that appear financially sound but are not. The 1.35% hard caps in this proposed amendment would have made the fallout from Amendment 1 seem inconsequential. Floridians need comprehensive solutions and real tax reform, not more gimmicks.

House Prop. Tax Cap Vote - Our Position "N"

Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote
Abruzzo(D)	Y	Domino(R)	Y	Hooper(R)	N	Plakon(R)	Y	Schultz(R)	N
Adams(R)	Y	Dorworth(R)	Y	Horner(R)	Y	Planas(R)	Y	Schwartz(D)	N
Adkins(R)	Y	Drake(R)	Y	Hudson(R)	Y	Poppell(R)	Y	Scionti(D)	Y
Ambler(R)	Y	Eisnaugle(R)	Y	Hukill(R)	Y	Porth(D)	N	Skidmore(D)	N
Anderson(R)	Y	Evers (R)	Y	Jenne(D)	N	Precourt(R)	Y	Snyder(R)	Y
Aubuchon(R)	Y	Fetterman(D)	N	Jones(D)	N	Procter(R)	Y	Soto(D)	NV
Bembry(D)	N	Fitzgerald(D)	N	Kelly(R)	Y	Rader(D)	N	Stargel(R)	Y
Bogdanoff(R)	Y	Flores(R)	Y	Kiar(D)	Y	Randolph(D)	N	Steinberg(D)	N
Bovo(R)	Y	Ford(R)	Y	Kreegel(R)	NV	Ray(R)	Y	D. Taylor(D)	N
Boyd(D)	N	Fresen(R)	Y	Kriseman(D)	N	Reagan(R)	Y	P. Taylor(D)	N
Brandenburg(D)	N	Frishe(R)	Y	Legg (R)	Y	Reed(D)	N	G. Thompson(D)	N
Braynon(D)	N	Galvano(R)	Y	Llorente(R)	Y	Rehwinkel Vasilinda(D)	N	N. Thompson(R)	Y
Brise(D)	N	L. Garcia(D)	Y	Long(D)	Y	Renuart (R)	Y	Thurston(D)	N
Bullard(D)	N	Gibbons(D)	N	Lopez-Cantera(R)	Y	Rivera(R)	Y	Tobia(R)	Y
Burgin(R)	Y	Gibson (D)	N	Mayfield(R)	Y	Robaina(R)	Y	Troutman(R)	Y
Bush(D)	N	Glorioso(R)	Y	McBurney(R)	Y	K. Roberson(R)	Y	Van Sant (R)	Y
Cannon(R)	Y	Gonzalez(R)	Y	McKeel(R)	Y	Y. Roberson(D)	N	Waldman(D)	N
Carroll(R)	Y	Grady(R)	Y	Murzin(R)	Y	Rogers(D)	N	Weatherford(R)	Y
Chestnut(D)	NV	Grimsley(R)	Y	Nehr(R)	Y	Rouson(D)	N	Weinstein(R)	Y
Clarke-Reed(D)	N	Hasner(R)	Y	Nelson(R)	Y	Sachs(D)	N	A. Williams(D)	N
Coley(R)	Y	Hays(R)	Y	O'Toole(R)	Y	Sands(D)	N	T. Williams(R)	Y
Cretul(R)	Y	Heller(D)	Y	Pafford(D)	NV	Sansom(R)	Y	Wood(R)	Y
Crisafulli(R)	Y	Holder(R)	Y	Patronis(R)	Y	Saunders(D)	Y	Workman(R)	Y
Culp(R)	Y	Homan(R)	NV	Patterson(R)	Y	Schenck(R)	Y	Zapata(R)	Y

Senate Community Affairs Prop Tax Cap Vote - Our Position "N"

Senate Community Affairs Committee			
Altman	Y	Ring	Y
Deutch	N	Storms	Y
Garcia	Y	Wise	Y
Gardiner	NV	Siplin	Y
Hill	Y	Bennett	Y



SB 2270 by Gelber, Rich**HB 1247** by Randolph, SchwartzFlorida AFL-CIO Position – **SUPPORT****SB 2270** – Passed Senate Commerce Committee, Finance and Tax, General Government Appropriations, **died in Policy Committee on Ways and Means****HB 1247** – **Not Considered**

The Florida AFL-CIO has long endeavored to inform our members about Florida's antiquated, inefficient and unfair tax structure. Our contention is that this tax structure is the most direct cause for Florida's current budget crisis. Florida is home to one of the wealthiest populations in the country and some of the biggest, most profitable corporations. Unfortunately, almost a decade of massive tax cuts aimed at these two groups has left working families paying the tab for running the state through the sales tax, which is why our budget has become so volatile and why we entered this year's regular session with upwards of \$3 billion in budget deficits.

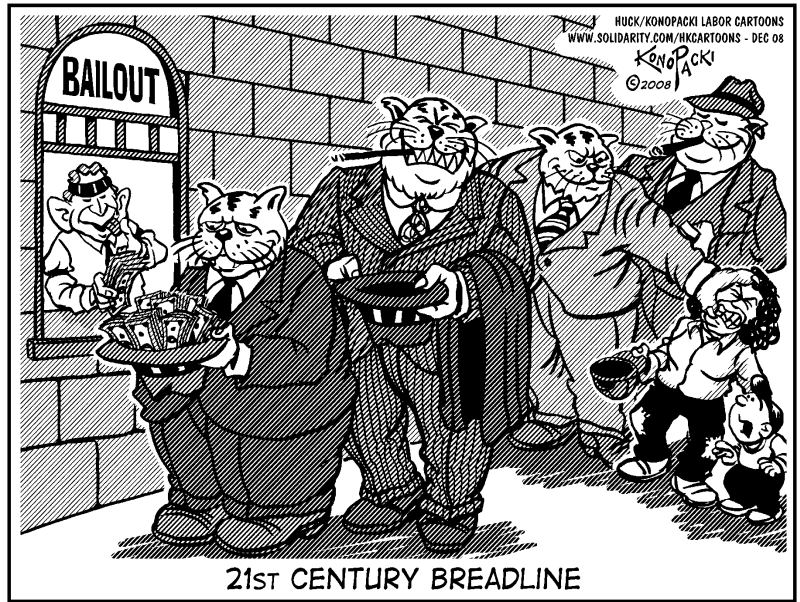
Corporate tax loopholes cost working families a great deal. The Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy has estimated that if the bulk of the current corporate loopholes and tax give-aways were repealed, returning the Corporate Income Tax to its original form as passed overwhelmingly by the voters in 1971, the state would be able to generate an extra \$2 billion in revenue the first year alone. That revenue could be used for our schools, health care and other vital services and programs.

These bills were drafted to begin the process of closing some of those loopholes, focusing on those that are the most egregious and provide no benefit whatsoever to the average Floridian. Specifically, these bills sought to recover between \$350 and \$400 million dollars in revenues lost from the Corporate Income Tax by changing two provisions of Florida's tax policy; combined reporting and add-back rules.

