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Press Release

The Florida AFL-CIO Endorses Dan Gelber for Attorney General

Gelber Gets Full Backing and Enthusiastic Support of Florida's Labor Movement

Tallahassee – On Sunday, May 23rd, over 200 delegates representing 550 local labor unions from across Florida gathered in Jacksonville for the Florida AFL-CIO 2010 COPE (Committee on Political Education) Endorsing Convention. The delegates were charged with determining which candidates in Florida's federal and state races would receive the backing of the 500,000 member labor federation. At that time, Senators Dan Gelber and Dave Aronberg, two public servants with strong records of defending the interests of Florida's working families, were competing in the Democratic Primary for Attorney General. The convention decided, by a unanimous vote, that the Florida AFL-CIO would not endorse in the primary election, enabling local unions to work for the candidate of their choice but that the state federation would endorse the winner of this critical primary in the General Election. Last night's commanding victory by Senator Dan Gelber in the Democratic Primary coupled with his distinguished lifetime record of service to Florida's working families has earned him the full, unequivocal support of Florida's Labor Movement to be the next Attorney General for the state of Florida.

In a statement released on Wednesday morning, Florida AFL-CIO President Mike Williams said, "We had two excellent choices in this process which is why our members decided to let the people of Florida weigh in before making a final decision. The voters have spoken and we are so excited that we can now throw our full support behind Senator Gelber in his bid to continue his incredible service to the people of Florida as our next Attorney General. Senator Gelber has a proven record as a true leader and a fighter who will always vigorously defend the interests of Florida's working families. Dan Gelber has the experience, the skills and the passion to distinguish himself as one of the greatest Attorney Generals in Florida history and our members will work tirelessly to give him that chance. Dan Gelber has always been our champion, as a prosecutor, a member of the Florida Legislature and a community servant. Our members are excited by the opportunity to make sure that he has the opportunity to continue serving the people as our next Attorney General."

The Florida AFL-CIO's endorsement of Dan Gelber means that he will be able to count on the full effort of Florida's Labor 2010 program involving thousands of activists across the state working everyday to contact union members and their families about his candidacy in what has become one of the most successful grass-roots operations in Florida politics.

For Release Wednesday, August 25, 2010