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## Press Release

### Hundreds of Workers from Across Florida Converge on Orlando for Candidate Rally and Massive Door-to-Door Outreach

Hundreds of union members were joined by Congressman Alan Grayson, Senator Dan Gelber, Rod Smith and American Federation of Government Employees National Vice-President Augusta Thomas candidates in a rally to kick-off the Labor Movement's final push in the mid-term elections.

**Orlando** – Approximately 300 union members and their families gathered for a candidate rally and door-to-door outreach event in the heart of Florida's I-4 corridor on Saturday to encourage union members and their families to get out and vote for the Florida AFL-CIO's endorsed candidates in the upcoming elections. The volunteers reached over 3,000 union members and their families across Florida's 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in a single morning, one of the largest all-volunteer campaign canvasses in recent Florida history. The event was just a small part of a massive state-wide grassroots campaign to turn out the union vote in what could prove to be one of the most significant mid-term elections in memory. Local unions across Florida have distributed hundreds of thousands of mail communications, knocked on thousands of doors and have sponsored hundreds of volunteer phone banks in support of Labor's endorsed candidates. Labor's message this year is simple, union members can either continue to support the policies that are slowly, but surely, moving our nation forward or allow our country to fall back into the disastrous economic policies of the past that created the current economic crisis.

A diverse group of workers from all profession joined together to carry the union message throughout what will prove to be a pivotal region on Election Day. Congressman Alan Grayson, Senator Dan Gelber, Rod Smith, Representative Scott Randolph, Representative Darren Soto, and Florida House candidates Amy Mercado and Todd Christian rallied the volunteers before they headed out into neighborhoods across the district. American Federation of Government Employees National Vice President Augusta Thomas also joined the rally.

Florida AFL-CIO President Mike Williams encouraged the volunteers to maintain their energy and enthusiasm for what promises to be a very busy two weeks before Election Day. He said, "We accomplished amazing things in 2008 here in Florida but the forces that shipped millions of our jobs overseas, let Wall Street run wild, let the banks post record profits while throwing millions from their homes and collapse our economy while they profited are back with a vengeance. They are spending whatever it takes and saying whatever it takes to con Florida's working families into doing it all over again. We must be the defenders of progress; we must make sure that we do not fall back into the hole they created just as we are digging our way out. We can't rest until we stop that from happening."

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