Combined Reporting - This legislation would have required all corporations doing business in Florida to calculate their taxes on the basis of what is called a "combined report" of their business operations within the United States, generally including the parent corporation and most or all its subsidiaries. Almost half the states (21) with corporate income taxes have adopted "combined reporting." Five states have enacted the reform in the last four years, and several others have seriously considered doing so. A major reason for states' growing interest is their recognition of how badly corporate tax shelters that exploit the lack of combined reporting are eroding state corporate tax payments. Corporations have devised a wide variety of strategies to artificially shift profits to out-of-state subsidiaries. This bill would have closed that loophole.

Add-Back Rules – This provision requires all corporations doing business in Florida to add back to their taxable income expenses that have been taken as deductions, like when Toys-R-Us in Florida pays the parent company in another state for the right to use their own logo. The money stays with Toys-R-Us but they write it off as an expense. A number of states have enacted "add-back rules" such as these to prevent abusive tax-avoidance in their corporate income tax laws. This legislation would have authorized the Department of Revenue to add-back expenses that are clearly meant to avoid Florida's corporate income taxes.

Florida is considered one of the most regressive tax states in the nation because of our over-reliance on the sales tax for generating revenue. This means that low and middle-income taxpayers and small businesses pay a far greater percentage of their income than the wealthy or corporate interests. Florida is in desperate need of real tax reform that helps generate the revenue we need while reducing the tax burden on working families. This legislative package would have been a major step in the right direction. Unfortunately, the corporate servants in the House leadership refused to hear this legislation. Serious tax reform is an issue that we will not shy away from. This legislation will undoubtedly be offered at the next opportunity and the Florida AFL-CIO will work for its passage.



Growth Management

Passed

SB 360 by Bennett, Gaetz, Ring, Pruitt, Haridopolos, Richter, Hill, King, Lynn

Florida AFL-CIO Position – **WATCH**

SB 360 – Passed the Senate, House, **Signed by Governor on June 1st**.

Certainly everyone is aware that Florida's population is growing...fast! In the 2000 census, Florida was ranked 7th in the nation with an almost 24% population increase since 1990. While 7th place does not seem like a lot, consider this...5 of Florida's metro areas were ranked in the top 20 of all cities in the nation and Naples was ranked number 2 in the nation with a whopping 65% growth in population since 1990. Also, several of Florida's fastest growing counties have nearly doubled in population since 1990. Flagler county has grown about 74%, Sumter country has grown 69% and Collier country has grown by about 65%. In the next census, Florida is expected to become the 3rd most populous state.

Local unions, Central Labor Councils and State Federations across the nation have joined the "Smart Growth Movement." The research is abundantly clear that working families and local economies benefit through a more balanced, careful approach to growth and development, and many unions have added smart growth to their organizing and legislative agendas including AFT, AFSCME, ATU, SEIU, Teamsters, TWU and UFCW. Labor has become a leader in smart growth movements for several reasons.

Unregulated growth in the form of urban sprawl creates serious disconnects between good job centers and the availability of affordable housing. Local tax incentives almost always go to big corporations building centers that are remote from population centers. New housing in these suburban areas is frequently too expensive for working families. This cause an increase in commute times and transportation costs for workers.

Sprawl places new and expensive infrastructure demands on local communities. Since tax increases are rarely an option, existing social services such as education and other public services have to be cut. Similarly, the dominant model for economic development involves tax breaks for corporations and developers, so new costs are passed on to the taxpayers.

The type of jobs currently being created by most of Florida's dominant growth management practices are lower paying jobs in the retail, warehousing and home services sectors. The "Big-Box" retailers such as Wal-Mart are the biggest beneficiaries of Florida's lax growth management policies.



As work centers diffuse from centralized older population centers, the importance of public transit systems decreases. Not only does this lead to a loss of union jobs, it forces all workers to rely on cars for transportation. This is the most expensive form of transportation for workers, local governments and the state. This forces the state and local communities to spend more of their precious resources on roads leaving them less for new school construction, local health care services and community enhancement projects like recreation.

As population centers diffuse, older health care facilities (more likely to be unionized) are forced to close. The cost for new facilities has become one of the major factors driving up the cost of health care and has increased the burden on emergency rooms, the most inefficient and expensive form of healthcare.

Unregulated growth has led to a dramatic increase in the number of large-scale, out of state building firms. These large companies are often not union and work to undermine area prevailing wage laws and local project labor agreements.

It is important to note that "smart growth" does not in any way mean no growth. In many ways, urban renewal and infrastructure improvements that are at the heart of smart growth principles usually create more jobs, construction and otherwise, than sprawl models.

In 2005, the Florida AFL-CIO carefully monitored a sweeping overhaul of the state's growth management policies and groundbreaking legislation was passed that accomplished many of our goals for reshaping Florida's growth practices in ways that protect jobs, improve our schools, and looks out for the environment. This legislation was heralded by many business leaders, editorial boards, environmentalists and political leaders from both parties. The only groups who did not support the legislation were the largest out-of-state developers and real estate speculators.

Flash forward to 2009. With the economy in shambles, these same interests appealed to Senator Mike Bennett (himself a successful developer) to use the struggling economy as cover to gut the growth management legislation he himself worked to pass just four years ago! Community development experts like the Governor's own Secretary of the Department of Community Affairs, Tom Pelham joined editorial boards all over the state to denounce this legislation on several key points.

The 2005 growth management bill, called for transportation, water management and school concurrency standards. The 2009 version will do away with those same concurrency standards. In most cases, the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) process would be eliminated or exempted. This would include all areas considered “dense urban areas”.

“Dense Urban Areas” are defined in the legislation as having 1000 or more people per square mile. This would allow local governments to permit projects in urban infill areas through an expedited, alternative process. The problem is, according to the last census, this formulation amounts to an average of one dwelling every 1 1/3 acres. It would result in uncontained sprawl, hurting local government services and damaging environmentally sensitive areas...all under the name of “economic development”.

There are requirements in the language for local governments to adopt into their comprehensive plans support and funding for mobility in transportation concurrency exception areas. Connectivity plans need to address urban design, land use mixes, including density and intensity, promote urban infill, redevelopment or downtown revitalization. Local governments have to provide for mitigation if there is a local impact on the SIS (Strategic Intermodal System) level-of-service standards, including access management, parallel reliever roads, demand management and other measures. HOWEVER, if the Office of Tourism and Economic Development concurs in writing with the local government that the project is a qualified job creation project, the local government after consulting with the DOT can allow for a transportation concurrency waiver.



The striking of school concurrency language gives local governments the right to proceed with plan amendments without fear of sanctions. This legislation deems that state reduced oversight of local comprehensive planning is justified for some local governments and for certain types of developments. There is no definition of certain types of development. Local governments and FDOT will lose the ability to collect proportionate share (DRI transportation costs) and proportionate fair share (other transportation concurrency costs) contributions from new development within dense urban land areas. Regional planning councils will also see a reduction in their workload due to the elimination of the DRI program in local governments qualifying as a dense urban land area.

