



***RESOLUTIONS AS PASSED AT THE
FLORIDA AFL-CIO 2007 BIENNIAL CONVENTION***

***Resolution #1 – PROHIBITION OF PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION PROJECT
LABOR AGREEMENTS (OPEN CONTRACTING ACT)***

WHEREAS: Project Labor Agreements facilitate the timely and efficient completion of projects; and

WHEREAS: Project Labor Agreements make available a ready and adequate supply of skilled workers, assures labor stability and peace, and facilitates equal employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS: The development of Project Labor Agreements generally results in cost savings; and

WHEREAS: The Project Labor Agreements ensure the highest standards of quality and safety will be met; and

WHEREAS: The prohibition of public entities requiring or entering into such agreements would eliminate local government's ability to make autonomous "best business" decisions for their construction projects; and

WHEREAS: Such prohibitions would eliminate certain job opportunities for Building Trades Craftsmen;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO oppose any proposed legislation that would prohibit public entities from requiring, or entering into, agreements with one or more labor organizations for the purposes of establishing a Project Labor Agreement for said public entities' construction projects. Such legislation is commonly referred to as "the Open Contracting Act".

Submitted by: Mike Williams, President, Florida Building Trades Council

Resolution #2 - APPRENTICESHIP EDUCATION AND FUNDING

WHEREAS: Apprenticeship remains among the best of examples in training and producing High/Wage and High/Skill jobs for Florida's workforce; and

WHEREAS: Labor Organizations by obligation and commitment are deeply involved in training; and

WHEREAS: Labor's future well being is, in part, tied to workforce development through appropriate public and private programs; and

WHEREAS: The integrity and skills required in certain industries enables workers to further enhance the value of such work and to join together for the purpose of collective bargaining; and

WHEREAS: Florida industry is dependent upon insuring such integrity and skills will be maintained in the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO will support legislation that will provide an increase of funding for apprenticeship programs within a vocational education funding formula that will enhance the union competitive advantage through the establishment of funding requirements that reward superiority in performance and graduation outcomes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO will support maintaining the current tuition exemptions enjoyed by registered apprenticeship as a result of the tremendous private funding and support given by the industry;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO oppose any attempts to circumvent such requirements by industry through the establishment of alternative training programs or any other system adverse to such funding requirements;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO support initiatives to adopt by rule or policy that the appropriate agencies require registered apprenticeship programs on state funded construction projects and support the appropriate legislation deemed necessary to lawfully enforce such requirements.

Submitted by: Mike Williams, President, Florida Building Trades Council

***Resolution #3 - JOURNEYMAN CRAFTSMAN
CERTIFICATION AND ENFORCEMENT***

WHEREAS: The value of education and training in the construction industry is recognized and accepted under State and Federal Law and Rule throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS: No state law or completely enforceable local law exists that requires a certain level of competence for construction workers; and

WHEREAS: The construction consumer expects to receive a quality product from a competent workforce; and

WHEREAS: Shoddy construction, unsafe jobsites and inadequate training are running rampant through the Florida construction industry;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO support state legislation that would establish the appropriate criteria for certifying the competency of journeymen and the enforcement of onsite requirements for journeyman certification upon all construction contractors.

Submitted by: Mike Williams, President, Florida Building Trades Council

Resolution #4 - BEST VALUE CONTRACTING

WHEREAS: Many of Florida's state agencies award contracts that are based primarily on low bids; and

WHEREAS: A low bid award does not always insure cost effectiveness or quality and timely construction; and

WHEREAS: The "Best Value Contracting" method of procurement takes into consideration qualifications such as safety records, on time and under budget completions, industry training involvement, drug-free workplace, staffing abilities and etc., as well as pricing, as the basis for contract awards; and

WHEREAS: Some local, state and federal agencies and departments currently utilize Best Value Contracting as the preferred method of contract award determination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO support legislation that would require Best Value Contracting when state funds are to be disbursed as a result of a bid/award contracting procurement process.

Submitted by: Mike Williams, President, Florida Building Trades Council

Resolution #5 - UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

WHEREAS: Layoffs and job reductions continue to negatively impact thousands of Florida's workers; and

WHEREAS: Florida has one of the nation's most restrictive unemployment compensation qualifying guidelines; and

WHEREAS: There has not been an increase in benefits for unemployed workers in several years; and

WHEREAS: Unemployment benefits give unemployed workers the financial means to seek and secure jobs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO support alternate base legislation that would relax the current strict benefit qualifying requirements and allow unemployed workers the ability to maximize their benefit potential; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO support legislation that would increase unemployment benefits to a level from which unemployed workers can fully maintain the due diligence necessary to seek and secure meaningful jobs.

