

# Advocate

Inside This Issue  
Fall 2008

## ★ Special Election '08 Issue ★ VOTE Election Day -- November 4, 2008

# Know the Facts & Vote

Local 876 has dedicated its Fall Advocate entirely to the November general election.

"This election is so important, we want to make sure members understand how critical it is to exercise their vote, to be familiar with their rights as voters, and provide members with facts they can use to make an informed decision when casting their ballot," Roger Robinson, Local 876's president, said. "For many of us, this will indeed be the most important election of our lives. With the stakes so high, even more important than voting is voting smart."

To assist members in making an informed decision at the polls, the Local has provided fact-based information on how candidates stand on issues workers have indicated are most important to them, and identified candidates who fight for, not against workers.

"Some members question why the local is involved in politics at all. The answer is simple, because the actions of politicians impact the local union's ability to do our job and advocate for members," Robinson said. "If we, as a union, are going to be able to effectively do our job protecting and advancing the rights and livelihoods of members, we need to elect politicians who will work with us, not against us. Members also need to know Local 876 limits our political involvement exclusively to issues that affect them as workers, and do not get involved

### The Reagan Question | Are You Better Off Now Than You Were Eight Years Ago?

In his closing remarks during the final presidential debate of 1980, Ronald Reagan asked the American people: "Are you better off now than you were four years ago?" America, answered, and he went on to win the election by one of the biggest margins in recent history.

Today, Americans can use the same question to help them decide who to support for president -- are they better off today than they were eight years ago?

A "yes" answer would indicate a vote for John McCain who has pledged to continue the Bush policies of the last eight years. While a "no" response would support a vote for Barack Obama who has promised to change the course America is on.

To help answer the "Reagan question," economists from the Center for Economic Policy and Research in Washington D.C. compiled a report using government data to compare a range of economic indicators today with eight years ago. A chart comparing the report's results appears on page five. The report found:

**In almost all cases, the collection of economic well-being and economic performance showed Americans are worse off today than they were eight years ago.**

in more personal issues."

This special edition also includes information detailing how members can cast an absentee ballot.

"Many people have every intention of voting, but when election day rolls around their schedule makes it impossible for them to get to the polls," Robinson said.

"Given the industries in which they work, Local 876 members are especially susceptible to having an unexpected scheduling issue that

prevents them from voting. To make sure their voice is heard, members are encouraged to vote by absentee ballot."

Important information regarding voters' rights is also featured to educate members about their rights as voters, and what to do if they are denied a ballot.

"In Michigan, and elsewhere, there have already been allegations of efforts to suppress the ability of eligible voters to cast their ballots," Robinson said.

"Voters need to know what to do if they are victims of these immoral and unpatriotic campaigns attempting to deny them of their right as American citizens to vote."

**"This election is so important, we want to make sure members understand how critical it is to exercise their vote, to be familiar with their rights as voters, and provide members with facts they can use to make an informed decision when casting their ballot."**

Roger Robinson, Local 876 president

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# Your Voice ★ Your Vote

## Important Information on Your Right to Vote



### Your Rights as a Michigan Voter

As a Michigan voter, you have the right to:

- ★ Be treated with courtesy and respect by the election workers.
- ★ Vote in private free from interference or intimidation.
- ★ Review a sample ballot before voting.
- ★ Review a summary of the state and federal laws which govern voting.
- ★ Ask for and receive help from the election workers if you are unsure about anything related to casting a ballot.
- ★ Obtain a replacement ballot if you make a mistake when voting.
- ★ Obtain an absentee ballot if you are qualified to vote absentee.
- ★ Vote a provisional ballot if your name does not appear on the registration list and you assert, under oath, that (1) you registered to vote by the registration deadline and (2) you are a resident of the city or township where you are offering to vote.
- ★ Have your minor child (under age 18) accompany you in the voting station while you vote.
- ★ Obtain a ballot if in line when the polls close at 8 p.m.
- ★ Report illegal or fraudulent activity to the local clerk or the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections.



**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Due to a recent court ruling, every Michigan voter must present picture identification at the polls, or sign an affidavit attesting that he or she is not in possession of picture identification.