In spite of an unprecedented uproar from a wide range of business, environmental and community groups, including both liberal and conservative voices, the legislation passed both the Senate and House. On June 1st, in an act newspapers roundly criticized as “cowardly” and “caving to special interests in an election year,” Governor Crist signed the bill.

Florida was on the verge of becoming a leader in growth practices for the next century. In a single 60-day legislative session all of Florida’s hard work and progress have been wiped away. Control over our future has once again been ceded to developers who see our state as nothing but a patch of ground they can mine for dollars and then move on...regardless of their impact on our communities.

While the Florida AFL-CIO did not take an official position on this legislation, we are including a vote record so that all of you can see how your elected officials voted on this critical issue.

Senate Growth Management Vote - Our Position "Watch"

Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote
Alexander(R)	Y	Detert(R)	Y	Hill(D)	NV	Rich(D)	Y
Altman(R)	Y	Deutch(D)	Y	Jones(R)	Y	Richter(R)	Y
Aronberg(D)	Y	Diaz de la Portilla(R)	Y	Joyner(D)	N	Ring(D)	Y
Atwater(R)	Y	Dockery(R)	N	Justice(D)	N	Siplin(D)	Y
Baker(R)	Y	Fasano(R)	Y	King(R)	Y	Smith(D)	Y
Bennett(R)	Y	Gaetz(R)	Y	Lawson(D)	Y	Sobel(D)	N
Bullard(D)	Y	Garcia(R)	Y	Lynn(R)	Y	Storms(R)	N
Constantine(R)	N	Gardiner(R)	Y	Oelrich(D)	Y	Villalobos(R)	Y
Crist(R)	N	Gelber(D)	N	Peaden(R)	Y	Wilson(D)	Y
Dean(R)	Y	Haridopolos(R)	Y	Pruitt(R)	NV	Wise(R)	Y

House Growth Management Vote - Our Position "Watch"

Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote
Abruzzo(D)	N	Domino(R)	Y	Hooper(R)	Y	Plakon(R)	Y	Schultz(R)	Y
Adams(R)	Y	Dorworth(R)	Y	Horner(R)	Y	Planas(R)	Y	Schwartz(D)	N
Adkins(R)	Y	Drake(R)	Y	Hudson(R)	Y	Poppell(R)	Y	Scionti(D)	N
Ambler(R)	Y	Eisnaugle(R)	Y	Hukill(R)	Y	Porth(D)	N	Skidmore(D)	N
Anderson(R)	Y	Evers (R)	Y	Jenne(D)	N	Precourt(R)	Y	Snyder(R)	Y
Aubuchon(R)	Y	Fetterman(D)	N	Jones(D)	NV	Procter(R)	Y	Soto(D)	N
Bembry(D)	Y	Fitzgerald(D)	N	Kelly(R)	Y	Rader(D)	N	Stargel(R)	Y
Bogdanoff(R)	NV	Flores(R)	Y	Kiar(D)	N	Randolph(D)	Y	Steinberg(D)	N
Bovo(R)	Y	Ford(R)	Y	Kreegel(R)	Y	Ray(R)	Y	D. Taylor(D)	NV
Boyd(D)	Y	Fresen(R)	Y	Kriseman(D)	N	Reagan(R)	Y	P. Taylor(D)	N
Brandenburg(D)	N	Frishe(R)	Y	Legg (R)	Y	Reed(D)	N	G. Thompson(D)	N
Braynon(D)	N	Galvano(R)	Y	Llorente(R)	Y	Rehwinkel Vasilinda(D)	N	N. Thompson(R)	Y
Brise(D)	N	L. Garcia(D)	N	Long(D)	N	Renuart (R)	Y	Thurston(D)	N
Bullard(D)	N	Gibbons(D)	N	Lopez-Cantera(R)	Y	Rivera(R)	Y	Tobia(R)	Y
Burgin(R)	Y	Gibson (D)	N	Mayfield(R)	Y	Robaina(R)	Y	Troutman(R)	Y
Bush(D)	N	Glorioso(R)	Y	McBurney(R)	Y	K. Roberson(R)	Y	Van Sant (R)	Y
Cannon(R)	Y	Gonzalez(R)	Y	McKeel(R)	Y	Y. Roberson(D)	N	Waldman(D)	N
Carroll(R)	Y	Grady(R)	Y	Murzin(R)	Y	Rogers(D)	N	Weatherford(R)	Y
Chestnut(D)	NV	Grimsley(R)	Y	Nehr(R)	Y	Rouson(D)	N	Weinstein(R)	Y
Clarke-Reed(D)	N	Hasner(R)	Y	Nelson(R)	Y	Sachs(D)	N	A. Williams(D)	Y
Coley(R)	Y	Hays(R)	Y	O'Toole(R)	Y	Sands(D)	N	T. Williams(R)	Y
Cretul(R)	Y	Heller(D)	N	Pafford(D)	N	Sansom(R)	Y	Wood(R)	Y
Crisafulli(R)	Y	Holder(R)	Y	Patronis(R)	Y	Saunders(D)	Y	Workman(R)	Y
Culp(R)	NV	Homan(R)	Y	Patterson(R)	Y	Schenck(R)	Y	Zapata(R)	Y

Education

Voucher Expansion

Passed

SB 1310 by Gardiner, Fasano, Oelrich, Altman, Bennett, Haridopolos, Wise, King, Storms, Dean

HB 453 by Weatherford, Grady, Horner, Hudson, Workman, Zapata

Florida AFL-CIO Position – **OPPOSE**

The Florida AFL-CIO has been opposed to the privatization of our public schools through vouchers since the earliest days of this incredibly misguided idea. There is no way that you can improve our public schools by draining their precious resources and shifting them to private schools. Regardless of what they are called or how the issues are framed, vouchers represent an abandonment of our public schools, perhaps the greatest institution created by our society. These bills represented an expansion of one of the most expensive voucher programs. This program gives tax dollars to corporations who set up private school scholarship (voucher) programs. Although the flow of money is more convoluted, this is still basically giving tax money that should be used for our public schools to private ones.

Specifically, this legislation expands the revenue sources that can be claimed as tax credits for donations to a voucher program under the Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program. These additional revenue sources are taxes on insurance premiums written in Florida and paid by insurance companies to the Department of Revenue (DOR). The bill allows insurance companies to receive a credit of 100 percent of an eligible contribution to an eligible voucher program against any tax due for a taxable year under the provisions of the insurance premium tax. The program remains capped at \$118 million. The schools receiving this money are still not accountable to taxpayers and there is no mechanism in place to ensure that these public dollars are used to provide a quality education. At a time when our public schools are struggling under some of the most draconian budget cuts in state history, this \$118 million should be going to them, not for-profit private schools.