Submitted by: Mike Williams, President, Florida Building Trades Council

Resolution #6 - AEROSPACE WORKFORCE CHALLENGE FUND

WHEREAS: For many years the space industry in Florida has provided high skill/high wage jobs with health care and retirement benefits; and

WHEREAS: The current space flight shuttle program is scheduled to end in the year 2010; and

WHEREAS: The next generation of space flight vehicles is not scheduled for launch until 2015, establishing a potential employment gap for workers in Florida's space industry; and

WHEREAS: Other states are competing with Florida to secure the majority of employment opportunities associated with the next generation of space flight; and

WHEREAS: There is not a clearly defined and adopted strategy, which includes labor, to maintain and expand space industry employment opportunities in Florida upon completion of the current space flight shuttle program; and

WHEREAS: Legislation has been proposed, but has not passed, to establish the "Aerospace Workforce Challenge Fund", providing a Private/Public partnership to fund initiatives with a goal of maintaining and expanding space industry employment opportunities in Florida;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO support legislation that establishes the "Aerospace Workforce Challenge Fund" with a purpose of maintaining and expanding space industry employment opportunities in Florida.

Submitted by: Mike Williams, President, Florida Building Trades Council

Resolution #7 - DEDICATED TRANSIT FUNDING

WHEREAS: Working families throughout Florida rely on public and community transportation to get to work, the market, the doctor and family and friends; and

WHEREAS: Public transportation has proven to be a crucial component in assisting people make the transition from welfare to work; and

WHEREAS: Investing in transit creates jobs; and

WHEREAS: Florida has the highest proportion of seniors 65 and older of any state in the nation; and

WHEREAS: Many of these people are soon going to be unable to drive on their own; and

WHEREAS: Gas prices are causing transit ridership numbers to surge in Florida' and

WHEREAS: Florida's working families on average are spending almost 20 percent of their money on transportation, and if gas prices continue to climb, the percentage will undoubtedly go higher; and

WHEREAS: Better public transportation can reduce those costs, and has many other benefits as well; and

WHEREAS: During the next decade, the state's population is expected to grow significantly, leading to major gridlock; and

WHEREAS: State funding for Florida's public transportation systems is insufficient; and

WHEREAS: Working families need a new dedicated source of revenue generated by the state to improve and increase public transportation services in Florida;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO support state legislation that would increase the percentage or level of spending dedicated towards public transportation; including the creation of new transit funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO will work closely with community groups, elderly and disabled individuals and others who rely on public transportation in an effort to increase state spending for transit.

Submitted by Mike Lowery, Chair, ATU Florida Legislative Conference Board

***Resolution #8 - CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS
AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VIII***

WHEREAS: The Florida AFL-CIO has embarked on a new era for the Florida Labor Movement with the passage of the New Alliance Program in May of 2006, and'

WHEREAS: The New Alliance calls for certain benchmarks and standards that must be met in order to succeed; and

WHEREAS: Article VIII, Section 2(d) of the Florida AFL-CIO Constitution is in conflict with the stated Benchmarks and Standards, which requires 2 live signatures on all checks written by the Florida AFL-CIO;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the issue be referred to the Executive Board for consideration of the issues and the making of recommendations for a more workable resolution of the issue.

Submitted by Cindy Hall, President, Florida AFL-CIO

***Resolution #9 - OPPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE
FLORIDA CONSTITUTION THAT WOULD FORCE VOTERS
TO DECIDE ALL CHANGES TO A CITY OR COUNTY'S
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. (HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY)***

Resolution Failed – Take no position

Resolution #10 - DIVERSITY

WHEREAS: the trade union movement in the United States is a diverse movement in which people of color and women make up a substantial percentage. People of color – African Americans, Latinos and Asian Americans – comprise almost thirty (30%) per cent of total union membership and women make up about forty-three (43%) per cent; and

WHEREAS: our movement's diversity is its greatest strength. Building and maintaining a strong labor movement to protect the rights of workers and their families and improve their lives, requires us to capitalize on the talents, skills, and experience of all union members; and

WHEREAS: historically, the trade union movement has been in the forefront of struggles in the larger society for equality for all people regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disability; and

WHEREAS: the labor movement must fight for equality, justice and full inclusion for all union members inside our own movement, at every level; and

WHEREAS: the leadership of most labor unions and union structures do not adequately reflect the diversity of union membership; and