### Your Right to an Absentee Ballot



All registered voters who meet one of the following qualifications have the right to an absentee ballot.

- Age 60 years old or older
- Unable to vote without assistance at the polls
- Expecting to be out of town on election day
- In jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- Unable to attend the polls for religious reasons
- Appointed to work as an election inspector outside of their precinct of residence.

All requests for an absent voter ballot must be made in writing to the city or township clerk. The request must include one of the six statutory reasons stated above and the voter's signature, and address where the ballot should be sent. Pre-printed request forms can also be obtained from the local clerk's office or on-line at

[www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote). Assistance in locating a clerk's office is also available on this website and from the Local 876 Political Department. Mail requests for an absentee voter ballot must be received by the city clerk no later than 2 p.m. November 2, 2008.

An emergency absent voter ballot may be requested after the deadline in emergency circumstances, such as a sudden illness or death of a family member occurring after the deadline, prevents a registered voter from reaching the polls on Election Day. Requests for an emergency ballot must be submitted before 4 p.m. on Election Day.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** First-time Michigan voters who registered by mail, must appear in person to vote the first time they vote in the state. This requirement does not apply if (1) you personally hand deliver the mail registration form to your county, city or township clerk's office instead of mailing the form (2) you are 60 years of age or more (3) you are disabled or (4) you are eligible to vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.



## Advocate

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## Whose On Your Side? • Whose On Your Side? • Whose On Your Side? • Whose On Your Side?



Barack  
Obama

or

John  
McCain



## Whose on Your Side?

The information on the following pages compares how the 2008 presidential candidates stand on issues workers have said are most important to themselves and their families. Local 876 asks members to use these facts, not political spin and paid advertisements, which can be filled with misinformation, half-truths, and lies, to determine which candidate is truly on their side.

# Setting the Record Straight

# Home Foreclosure is Not a Valid Reason to Challenge Voters at the Polls

The well-documented and long-standing Republican Party program to intimidate, harass and suppress voters took aim at Michigan in early September when James Carabelli, chairman of the Republican Party of Macomb County, told the Michigan Messenger, "We will have a list of foreclosed homes (at the polls) and will make sure people aren't voting from those addresses."

Although Barack Obama's campaign and the Democratic Party quickly filed a lawsuit in federal court to stop the Michigan G.O.P. from carrying out their voter suppression plan, the U.S. constitution and existing state and federal laws prevent home foreclosure from being used to deny a registered voter from receiving a ballot.

The Michigan state elections director sent a letter to all local clerks reminding them of the legal and constitutional provisions, and clearly stated "foreclosure lists alone aren't enough to contest a voter's residence."

"Even if the Republicans don't follow through on their despicable plan, they have already created widespread confusion over the issue and have likely succeeded in convincing some eligible voters they can't vote, and causing others to avoid the polls, embarrassed their status in the foreclosure process might be brought up when they go to exercise their legal right to vote," Roger Robinson, Local 876's president, said. "We cannot let eligible voters be bullied by the Republicans into forfeiting their vote this November. We need to educate Michigan voters who are facing home foreclosure, or whose homes have been foreclosed upon, about their legal rights to vote in the November 4 election."

## According to the U.S. Constitution, State and Federal Law:

Foreclosure lists alone are not a legitimate reason to challenge an individual's right to vote.

It is illegal to deny a person the right to vote simply because of a home foreclosure.

Voters who move within the same city or township can vote at the precinct where they were registered, and update the registration rolls with the new address on Election Day.

Voters who move within the state of Michigan within 60 days of Election Day can vote in the election even if they fail to update the registration rolls with the new address prior to election day.

## President's Message

## Get the Facts, then Get Out & Vote

Americans have a critical decision to make in the upcoming election. The next president will shape the future for this country and working families.



Roger Robinson

The historic nature of the election, the free fall of the United States economy, and high-tech information-based world in which we live, have led to the 2008 presidential election receiving unprecedented attention.

