



# Florida AFL-CIO

*The Voice of Labor in the Sunshine State*

Mike Williams  
*President*

Brian Dempsey  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

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11/03/10

Brothers and Sisters,

First, let me thank all you for your hard work and dedication over the past few months. I am so proud of the efforts many of you made and regardless of the outcomes, many of you fought nobly for what is right and for that I am truly grateful.

I will not insult your intelligence by pretending that yesterday's election results were not an absolute disaster for working families in Florida. Rick Scott will be the next Governor of Florida, anti-worker politicians will control the cabinet and the Legislature will be led by Republicans Senator Mike Haridopolos and Representative Dean Cannon, two leaders who have made their disdain for the labor movement common knowledge. Many of our most intelligent and passionate supporters lost their campaigns and the Republican Party now has veto-proof and procedural majorities in both chambers. These are the leaders we must work with and we hope to educate them on the real struggles facing working families and will do everything we can to soften their hearts and find common ground to move Florida forward.

These are certainly dark times. However, it is important to remember that great men and women who built the Labor Movement in this country and brought us so many things people now take for granted suffered much more than lost elections. They lost their lives to fight for the rights of working people. We must remember their sacrifice because now is the time to "circle the wagons" and fight like hell for the benefit of our members and all of Florida's working families. We must use this experience as a wake-up call and mobilize now like never before.

We will hit the ground running in Tallahassee and in the next few months will work to engage our leaders, rank-and-file members and activists in our legislative program. We will push back against the coming onslaught but our success is dependent on all of you. We must come together as one. No local unions can sit out the fights that are coming and while we might not always agree on the details, we must unify on the "big picture" for what we want Florida to look like in the future. Our children and grandchildren are looking to us and we must not let them down.

Thank you again for your support and please remember that yesterday was not the end but the beginning of a struggle we can't run from and in the end, must win.

Fraternally,

*Mike Williams*

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