WHEREAS: the changes necessary to advance the goal of full participation and to remove barriers to leadership for women and people of color require structural changes; and

WHEREAS: in 2005, the AFL-CIO committed to build a strong union movement that embraces all union members, to act decisively to ensure diversity at every level, and to hold union organizations accountable to diversity standards; and

WHEREAS: at the 2005 AFL-CIO Convention, union leaders and delegates to the convention passed an historic resolution, Resolution #2, which provided for some important changes: (1) CLCs and State Federations must develop and implement plans to have inclusive, diverse leadership bodies; (2) Training, employment and promotion opportunities for women and people of color must be ensured; and (3) AFL-CIO affiliated unions are also being asked to sign diversity principles.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO support historic Resolution #2 passed at the 2005 AFL-CIO Convention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO urges all affiliated local unions to support Resolution #2 and promote the implementation of Resolution #2 in their national and international unions.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO fully embraces the values of solidarity, diversity and inclusion and makes a commitment to encourage development of targeted levels of leadership diversity and plans to reach them by the 2009 AFL-CIO Convention as provided in Resoluton #2.

Submitted by Pat Emmert, President, Palm Beach-Treasure Coast AFL-CIO



Resolution #11 - IN SUPPORT OF FAIR REDISTRICTING

WHEREAS: The ability for citizens to chose their own representative is the cornerstone of any representative democracy; and

WHEREAS: That ability only exists when there is an actual choice between two or more individuals representing a diversity of ideas; and

WHEREAS: The system only works when elected officials are accountable to the individuals and the communities they purport to represent; and

WHEREAS: Computer technology has made it possible for elected officials to draw political districts with pinpoint accuracy in order to protect their incumbency regardless of traditional community boundaries, and allows candidates for office to pick their voters rather than allowing voters to pick their candidate; and

WHEREAS: This purely political process has led to political districts in Florida that are gerrymandered in such a way as to divide communities in the interest of gathering pockets of voters to serve the interests of the political parties and incumbent protection; and

WHEREAS: This gerrymandering has created a climate in which every single incumbent in Florida's State Legislature and in Florida's U.S. Congressional delegation was re-elected and allowed almost seventy-three percent of all state legislative races to be uncontested, making Florida the second least competitive state in the country; and

WHEREAS: The current situation eliminates voter choice and representative accountability; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO reaffirms its support for Floridians for Fair Elections and its campaign to place two constitutional amendments on the ballot that will create fair standards for drawing congressional and legislative districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO encourages all of our affiliated unions to commit time and resources to helping Floridians for Fair Elections committee get the required signatures needed to place both amendments on the 2010 ballot; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO supports and will work to educate our members on the issues and will encourage them to vote in favor of final passage for both amendments in the 2010 elections.

Submitted by Cindy Hall, President; Dwayne Sealy, Secretary-Treasurer, Florida AFL-CIO

Resolution #12 - PROTECTING CITIZEN ACCESS TO THE CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS: Florida's Constitution belongs to all the people of Florida and guarantees them the right to amend that constitution through the ballot initiative process; and

WHEREAS: This process is an exercise in true democracy, allowing the people to vote directly on the manner in which they want their government to operate; and

WHEREAS: The Florida Legislature has consistently refused to address many of the issues important to Florida's working families; and

WHEREAS: The people of Florida have from time to time been forced by legislative inaction to amend the constitution through this process which, in many cases is the last resort for the people to petition their government, a principle upon which the United States was created; and

WHEREAS: The people have used this process to enact many positive reforms for Florida's working families, including smaller class sizes for our public schools, voluntary Pre-K legislation for all children, improved university governance, full public disclosure by elected officials and many environmental protections; and

WHEREAS: Members of the Legislature have shown a disdain for this process through public statements and legislative initiatives; and

WHEREAS: The Florida Legislature, backed by some of Florida's most powerful business special interests has waged a five year campaign to make the initiative process much more difficult by imposing shorter time periods for petition gathering, increasing the vote required for amendment passage to a 60% supermajority, creating an unnecessary process for signature revocation for signed petitions and imposed incredibly difficult and expensive bureaucratic hurdles for the signature gathering process; and

WHEREAS: These changes have made it much more difficult for the people to exercise their right to change the constitution having a chilling effect on many positive reform movements in our state long supported by Florida's labor unions; and

WHEREAS: The Legislative majority and numerous special interests have shown no sign of slowing in their efforts to ultimately eliminate the rights of the people to propose and enact changes to their constitution; and

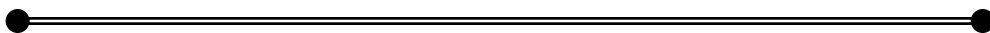
WHEREAS: The Florida AFL-CIO has worked diligently in the past to protect this basic right and has developed a strong and diverse coalition with other groups to protect the Constitution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO affirm its commitment to protecting the right of the people to change their Constitution through the ballot initiative process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO will continue to make this effort a priority in both its legislative and electoral programs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO will continue to oppose any legislative attempts to infringe on the people's right to petition their government through the ballot initiative process, will work to defeat any and all legislation designed to make the process more restrictive, and will strive to find ways to return the ballot initiative process to the people for whom it was designed.