Senate Voucher Expansion Vote - Our Position “N”

Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote
Alexander(R)	Y	Detert(R)	Y	Hill(D)	NV	Rich(D)	N
Altman(R)	Y	Deutch(D)	N	Jones(R)	N	Richter(R)	Y
Aronberg(D)	Y	Diaz de la Portilla(R)	Y	Joyner(D)	N	Ring(D)	Y
Atwater(R)	Y	Dockery(R)	Y	Justice(D)	N	Siplin(D)	Y
Baker(R)	Y	Fasano(R)	Y	King(R)	N	Smith(D)	N
Bennett(R)	Y	Gaetz(R)	Y	Lawson(D)	Y	Sobel(D)	N
Bullard(D)	N	Garcia(R)	Y	Lynn(R)	Y	Storms(R)	Y
Constantine(R)	Y	Gardiner(R)	Y	Oelrich(D)	Y	Villalobos(R)	NV
Crist(R)	Y	Gelber(D)	N	Peaden(R)	Y	Wilson(D)	N
Dean(R)	Y	Haridopolos(R)	Y	Pruitt(R)	Y	Wise(R)	Y

House Voucher Expansion Vote - Our Position "N"

Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote
Abruzzo(D)	Y	Domino(R)	Y	Hooper(R)	Y	Plakon(R)	Y	Schultz(R)	Y
Adams(R)	Y	Dorworth(R)	Y	Horner(R)	Y	Planas(R)	Y	Schwartz(D)	N
Adkins(R)	Y	Drake(R)	Y	Hudson(R)	Y	Poppell(R)	Y	Scionti(D)	Y
Ambler(R)	Y	Eisnaugle(R)	Y	Hukill(R)	Y	Porth(D)	N	Skidmore(D)	N
Anderson(R)	Y	Evers (R)	Y	Jenne(D)	N	Precourt(R)	Y	Snyder(R)	Y
Aubuchon(R)	Y	Fetterman(D)	N	Jones(D)	N	Procter(R)	Y	Soto(D)	Y
Bembry(D)	Y	Fitzgerald(D)	N	Kelly(R)	Y	Rader(D)	N	Stargel(R)	Y
Bogdanoff(R)	Y	Flores(R)	Y	Kiar(D)	N	Randolph(D)	N	Steinberg(D)	N
Bovo(R)	Y	Ford(R)	Y	Kreegel(R)	Y	Ray(R)	Y	D. Taylor(D)	Y
Boyd(D)	Y	Fresen(R)	Y	Kriseman(D)	N	Reagan(R)	Y	P. Taylor(D)	N
Brandenburg(D)	N	Frishe(R)	Y	Legg (R)	Y	Reed(D)	Y	G. Thompson(D)	N
Braynon(D)	Y	Galvano(R)	Y	Llorente(R)	Y	Rehwinkel Vasilinda(D)	N	N. Thompson(R)	Y
Brise(D)	Y	L. Garcia(D)	Y	Long(D)	Y	Renuart (R)	Y	Thurston(D)	N
Bullard(D)	N	Gibbons(D)	N	Lopez-Cantera(R)	Y	Rivera(R)	Y	Tobia(R)	Y
Burgin(R)	Y	Gibson (D)	Y	Mayfield(R)	Y	Robaina(R)	Y	Troutman(R)	Y
Bush(D)	Y	Glorioso(R)	Y	McBurney(R)	Y	K. Roberson(R)	Y	Van Sant (R)	NV
Cannon(R)	Y	Gonzalez(R)	Y	McKeel(R)	Y	Y. Roberson(D)	N	Waldman(D)	Y
Carroll(R)	Y	Grady(R)	Y	Murzin(R)	Y	Rogers(D)	Y	Weatherford(R)	Y
Chestnut(D)	NV	Grimsley(R)	Y	Nehr(R)	Y	Rouson(D)	Y	Weinstein(R)	Y
Clarke-Reed(D)	Y	Hasner(R)	Y	Nelson(R)	Y	Sachs(D)	Y	A. Williams(D)	N
Coley(R)	Y	Hays(R)	Y	O'Toole(R)	Y	Sands(D)	N	T. Williams(R)	Y
Cretul(R)	Y	Heller(D)	Y	Pafford(D)	N	Sansom(R)	NV	Wood(R)	Y
Crisafulli(R)	Y	Holder(R)	Y	Patronis(R)	Y	Saunders(D)	Y	Workman(R)	Y
Culp(R)	Y	Homan(R)	Y	Patterson(R)	Y	Schenck(R)	Y	Zapata(R)	Y

Weakening the Class Size Amendment

Failed

SJR 1828 by Wise, Dean

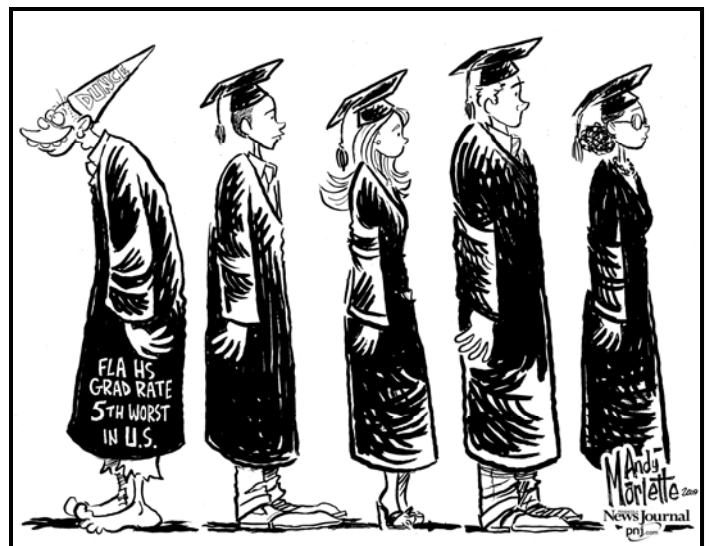
HJR 919 by Weatherford, Hooper, Mayfield, Plakon

Florida AFL-CIO Position – **OPPOSE**

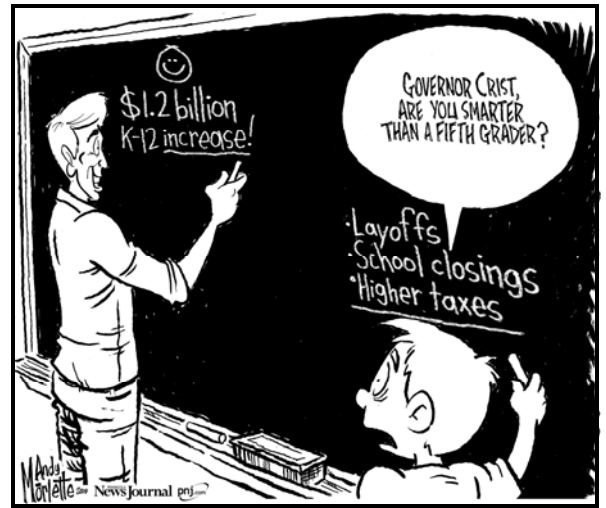
SJR 1828 – Passed the Senate Education PreK-12 Committee, Education PreK-12 Appropriations, died on Senate Calendar – Second Reading

HJR 919 – Passed the House, died in Senate Education Prek-12 Committee

These joint resolutions would have decimated the hard-won constitutional amendment requiring smaller class sizes for our students and teachers. Specifically, the joint resolutions would have amended section 1, of Art. IX of the constitution and create section 31, Art. XII. These changes would have required that the class size requirements for public schools remain at the current limits *but* the class size caps would be based on the *average* number of students in the schools at each grade level, rather than on the *maximum* number of students. These changes also would have deleted the funding requirements for annual reductions in class size to achieve the required maximum class size limits.



