



WORKERS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT

2022 ILLINOIS BALLOT INITIATIVE



Our rights – and the rights of all Illinois workers – are constantly threatened by politicians and special interests.

Workers in many surrounding states have stood by and watched their basic rights reduced or eliminated with the stroke of a pen. Illinois has maintained a strong economy because we have fought back against these attacks, but it is time to stop playing defense.

For the first time in a generation, the needs of American workers are at the center of our national dialogue.

This is a rare opportunity stand up and ensure that workers' rights are secure, and to do so with broad support of Illinoisans of all backgrounds and beliefs.

This opportunity may never come again. We need to act now to protect workers' right to speak up for their safety and ours, to have a say in their conditions at work, and to have a path to economic freedom.

From teachers to industrial workers to EMTs to grocery store workers, the WRA will protect our bargaining rights.

THE AMENDMENT

The WRA would add the following text to the Illinois Constitution:

SECTION 25

IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE OF ILLINOIS

WORKERS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT

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(a) Employees shall have the fundamental

right to organize and to bargain collectively through

representatives of their own choosing for the purpose

of negotiating wages, hours, and working conditions,

and to protect their economic welfare and safety at

work. No law shall be passed that interferes with,

negates, or diminishes the right of employees to

organize and bargain collectively over their wages,

hours, and other terms and conditions of

employment and work place safety, including any

law or ordinance that prohibits the execution or

application of agreements between employers and

labor organizations that represent employees

requiring membership in an organization as a

condition of employment.

SECTION 25. WORKERS' RIGHTS

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27 STATES HAVE “RIGHT-TO-WORK” LAWS ON THE BOOKS, INCLUDING WISCONSIN, MICHIGAN AND INDIANA

19 to 22 states proposed "right-to-work" laws each year between 2013 and 2017.

DATA SHOW THAT ILLINOIS' WORKERS AND ECONOMY HAVE FARED BETTER THAN NEIGHBORING STATES WITH ANTI-WORKER POLICIES

Even after accounting for cost of living, occupation, race and gender, wages and income growth are at least 6% higher in Illinois. More Illinois workers have employer-sponsored health insurance and own homes, among other indicators.

WRA WOULD PROHIBIT POLITICIANS FROM PICKING AND CHOOSING WHAT WORKERS CAN BARGAIN OVER

In Wisconsin, Act 10 ended the ability of public-sector unions to negotiate over any issues other than raises, and raises were capped at the rate of inflation. In 4 years after passage, median compensation dropped 12.6 percent—or \$10,843 dollars— below what it was before the passage of Act 10.

Passing The WRA

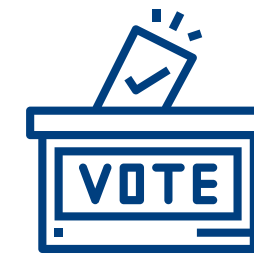


**Draft Amendment language
with labor partners**



**Pass the Legislature in both
chambers with bipartisan
support**

The amendment passed 49-7 in the Senate, with 11 Republicans joining Democrats, and 80-30 in the State House, with 9 Republicans joining Democrats.



**Pass Amendment with either:
a majority of ballots cast OR
60 percent support on the
question.**

The Plan

To win, we will need a big effort that spreads our message across the state. History suggests that this will be an eight-figure campaign. Our campaign will focus on the following:

| OBJECTIVES | | | |
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| Paid Media | Earned Media and Surrogate Program | Member to Member Communications | Field Campaign |
| <p>The largest expense of the campaign will be communicating directly with voters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A mix of broadcast, digital, cable, streaming, and direct mail will help us reach broad audiences and targeted audiences alike.• These communications will make our on-the-ground efforts with members and non-members more successful. | <p>The WRA campaign will work to place earned media to bolster our efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hearing stories directly from members will be integral to our campaign• We will identify respected leaders and community members to serve as surrogates for the campaign. | <p>With over 900,000 union members in Illinois, we start with a tremendous electoral advantage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will activate these members and create buy-in to the “Me Plus 3” program to help build our base of support with union members, families and friends. | <p>A robust statewide field program will identify supporters, create visibility for the campaign and turn out voters on Election Day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our membership, paid field staff, and volunteers will combine to create a formidable field effort to effectively organize a broad coalition of support across Illinois. |



What's At Stake

IF THE WORKERS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT PASSES

We can protect Illinois' pathway to the middle class, ensuring workers have access to stable, family-sustaining jobs as well as safe and secure workplaces. Workers will no longer have to fear for their livelihood with every election cycle. .

IF THE AMENDMENT FAILS

Illinois workers will have to keep fighting these battles day in and day out, just to protect what they have left. Rather than moving forward, workers will be on defense.

In other words, we've got one shot at this and we've got to get it right.

Questions?

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