Submitted by Cindy Hall, President; Dwayne Sealy, Secretary-Treasurer, Florida AFL-CIO



***Resolution #13 & #22 - SINGLE PAYER HEALTHCARE/NATIONAL
HEALTHCARE REFORM (RESOLUTIONS COMBINED)***

WHEREAS: Working people in Florida face a continuing crisis in the accessibility to and affordability of health care due in part to double-digit insurance premium increases each year with increases expected for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS: Working Floridians are seeing annual raises eaten up by these increases as employers pass on the rising costs creating serious problems at bargaining tables across the state; and

WHEREAS: Due to the current system of employer sponsored health insurance, employers are able to use health insurance as a threat to keep us from organizing or exercising our rights on the job, and striking or locked-out workers face the added pressure of losing their family coverage; and

WHEREAS: The national labor movement and the AFL-CIO have endorsed a single-payer health care plan as a solution the national healthcare crisis; and

WHEREAS: State and national polls continue to show that Americans want a universal health system that eliminates the role of private insurance companies and HMO's; and

WHEREAS: Rep. John Conyers has introduced the "United States National Health Insurance Act" (H.R. 676), which has 69 other co-sponsors, including north Florida Representative Corrine Brown; and

WHEREAS H.R. 676 would include benefits for the entire family, access to quality health care whether you have a job or not, complete choice of doctors and hospitals, and no bills or paperwork or out-of-pocket expense; and

WHEREAS: Numerous independent studies have shown that Universal health care would actually cost MUCH LESS than the private insurance system including a recent report by the National Coalition on Health Care which indicated that implementing a universal health care system (like H.R. 676) would save Americans \$1.1 trillion over the first 10 years of implementation; and

WHEREAS: Over 350 unions and local, regional, and national labor bodies have already endorsed H.R. 676, including several Central Labor Councils in Florida and the Florida AFL-CIO, and 23 other state AFL-CIO's; and

WHEREAS: Passing H.R. 676 would be like a win at every bargaining table across the United States, and

WHEREAS: the standard of comprehensive, affordable health care coverage tied to work that unions built over five decades is being eroded by rapidly rising health care costs; and

WHEREAS: children and pre-Medicare retirees are at high risk of losing employer-provided health benefits; and

WHEREAS: health expenditures per person in the United States are twice that of the average in other industrialized nation; and

WHEREAS: a major factor in high US health expenses are the exorbitant administrative fees associated with private insurance, which average six times higher than administrative costs in Medicare; and

WHEREAS: excessively high health care costs are putting private sector employers that provide good health benefits at a disadvantage to competitors both internationally and domestically; and

WHEREAS: excessive costs are also threatening the health benefits of public sector workers; and

WHEREAS: Americans are anxious about losing existing health coverage due to high costs; and

WHEREAS: the ranks of uninsured Americans jumped 22 % from 2000 to 2006 and now number 47 million people, including 8.7 million children; and

WHEREAS: authoritative studies show that Americans receive the right care only half of the time when we take ill; and

WHEREAS: people of color have lower coverage rates, higher mortality rates in many disease categories, and poorer quality of care overall; and

WHEREAS: women are less likely to be eligible for or able to afford their part of employer-sponsored health care; and

WHEREAS: the Executive Council of the national AFL-CIO voted to launch a renewed effort to win comprehensive health care reform for all Americans at its August, 2007 meeting; and

WHEREAS: the national AFL-CIO has called on all its affiliated bodies to support this effort by joining in a nationwide health care reform campaign to build support for enactment of Federal legislation consistent with the principles for reform adopted by the Executive Council in March, 2007;

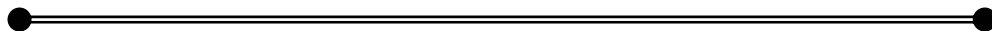
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Florida AFL-CIO reaffirms its support for Congressman Conyers' bill H.R. 676, "The United States National Health Insurance Act," a single payer health care program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Florida AFL-CIO will work with other unions and community groups to build a groundswell of popular support and action for single payer universal health care and H.R. 676 until we make what is morally right for our nation into what is also politically possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO endorses the health care reform principles of the national AFL-CIO and pledges to mobilize union members and their families in the state of Florida in support of these principles.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we commit ourselves and our unions to join with the national AFL-CIO in its campaign to win universal health care for all Americans.