Changing from maximum class size caps to average class size caps is a policy sham that the legislature has tried before. Consider how averages work. If you fill a room with 20 people, 19 of whom make less than \$20,000 a year and one who makes \$1 million, the average salary would be \$69,000 a year. Is that an accurate picture of the group? If an average number is used, wealthy suburban schools with smaller class sizes could compensate for poorer urban schools with larger classes. The schools that need the most help, help they would get under the current constitutional requirements, will be left out in the cold. The voters were clear. They wanted smaller class sizes for their children, not mathematical tricks that do nothing to improve our state's education system. The class size amendment is the state's strongest insurance policy to ensure that our schools receive the funding they need to provide a high-quality education for our kids to build the next generation that will help us have a strong economy and state. Without this amendment, the Legislature will be able to continue to shirk its responsibility to safeguard Florida's future.



Senate Class Size Votes - Our Position "N"

Senate Education Pre-K - 12 Committee			
Bullard	Y	Richter	NV
Detert	Y	Siplin	Y
Garcia	Y	Wise	Y

Senate Education Pre-K - 12 App. Committee			
Bullard	Y	Richter	NV
Detert	Y	Siplin	Y
Garcia	Y	Wise	Y

House Class Size Vote - Our Position "N"

Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote
Abruzzo(D)	N	Domino(R)	Y	Hooper(R)	Y	Plakon(R)	Y	Schultz(R)	Y
Adams(R)	Y	Dorworth(R)	Y	Horner(R)	Y	Planas(R)	Y	Schwartz(D)	N
Adkins(R)	Y	Drake(R)	Y	Hudson(R)	Y	Poppell(R)	Y	Scionti(D)	N
Ambler(R)	Y	Eisnagle(R)	Y	Hukill(R)	Y	Porth(D)	N	Skidmore(D)	N
Anderson(R)	Y	Evers (R)	Y	Jenne(D)	N	Precourt(R)	Y	Snyder(R)	Y
Aubuchon(R)	Y	Fetterman(D)	N	Jones(D)	N	Procter(R)	Y	Soto(D)	N
Bembry(D)	Y	Fitzgerald(D)	N	Kelly(R)	Y	Rader(D)	N	Stargel(R)	Y
Bogdanoff(R)	Y	Flores(R)	Y	Kiar(D)	N	Randolph(D)	N	Steinberg(D)	N
Bovo(R)	Y	Ford(R)	Y	Kreegel(R)	Y	Ray(R)	Y	D. Taylor(D)	N
Boyd(D)	Y	Fresen(R)	Y	Kriseman(D)	N	Reagan(R)	Y	P. Taylor(D)	N
Brandenburg(D)	N	Frishe(R)	Y	Legg (R)	Y	Reed(D)	N	G. Thompson(D)	N
Braynon(D)	N	Galvano(R)	Y	Llorrente(R)	Y	Rehwinkel Vasilinda(D)	N	N. Thompson(R)	Y
Brise(D)	N	L. Garcia(D)	N	Long(D)	N	Renuart (R)	Y	Thurston(D)	N
Bullard(D)	N	Gibbons(D)	N	Lopez-Cantera(R)	Y	Rivera(R)	Y	Tobia(R)	Y
Burgin(R)	Y	Gibson (D)	N	Mayfield(R)	Y	Robaina(R)	Y	Troutman(R)	Y
Bush(D)	N	Glorioso(R)	Y	McBurney(R)	Y	K. Roberson(R)	Y	Van Sant (R)	Y
Cannon(R)	Y	Gonzalez(R)	Y	McKeel(R)	Y	Y. Roberson(D)	N	Waldman(D)	Y
Carroll(R)	Y	Grady(R)	Y	Murzin(R)	Y	Rogers(D)	N	Weatherford(R)	Y
Chestnut(D)	N	Grimsley(R)	Y	Nehr(R)	Y	Rouson(D)	N	Weinstein(R)	Y
Clarke-Reed(D)	N	Hasner(R)	Y	Nelson(R)	Y	Sachs(D)	N	A. Williams(D)	N
Coley(R)	Y	Hays(R)	Y	O'Toole(R)	Y	Sands(D)	N	T. Williams(R)	Y
Cretul(R)	Y	Heller(D)	N	Pafford(D)	N	Sansom(R)	NV	Wood(R)	Y
Crisafulli(R)	Y	Holder(R)	Y	Patronis(R)	Y	Saunders(D)	N	Workman(R)	Y
Culp(R)	Y	Homan(R)	Y	Patterson(R)	Y	Schenck(R)	Y	Zapata(R)	Y

Health Care

Reforming KidCare

Passed

SB 918 by Rich, Lynn, Bennett, Aronberg, Sobel, Gaetz, Smith, Lawson, Joyner

HB 1329 by Patronis, Fetterman, Glorioso, Long, Porth, Skidmore, Steinberg

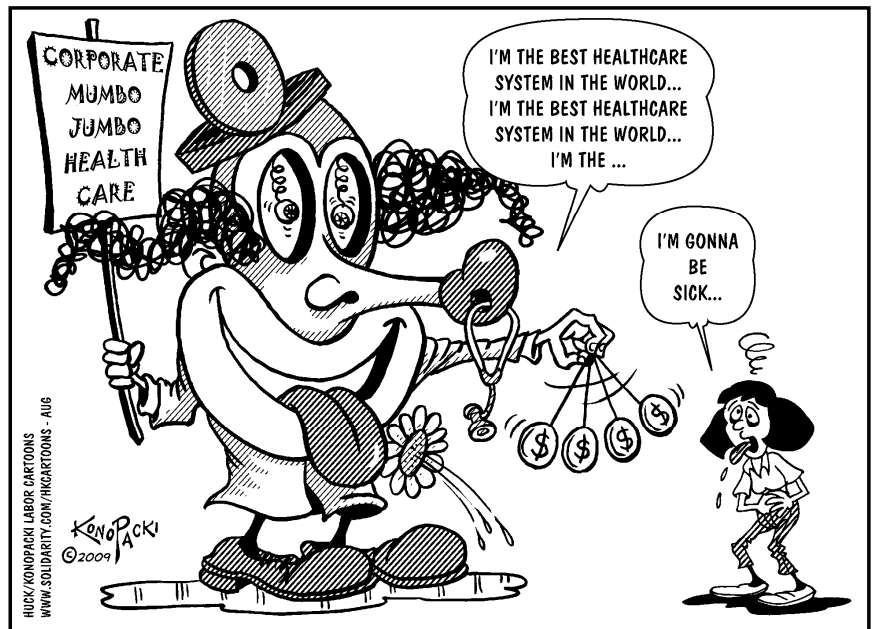
Florida AFL-CIO Position – **SUPPORT**

SB 918 – Passed Senate, House, signed by Governor on June 2nd

HB 1329 – Not considered

Florida has received dismal rankings over the past five years when it comes to healthcare, typically falling in the bottom five of the fifty states. A primary reason for our low scores is the number of children with no access to primary healthcare because they have no insurance coverage.