Submitted by Cindy Hall, President; Dwayne Sealy, Secretary-Treasurer, Florida AFL-CIO



Resolution #14 - THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

WHEREAS: Although it has been U.S. law since 1935 that workers have the right to form unions, federal laws have eroded over the years and are poorly enforced; and

WHEREAS: 57 million U.S. workers say they would join a union now if they had the opportunity; and

WHEREAS: Union membership provides workers better wages and benefits, protection from discrimination and unsafe workplaces while benefiting whole communities by strengthening tax bases, promoting equal treatment and enhancing civic participation; and

WHEREAS: Even though our laws guarantee America's workers the right to choose for themselves whether to have a union, employers across the nation routinely violate that right. Workers are harassed, intimidated, coerced and even fired just for exercising, or attempting to exercise, this fundamental freedom; and

WHEREAS: When employers violate the right of workers to form a union, everyone suffers. Wages fall, race and gender pay gaps widen, workplace discrimination increases and job safety standards disappear; and

WHEREAS: Most employer violations occur behind closed doors; and

WHEREAS: A worker's fundamental right to choose a union is a public issue that requires public policy solutions, including legislative change; and

WHEREAS: The Employee Free Choice Act has been drafted to correct the current inequities and bring fairness back to the system thus leveling the playing field between workers and management in organizing making it possible to bring the benefits of union membership to millions of new workers; and

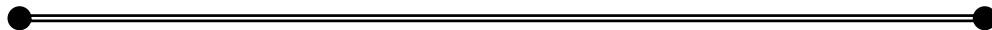
WHEREAS: The Employee Free Choice act received majority votes in both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate but was scuttled by a filibuster led by a minority of Senators within the Republican Party; and

WHEREAS: The national labor movement has pledged to continue the fight to bring this much needed law to fruition; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO reaffirms its support for the Employee Free Choice and will continue its campaign to educate union members, the public and our elected officials about this critical issue and encourage its passage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO will encourage its affiliates to give this issue the highest priority in their own education, communication and political programs.

Submitted by Cindy Hall, President; Dwayne Sealy, Secretary-Treasurer, Florida AFL-CIO



Resolution # 15 - MEDIA REFORM AND ALTERNATIVE MEDIA

WHEREAS: Recent large scale media mergers and consolidations have allowed six global corporations to control the overwhelming majority of the television we watch, the movies we see and the books and newspapers we read; and

WHEREAS: Corporate interests have pushed for the wholesale de-regulation of the media thus increasing corporate power, reducing public accountability, eliminating the diversity of viewpoints in the public square and the loss of thousands of media jobs; and

WHEREAS: The resultant increase of corporate control of the media has created a difficult climate for the labor movement; and

WHEREAS: This climate has made it increasingly difficult to disseminate honest and accurate information about our movement without a negative bias impeding our ability to tell our story to the general public; and

WHEREAS: It has become more important than ever for the labor movement to reach the public through the media about our issues, our struggles and our successes; and

WHEREAS: There is a growing grass-roots movement amongst labor organizations, environmental groups, social justice organizations and others to reform the media to make it more accountable and establish new, citizen based, non-corporate media outlets;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO and the Florida AFL-CIO Executive Board continue finding new ways to disseminate our message to the general public both through the current mainstream media channels and through new, labor based media outlets including but not limited to; web based communications, new print media outlets, low power FM radio and other alternative media sources and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO continue working with the national labor movement, media reform organizations and the alternative media movement to stop the continued deregulation of our media, reestablish media regulations which protect consumers, a diverse marketplace of ideas and the public interest.

Submitted by Cindy Hall, President; Dwayne Sealy, Secretary-Treasurer, Florida AFL-CIO

Resolution #16 - VERIZON WIRELESS

WHEREAS: The two major companies in the wireless communications industry have made starkly different choices about the treatment of their employees. AT&T (formerly Cingular Wireless), Americas' largest wireless communications provider, takes the high road of respecting employees and has proclaimed itself "Proud to Be a Union

Company." At the other end of the spectrum, Verizon Wireless, the second largest, has taken the low road and established itself as the Wal-Mart of wireless; and

WHEREAS: Wireless respects the rights of employees to organize and virtually all eligible AT&T employees are union represented; and

WHEREAS: Verizon Wireless ruthlessly tramples on workers' efforts to self organize with threats, firings, captive audience meetings and the closing of work locations with active organizing campaigns; and

WHEREAS: Union members and our allies are proud to support and reward good employers like AT&T with our business and are determined to make sure that employers like Verizon Wireless know that there is a price to pay for anti-worker behavior;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO will educate all members, retirees, affiliates, family and friends about the different paths chosen by the two leading providers of wireless service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Florida AFL-CIO will encourage all with whom we have contact to support the union-represented employees of AT&T Wireless and to communicate to Verizon Wireless our disgust with their anti-union and anti-worker behavior.

Submitted by Don LaRontonda, CWA National Staff Representative

***Resolution #17 – EARLY ENDORSEMENTS FOR
STATE HOUSE DISTRICTS 36, 49 AND 97***

WHEREAS: The Broward County AFL-CIO has voted unanimously to recommend early endorsement for **Martin Kiar** for re-election to Florida House District 97; and

WHEREAS: Representative Kiar defeated a well financed incumbent Republican in the 2006 election cycle; and

WHEREAS: Mail targeting him for defeat has already been sent out in his district and he needs our help; and

WHEREAS: Representative Kiar's voting record on our issues is excellent; and

WHEREAS: The Central Florida AFL-CIO is recommending early endorsement of **Scott Randolph**, Florida House District 36 and **Darren Soto**, Florida House District 49; and

WHEREAS: Both of these legislators have overwhelmingly displayed their support of working men and women across the state of Florida; and

WHEREAS: Representatives Randolph and Soto need our help as they begin fundraising efforts for their re-election campaigns;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the Florida AFL-CIO 2007 Biennial Convention approve the early endorsements of Rep. Scott Randolph, HD 36, Rep. Darren Soto, HD 49 and Rep. Martin Kiar, HB 97.

Submitted by Dan Reynolds, President, Broward County AFL-CIO and Debra Booth, President, Central Florida AFL-CIO

Resolution #18 - TAXATION AND BUDGET REFORM

WHEREAS: Florida has consistently been ranked as having one of the most regressive, least equitable and inefficient tax structures in the nation; and

WHEREAS: Florida's tax policy continues to favor the interests of the state's wealthiest residents and biggest corporations, providing over \$14.5 billion in tax cuts for this group over the past 8 years; and

WHEREAS: These tax cuts have robbed the state of precious revenue leading to a tremendous drop in critical services for the people of Florida; and

WHEREAS: The current tax situation has placed Florida in the bottom 20% of states in the nation in areas of revenue adequacy, education and social service spending; and

WHEREAS: The current tax structure has led to an estimated \$1.5 billion state budget deficit this year with an increased deficit forecast for next year; and

WHEREAS: The constitutionally empowered Taxation and Budget Reform Commission is currently conducting its mandatory review of the state's taxation and budget policies with the goal of making recommendations for systemic reform;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO will work through both the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission and the legislative process to make fundamental reforms to Florida's budget and tax policy and will pursue those reforms based on the following principles:

- Florida's overall economy and both state and local government budgets are all interconnected. Any major changes to fiscal policy must be approached holistically to avoid potentially devastating unintended consequences.
- The development and implementation of new fiscal policies must take place in the sunshine with full disclosures as to the costs and benefits of each proposal so that the people can truly make informed choices. All reasonable policy alternatives must be given a full, fair and open hearing.
- Discussions about revenue and spending must acknowledge that Florida has many unmet needs in the areas of social services, education, growth management and responsible economic development. State and local governments must be given the resources they need to meet these needs and policies to ensure that everyone pays their fair share.
- Local governments can be the closest to the people and are best suited to make decisions on what is best for their communities while respecting human and civil rights. Florida's tradition of home rule must be respected and state mandates imposed by the Legislature must be fully funded by the legislature.

State government must meet its funding responsibilities for programs that should be statewide and reverse the current trend of shifting these responsibilities to local governments and privatization of these programs.