Like Medicaid, Florida KidCare is a program which operates as a partnership between the federal government and the state. The program is designed to ensure that all children have access to basic health care. Over the past several years, the program has been decimated. Budgets have been cut, eligibility requirements have been tightened to eliminate thousands of children from the program and complex bureaucratic hurdles have been established to discourage the people who desperately need the program from enrolling. Florida is one of only a handful of states where the number of children without insurance is growing. About half a million Florida children with incomes below twice the federal poverty level are uninsured. Most of their families work, but even if the employer offers health insurance for dependents, it is not affordable. Cuts to Florida KidCare have led to over 100,000 children dropped from the program. Over the past four years health care advocacy groups and the KidCare Coordinating Council have held public hearings and worked to develop a plan to bring KidCare back to functionality.



This plan was first introduced in 2007 as “The Children’s Health Act.” While the measure enjoyed the support of the Governor and the bulk of the legislative leadership, a small contingent of power brokers in the House, acting at the behest of the private insurance market, derailed the measure. Two years later, the legislation has finally passed, albeit in a slightly watered down form. Florida KidCare, is one of the most complex in the nation. It was intentionally made this cumbersome in order to minimize enrollment and reduce costs...this of course means less critical health care services for kids.

In general, SB 918 will remove some of the administrative barriers, improve program efficiency resulting in administrative savings, and make it significantly easier for families to enroll eligible children, improve renewal and retention rates, and increase access to health care and better health outcomes for more uninsured children. Some of the reforms include:

- ◆ Decreases the wait period for children with other insurance, employer based or private insurance from 6 months to 2 months, potentially increasing the number of children who need services, enrolled in KidCare.
- ◆ Provides several good cause exceptions to the wait period for children who have access to other insurance. This provision is expected to increase the KidCare enrollment.
- ◆ Improves retention rates for children currently covered by reducing the waiting period for late premium payments from 60 days to 30 days. This helps ensure that children are able to return to the program faster and not lose out on health care services.
- ◆ Allows for electronic verification of income making it easier for families to enroll eligible uninsured children.
- ◆ Parents are able to “reactivate” rather than reapply for KidCare if the child has not enrolled within the current 120 day time frame that the application is considered valid under the current law. Full pay provision for the MediKids component of the program.

There are several important items not included in this bill because they would represent a fiscal impact so they were not considered due to the budget crisis.

- ◆ Continuous eligibility for children age 5-18 in Medicaid
- ◆ Elimination of the five year waiting period for legal immigrant children
- ◆ A seamless transition and continuity of coverage between Medicaid Title XXI and Title XIX programs, Healthy Kids, MediKids and some Children’s Medical Service children. (coordinated administration between the state partners *exists* in law and must be implemented to stop losing children out of the program.)

There are some additional, critically important reforms that we will still be fighting for including:

Reinstate Coverage for State Employees and Legal Immigrants – The passage of SB 2000 in 2004 eliminated coverage for the children of public employees and immigrants because the federal government does not provide matching funds. As of 2007, there were over 66,811 state workers earning less than \$39,000, which for a family of four is 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Currently, premiums for State Group Health Insurance Family coverage are \$180 per month and \$2,160 annually, not including deductibles and co-payments. This cost exceeds 5 percent of income even for workers earning \$39,000 and would qualify their children for KidCare if public employee eligibility were restored. The cost to cover these children will be about \$15 million; a small amount when you consider the state of Florida is currently subsidizing professional sports teams at about \$22 million annually.

Expand Eligibility for Pregnant Women – Under the current program, pregnant women are eligible for prenatal and pregnancy care at 185% of the federal poverty level. A newborn infant is currently eligible at 200%. Prenatal care is critical for healthy kids. This gap needs to be closed.

The passage of this bill is a huge victory, one made possible by the advocates of the Florida Child Healthcare Coalition and many partner organizations. This legislation almost did not make it but was rescued in the final days by the hard work of a bipartisan group including Senator Nan Rich, the supportive leadership in the House by Representative Bill Galvano who has supported KidCare reforms for several years, and Representative Jimmy Patronis sponsor of the companion bill, HB 1329. Other tireless advocates that made this possible were Karen Woodall and Linda Merrell of the Florida Child Healthcare Coalition, former Representative Loranne Ausley and hundreds of activists around the state.

Building Trades

Public Construction - Federal Work Authorization

Failed

HB 915 by Adams, Drake, Eisnaugle, Ford

Florida AFL-CIO Position – **SUPPORT**

HB 915 – Passed the Governmental Affairs Policy Committee, Died in Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council

This legislation would have prohibited any public employer from entering into certain contracts for the physical performance of services within this state unless the contractor registers and participates in the Federal Work Authorization Program. This is an automated system that allows employers to verify workers' legal status to work in the United States.

Across Florida, local workers have been displaced by undocumented workers whose legal status allows unscrupulous contractors to underpay them and deny them basic safety standards. This has a negative impact on the displaced local workers, the undocumented workers and can serve to drive down standards across the relevant industries. This legislation would have ensured that only legal workers are used on public construction projects. This would have protected local jobs, minimized the opportunities for undocumented workers to be victimized and would have helped to enhance the construction industry as a whole.

Registered Apprenticeship Funding

Budgets Maintained

Various – Appropriations

Florida AFL-CIO Position - **SUPPORT**

One of the most important times for major investments in workforce development is during periods of economic slow-down. Businesses can increase productivity with highly skilled workers and workers can increase their career potential through comprehensive training. Increased productivity combined with increased earning potential helps to stimulate the economy. The "registered" apprenticeship model has proven itself to produce the knowledge, skill and abilities that are needed by business and labor alike. The apprenticeship programs are an integral part of Florida's economic development engine. Apprenticeship funding continues to receive considerable attention from the Legislature. Currently, the majority of funding for Building Trades apprenticeship programs is private and a result of collective bargaining with construction employers. Public funding is distributed by the Department of Education, Division of Workforce Education, and the amount varies from program to program. The public funding is funneled to the programs via School Districts or Community Colleges called LEA's. The apprenticeship funding is a part of the overall workforce appropriation for each LEA. The LEA's have complete discretion on the amount and to whom the funding is distributed. In 2007, the Florida Building Trades worked to direct an additional \$3 million in funding to help expand critical apprenticeship programs. Governor Charlie Crist vetoed that funding and it has not been included in the budget over the past two years. This year, as in the past, the building trades and ULL worked to get a similar appropriation and worked with the office of the Governor to ensure that the appropriation was approved. While this additional funding was not included in the final budget, current budgets were maintained. This is a major success in a budget year in which many programs were slashed considerably.