Submitted by Cindy Hall, President; Dwayne Sealy, Secretary-Treasurer, Florida AFL-CIO

Resolution #19 - DEFEATING THE PROPERTY TAX AMENDMENT

WHEREAS: On June 14th, 2007, the Florida Legislature passed SJR 6 and HB 5, thereby placing a proposed constitutional amendment labeled "Amendment 1" on the January 29th Presidential Preference Primary Ballot; and

WHEREAS: This constitutional amendment will make drastic changes to Florida's property tax system, including changes to property rates, proposed new property tax exemptions and a revenue cap on local governments; and

WHEREAS: The Florida AFL-CIO's own research mirrored by that of numerous independent groups and agencies, indicate that these changes, if adopted, would have a disastrous impact on local governments and the ability for these governments to provide critical services; and

WHEREAS: The services impacted include those of primary concern to working families including education, public safety, health care access and sanitation, as well as services that improve the overall quality of life for our residents including libraries, after-school programs and parks and recreation; and

WHEREAS: These changes will also force the elimination of thousands of public sector jobs, harming both individual workers and local economies while jeopardizing the future of Florida's labor movement; and

WHEREAS: The mandatory revenue caps included in the constitutional amendment mirror those of the so-called "Tax Payer Bill of Rights" (TABOR) which has proven disastrous in every other state where it has been adopted; and

WHEREAS: Defeating these TABOR provisions has been made a priority of the national labor movement and our allies; and

WHEREAS: While the Florida AFL-CIO acknowledges that there is a serious property tax problem in our state hindering the ability for working families to purchase new homes or keep the homes they have, the proposed constitutional amendment does nothing to address the underlying problems in Florida's tax and budget structure which has created the problem, and in fact only serves to make it worse; and

WHEREAS: Numerous reports, including the Florida Legislature's own analysis, indicate that the average working family in Florida will see very little tax savings from these changes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO reaffirms its strenuous objection to the adoption of this constitutional amendment and its determination to defeat this measure on the ballot; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that since this proposed amendment poses the single biggest threat to the future of our state and its people in a generation, that Florida's labor movement will mount a vigorous campaign for its defeat and will give this campaign the highest priority, incorporating it into all of our work in the coming months; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that since the universal threat of this proposed amendment to all of the people of Florida has prompted a myriad of groups and organizations across the state to work for its defeat, the Florida AFL-CIO will, whenever possible, work with these organizations united in purpose to beat back this attack on our state, its people and our collective futures.

Submitted by Cindy Hall, President; Dwayne Sealy, Secretary-Treasurer, Florida AFL-CIO

Resolution #20 - MODERNIZING THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS: The Unemployment Insurance (UI) system was created as a critical component of our nation's overall safety net to protect workers during times of distress; and

WHEREAS: The UI system serves as a vital economic recovery tool during periods of high unemployment or other economic problems, providing much needed resources that are used by consumers to help stabilize both the local and national economies; and

WHEREAS: This critical system at both the national and state level is in serious need of major reforms to fulfill these functions; and

WHEREAS: Only 38% of unemployed workers in the nation were able to collect UI benefits from 2003-2005 due to the current system's problems; and

WHEREAS: Florida's system is particularly bad, with less than 30% of jobless workers able to collect benefits, thus hurting families and straining local economies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO reaffirms its commitment to working to reform the UI system at both the state and national levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO supports the National Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act and will work to secure its passage; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO will make modernizing Florida's UI system a priority and will work to increase benefit amounts, adopt the alternate base period for calculating eligibility, increase funding for reemployment training programs and all of the other changes called for in the Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act to ensure that Florida receives its full share of federal dollars under the program.

Submitted by Cindy Hall, President; Dwayne Sealy, Secretary-Treasurer, Florida AFL-CIO

Resolution #21 - SUPPORTING DOMESTIC DEFENSE MANUFACTURERS

WHEREAS: the United States' national security depends on a strong defense manufacturing industry that can respond quickly to provide American troops with the weapons, aircraft, vehicles and equipment they need to protect our interests at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS: the U.S. defense manufacturing industry provides jobs with good wages for many Floridians; and

WHEREAS: outsourcing important defense contracts to foreign companies that violate international trade laws undermines our domestic defense manufacturing industry; and

WHEREAS: outsourcing important defense contracts to foreign companies that violate international trade laws also cedes significant political control over those military assets to foreign governments that frequently disagree with U.S. foreign policy; and

WHEREAS: the United States' defense manufacturing industry has seen a steep decline over the past half century due to outsourcing of critical contracts, including to foreign companies that violate international trade laws; and

WHEREAS: the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS) has accepted over \$100 billion in no-risk "launch aid" subsidies from European Union member nations for the development and manufacturing of commercial jet airliners through its subsidiary, Airbus; and

WHEREAS: the United States has officially alleged through the office of the U.S. Trade Representative that these "launch aid" subsidies directly undermine the U.S. economy and violate international law; and

WHEREAS: the U.S. Trade Representative has brought a lawsuit before the World Trade Organization against the European Union over the EADS subsidy issue; and