Monitored Legislation with No Action

Tax Reform – Sales Tax Exemptions

SUPPORT

SB 2576 by Lynn

HB 1163 by Hukill, Soto

For years, the Florida AFL-CIO has supported attempts to force a review of the myriad of exemptions and exclusions from sales and use taxes but the special interests who fought to get them have kept this common sense action from being taken. This year, in the midst of Florida's worst budget crisis in a generation, many had hoped that there would be much more interest in completing this review and repealing some of these ridiculous exemptions. Unfortunately, anti-tax zealots in the Republican House Leadership like Representative Ellyn Bogdanoff, Chair of the Finance and Tax Committee, refused to let this bi-partisan measure be considered

Tax Reform – Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement

SUPPORT

SB 1134 by Lynn, Detert

HB 329 by Rehwinkel-Vasilinda, A. Williams

Although it is difficult to place a specific figure on the amount of taxes Florida loses to Internet sales, the Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy has estimated this amount to be approximately \$1 billion. Florida Tax Watch estimates that the presence of online retailers competing with local "bricks and mortar" businesses has cost Florida between 112,000 and 113,000 jobs. This legislation would have allowed Florida to fully participate in a multi-state compact that would enable the state to collect taxes from internet sales. This not only would have generated precious revenue for the state budget but would have also helped businesses based in Florida to be more competitive.

Permanent Absentee Ballots

SUPPORT

SB 990 by Rich

HB 837 by Fitzgerald

In polling places all over the country, time and again, election results are skewed by malfunctioning equipment, human error, and under staffed polls. Permanent absentee ballots help fix many of these problems while increasing turnout by relying on something Americans trust: the United States Postal Service. Permanent absentee ballots can be more convenient for all Americans. Voters do not have to take time off work or face long lines in bad weather. Disabled citizens wishing to cast a vote do not have to make special arrangements to get to the polls. Citizens can calmly consider difficult choices on their ballots in the privacy of their own homes instead of under pressure in the confines of a polling booth. In Colorado, where voters were recently given the option to file a permanent absentee voter request, turnout reached almost 70 percent in the 2008 election. Unfortunately, this was a session that saw major attacks on the integrity of our voting system so there was little interest in pursuing any course of action that would have made it easier to vote.

Direct Mail Marketing Solicitations

OPPOSE

SB 1324 by Aronberg

HB 781 by Brandenburg

This legislation would have created a new "Do Not Mail" registry in the State of Florida. "Do Not Mail" registries are different than similar "Do not Call" registries. Direct mail is non-invasive, is more often than not appreciated by more consumers and is a much more effective way for local businesses to promote themselves. Banning direct mail would also cause irreparable harm to the US Postal service and could threaten thousands of good union jobs. Once the sponsors of this legislation carefully examined the issue, these bills were withdrawn.

Sales Tax Increase for Education**SUPPORT****SB 2582** by Deutch**HB 731** by Bullard

Florida's public education system was already reeling from three consecutive budget cutting exercise as we entered this year's financially crippled session. These cuts, totaling over \$3.2 billion, had reduced the state's share to 47.95% of the total allocation, the lowest percentage since 1973, leaving local governments to try and cover the shortfall with property taxes (which of course have been capped). In order to mitigate the need for further cuts, supporters of our public schools floated the idea of a temporary 1 cent increase in the state's sales tax to help fill the gaps. It is impossible to consider Florida's budget meltdown without considering the horrific impact it has had on our public schools which continue to be ranked near dead last in many indicators of school funding and performance. This legislation would have increased the sales tax by .01 for 36-months to generate \$10.5 billion for our schools. As negotiations continued during the session this idea was ultimately abandoned. However, with revenue collections expected to continue dwindling thanks to our antiquated tax system, this idea may have to be resurrected in the next year.

Retaining Florida's Best Teachers**SUPPORT****SB 1874** by Deutch**HB 355** by Kiar

Florida's public education system continues to shed its best teachers. Research indicates that 40% to 50% of the state's teachers leave the profession within the first five years of service and this rate is far worse when looking at those schools in communities with high poverty rates. This growing problem not only robs our system of a new generation of quality teachers, it also costs local school districts millions. These bills were designed to address this problem with new reporting systems and requirements that both the state and individual districts develop programs to help keep the best teachers on the job. Unfortunately, the majorities in the House and Senate seem content to leave our public schools on life-support and had no interest in taking pro-active steps to improve the situation for either our teachers or their students.

Workplace Safety**SUPPORT****SB 1878** by Lynn**HB 1029** by Gibson

In 1999, Gov. Jeb Bush and the Florida Legislature eliminated the Division of Safety in the Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security and repealed all of the safety laws covering public sector employees. Florida law currently contains no provisions regarding the general health and safety of public sector workers at any level. Public employees are not covered by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA). Last year, Senator Lynn and Representative Gibson sponsored and passed legislation creating a 15-member task force to study and make recommendations on bringing back safety laws for Florida public employees. The task force recommended that all public employers (cities, counties, school districts and the state) be required to meet OSHA minimum standards within three years. This legislation would have enacted those recommendations. Unfortunately, it appeared as if pressure from the cities and counties helped scuttle this proposal. This is certainly an issue that will resurface.

State Contracting/Procurement of Services**OPPOSE****SB 900** by Bennett**HB 1207** by Bogdanoff

These bills would have forced the state to pay contractors of outsourced human services related to mental health, substance abuse, child welfare, or juvenile justice if the state increases oversight of the contracts by adopting a statutory requirement, administrative rule, regulation, assessment, executive order, judicial order, or other governmental requirement, or an agency policy. Florida's contract oversight is a national laughingstock, and this bill would have inhibited any future attempts to reign in the privateers. Fortunately, this measure never saw the light of day.

Career Service Reform**SUPPORT****HB 1441** by Coley

This legislation continues the process of restoring long-standing Career Service protections that were eliminated during Jeb Bush's administration. This legislation would have restored the Public Employee Relations Commission to its traditional role in reviewing agency actions against state employees, including mitigating disciplinary decisions. The bill also would have spelled out the objective criteria to be used by the state in choosing which employees to layoff.

Collective Bargaining / Legislative Body**OPPOSE****SB 496** by Oelrich**HB 85** by Hays

These bills would have designated the county constitutional officers (sheriff, tax collector, property appraiser, supervisor of elections, and clerk of the circuit court) as the legislative body in resolutions of collective bargaining impasses where that elected official is the employer. If this bill had passed, a union at impasse in negotiations with a sheriff would have to appeal to the sheriff to resolve the problems, rather than the county commission.