WHEREAS: EADS is competing for, among other contracts, a \$40 billion defense contract to build the Air Force's next fleet of tanker refueling aircraft, which is one of the largest and most critical U.S. defense contracts today; and

WHEREAS: EADS has proposed a tanker aircraft design that is based on the airframe of the Airbus A330 commercial jetliner, which was heavily subsidized by European Union member nations; and

WHEREAS: EADS plans to do most major construction of their tanker plane in Europe, leaving final assembly for plants in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS: the Boeing Corporation plans to complete their tanker aircraft using 85% U.S. manufacturing; now

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the unions of the Florida AFL-CIO affirm their support of the United States' defense manufacturing industry as a key component of our national security and a critical source of livelihood for many Floridians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the unions of the Florida AFL-CIO oppose awarding defense contracts to foreign companies that violate international trade laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the unions of the Florida AFL-CIO oppose awarding any defense contracts whatsoever to EADS and any other company that has been the recipient of illegal European Union subsidies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the unions of the Florida AFL-CIO voice their opposition to the proposal for the Air Force's tanker refueling contract – or any other U.S. Defense or other U.S. government contract – submitted by EADS; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the unions of the Florida AFL-CIO will send a letter to the Air Force, the Department of Defense and our Representatives in Florida notifying them of our position on these issues.

Submitted by Frank C. Ortis, President, Florida State Council of Machinists

Resolution #22 - NATIONAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

Combined with Resolution #13

***Resolution #23 - FLORIDA AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE BOARD
RECOMMENDATION FOR EARLY ENDORSEMENTS***

WHEREAS: Florida's working families made major gains in the 2006 Elections, securing new seats in the Florida Legislature for candidates friendly to our agenda; and

WHEREAS: It is a top priority for Florida's labor movement to maintain those seats while building new strength with even more victories in 2008; and

WHEREAS: Several of these seats have been targeted by anti-labor forces which have tremendous resources thus requiring an early effort on our part; and

WHEREAS: The candidates currently holding those seats have already proven themselves as friends to our movement and cause; and

WHEREAS: A strong show of commitment on our part to support these candidates in 2008 could dissuade potential challengers who do not share our goals and aspirations; and

WHEREAS: The Florida AFL-CIO Executive Board has recommended that the following candidates receive an early endorsement from the delegates assembled at the 2007 Florida AFL- CIO Biennial Convention:

Rep. Debbie Boyd – House District 11

Rep. Luis Garcia – House District 107

Rep. Ron Saunders – House District 120

Rep. Keith Fitzgerald – House District 69

Rep. Bill Heller – House District 52

Rep. Janet Long – House District 51

Rep. Kelly Skidmore – House District 90

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED if the candidates have signed the Resolution of Support for the Employee Free Choice Act, the Florida AFL-CIO grants these candidates early endorsements in the 2008 elections and makes defending these legislative allies a priority for our political program.

Submitted by Florida AFL-CIO Executive Board

***Resolution #24 - MOTION PICTURE, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA
PRODUCTION INCENTIVES***

WHEREAS: The value of the global entertainment market is expected to grow to almost \$9 trillion by 2009; and

WHEREAS: Motion picture, television and digital media production is one of the few U.S. industries still expanding in the current global environment of increasing outsourcing and exportation of American jobs; and

WHEREAS: Florida, historically the third largest film production center in the United States, now is facing increasing competition from other countries and U.S. states that have implemented aggressive film production incentive programs; and

WHEREAS: Motion picture and television production jobs pay substantially higher wages and generally provide retirement and health benefits; and

WHEREAS: The majority of motion picture and television production workers are represented by various labor organizations; and

WHEREAS: Motion picture and television production has fostered and sustained a large, skilled, industry-recognized and union-friendly workforce in Florida since the mid-20th century; and

WHEREAS: Florida is experiencing an across-the-board loss of motion picture and television production jobs to countries and other U.S. states with film production incentive programs; and

WHEREAS: Motion picture, television and digital media production provides significant economic stimulus to many of Florida's other industries, in particular to it's #1 industry, tourism; and

WHEREAS: Motion picture, television and digital media production are environmentally friendly and non-polluting industries; and

WHEREAS: Florida maintains a high level of annual film school graduates;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO support state entertainment industry financial incentive legislation that will enable Florida to 1) increase motion picture, television and digital media production in the state, 2) improve the industry's ability to provide high paying, high value, union-caliber jobs and 3) maintain its position as a leading and essential U.S. film production center.

Submitted by Greg Kasper, IATSE 477