State Board of Administration**SUPPORT****SB 2580** by Deutch**HB 1427** by Williams

The legislation would have tightened up reporting requirements and put public employees on the Investment Advisory Board of the State Board of Administration (SBA) for the first time in decades. This legislation was vital because there is currently no input by participants or beneficiaries of the Florida Retirement System. The bill would have expanded the SBA advisory board to nine members with one member representing local governments, one representative of a state employees' union in the Regular Class, one representative of a teacher's union, one representative of a police union, one representative of a firefighter union and one Florida Retirement System beneficiary. We will continue to push for these much needed changes to make the SBA more representative of the workers it is supposed to serve.

FRS – Defined Contribution Retirement Program**OPPOSE****SB 534** by Fasano

This bill ranks right up there with some of the worst ideas of the 2009 Legislative Session. This bill would have destroyed the Florida Retirement System by forcing all eligible employees (state, state university, county, municipal, and school board) hired after Jan. 1, 2010, into a defined contribution plan where their retirement income would be determined by their personal investment decisions and the performance of Wall Street. Currently, the FRS is a defined benefit, meaning that beneficiaries get a guaranteed retirement income based on the salary earned during their work years. Eligible employees currently have the option of enrolling in the defined-contribution Public Employee Optional Retirement Program, but few have chosen to do so. Fortunately, with no House sponsor and with the legislature seeming to be uneasy about tinkering with a system that is actually working, this legislation was never. However, this has long been a priority of Senator Fasano, a powerful member of that chamber so we will remain vigilant to see if it is brought back next year.

State Group Life Insurance Subsidy for Retirees and Spouses**SUPPORT****SB 1504** by Lawson**HB 325** by Rehwinkel Vasilinda

Rationale: In the 2006-2007 budget, \$10 million was appropriated to provide a subsidy for state retirees and their spouses to help them defray the cost of their life insurance policies. Unfortunately, this funding was vetoed by then Governor Jeb Bush. The loss of these funds has led to increases of up to 650% in the premiums paid by our retired public sector workers. This legislation would have changed state law to allow the state to subsidize these premiums, making these policies affordable once again for our retirees and their families. We will continue to pursue this good legislation in future sessions.

Journeyman Craft Licensing

SUPPORT

256 by Wise

HB 519 by Ray

Rationale: Currently, local ordinances cannot require state certified construction employers to employ licensed journeyman except in specific instances in the electrical trade. In the past, cities and counties could adopt local ordinances that would require all contractors to employ a certain number of licensed journeymen specific to certain trades on all job sites. At that time, a home or business owner could rely on a contractor's employee to maintain a certificate of competency that verified field experience and test/exam success. Beginning about ten years ago as a result of a court case and legislative action, local governments can no longer require certified contractors to employ workers who certify their competency. This legislation would have begun the process of reinstating provisions in the law to ensure that qualified professionals are performing construction work.

Regulating Contract Carriers for Railroad Workers

SUPPORT

SB 276 by Crist

HB 557 by Bovo

Rationale: The big railroad companies employ contract carriers to transport their workers around the state. Currently, these transportation service providers are not covered by any single regulatory agency. They are not considered transport drivers, so they are not required to have special licensing. They are not covered by any federal regulations for transport workers, so they are not subject to maximum work/ minimum rest requirements and are not even required to be tested for drugs or alcohol. Additionally, there are no minimum insurance or equipment safety standards, other than those which apply to basic passenger vehicles. This legislation would have brought much needed oversight to this transportation practice, ensuring the safety of our railroad workers who have no choice but to rely on this company-provided transportation. We have helped to push this legislation during the past three sessions, each year gaining more bi-partisan support.



2009 Legislator Rankings



The Florida AFL-CIO and United Labor Lobby have been working to refine our legislative scoring/ranking system in order to better capture the true nature of our elected officials' efforts on behalf of or against Florida's working families. This new model must, by nature, be rather complicated if it is to factor in the votes taken, legislation supported, comments made in committee meetings and the officials' efforts behind the scenes either in support of or opposition to our agenda.

While we have yet to finish refining our final process for comprehensive rankings, we did ask United Labor Lobby members to complete a short questionnaire to assess their opinions about the performance of members of the Florida House and Senate.

Each member of the ULL was asked to rank the five members in each chamber they found to be the most helpful and supportive in advancing our working families agenda. They were also asked to rank the five members in each chamber they believed were the most damaging to the work we were trying to do during this legislative session. These rankings were converted to a numerical score and then totaled to create the following rankings based on the responses of those who chose to complete our questionnaire.

We have included many important votes in this report. We strongly urge all of you to review those votes carefully as tangible representations of where your legislators stand on our issues and incorporate these votes into your own analysis of your legislator's performance.

Most Helpful/Supportive/Effective in the Senate (out of 40)

1. Senator Alex Villalobos (R)
2. Senator Dan Gelber (D) / Senator Ted Deutch (D)
3. Senator Paula Dockery (R)
4. Senator Tony Hill (D)
5. Senator Nan Rich (D) / Senator Al Lawson (D)

Honorable mentions include: Senator Charlie Justice (D), Senator Arthenia Joyner (D), Senator Charlie Dean (R), Senator Eleanor Sobel (D), Senator Dave Aaronberg (D), Senator Fredricka Wilson (D).

Least Helpful / Most Opposition in the Senate (out of 40)

1. Senator Mike Bennett (R)
2. Senator Garrett Richter (R)
3. Senator Diaz de la Portilla (R)
4. Senator Don Gaetz (R)
5. Senator Mike Haridopolos (R) / Senator Mike Fasano

Unfortunate mentions include: Senator Chris Smith (D), Senator Lee Constantine (R), Senator Carey Baker (R), Senator Ken Pruitt (R)

Most Helpful/Supportive/Effective in the House (out of 120)

1. Representative Evan Jenne (D)
2. Representative Adam Fetterman (D) / Representative Julio Robaina (R)
3. Representative Ron Saunders (D)
4. Representative Franklin Sands (D) / Representative Keith Fitzgerald (D) / Representative Kevin Rader (D)
5. Representative Martin Kiar (D)

Honorable mentions include: Representative Marti Coley(R), Representative Scott Randolph (D), Representative Mark Pafford (D), Representative Greg Evers (R), Representative Luis Garcia (D), Representative Oscar Braynon (D), Representative Alan Williams (D).

Least Helpful / Most Opposition in the House (out of 120)

1. Representative Adam Hasner (R)
2. Representative Larry Cretul (R)
3. Representative Anitere Flores (R)
4. Representative Chris Dorworth (R) / Representative Dave Murzin (R)
5. Representative Dean Cannon (R) / Representative Carlos Lopez-Cantera (R)

Unfortunate Mentions Include: Representative Will Weatherford (R), Representative Ellen Bogdanoff (R), Representative Janet Long (D), Representative Ray Sansom (R).