While every media outlet available is being used to sway voters with an almost constant bombardment of campaign messages, advertisements, videos, robo-calls and emails, the decision on which candidate to support, still boils down to the answer to one or two basic questions -- "whose on your side?" and "are you better off now than eight years ago?"

Unfortunately, determining which candidate will act in your best interest when action is required on the kitchen table issues that effect all workers such as jobs, health care, and retirement security, has been complicated by the political spin, misinformation, half-truths, and lies that have come to dominate U.S. politics.

For many, deciding how to vote has become a confusing and daunting task due to the often conflicting and sometimes false campaign slogans, paid media, and rhetoric of spin doctors and talking heads swirling about. Frustrated and disenheartened many voters don't cast their ballot. Others vote based on misinformation.

Your union wants you to cast your ballot, and make an informed decision when voting. That is why this special edition of the *Local 876 Advocate* contains factual information and data you can use to answer the two key questions in this election -- "who is on your side?" and "are you better off now than eight years ago?"

Your union carefully considered this information in making its endorsements and urges you to do the same -- take time to consider the facts before you vote.

# One Vote Has Made a Difference

Past elections show that one vote does matter. Consider the following facts:

- Thomas E. Dewey lost the 1948 presidential race by one vote per precinct in Ohio and California.
- In 1948, Lyndon B. Johnson, the 36th president, became a U.S. senator by a one vote margin.
- Only 537 votes determined the outcome of the 2000 presidential election.
- In the 1960 presidential election, one additional vote per precinct in Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, and Texas would have put Richard Nixon in the White House, not John F. Kennedy.
- In 1989, a Lansing, Michigan School District millage proposition failed when the recount produced a tie, forcing the school district to reduce its budget by \$2.5 million.
- A shift of only 2,772 votes nation-wide in 2000 would have reversed the party balance in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- The 2002 South Dakota race for U.S. Senate was determined by 524 votes.
- Several states, including California, Idaho, Oregon, Texas and Washington, became states by just one vote.

**Make a Difference -- Vote November 4**

**YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE**

### You Have the Right to a Provisional Ballot

Every voter who is denied a ballot for any reason has the right to cast a provisional ballot at any polling place in the country. After the election, the appropriate election entity determines the voter's eligibility. Valid provisional ballots are counted and could make a difference in an election's outcome.

**Don't Let Your Voice be Silenced -- Demand a Provisional Ballot**  
Report Problems to the Election Protection Hotline - 1-866-OUR-VOTE

## Whose On Your Side? • Whose On Your Side? • Whose On Your Side? • Whose On Your Side?

### Barack Obama

Obama believes in an "aggressive strategy to create good, middle-class jobs" and would invest in worker education and training to compete in a global economy. Obama voted to raise the federal minimum wage and would extend the Family and Medical Leave Act as president. *Obama for America; S.Votes 179, 6/21/06; 26, 3/7/05; H.R. 2, Vote 23, 1/24/07.*

### John McCain

America's workforce is under pressure, facing stagnant wages, rising health care costs, disappearing retirement benefits, and job insecurity. It took 10 years for minimum wage workers to get a raise, and families are still struggling. The next president must make ensuring the U.S. economy is creating good jobs at good wages a high priority.

### John McCain

McCain has a poor record on job issues. He voted against minimum wage increases, overtime pay protections, the Family Medical Leave Act, worker safety standards, and extending unemployment benefits, and for repelling state minimum wage laws. *H.R.Votes 23 & 24, 1/24/07; 25, 1/25/07; 37, 1/31/07; 39 & 42/1/31/07, 11, 2/14/93; 143, 6/22/00. S.Votes 179, 6/21/06; 26, 3/7/05; 1637, 7/9, 5/4/04; 7, 2/14/93.*

# Election 2008: Your Voice ★ Your Vote ★ Your Choice

## Before Casting Your Ballot, Know What You're Voting For

### A Vote for Barack Obama is a Vote For:



- ✓ Affordable health care for every American.
- ✓ Tax cuts for 95 percent of all taxpayers -- with the biggest cuts for those who make the least.
- ✓ Passage of the Employee Free Choice Act.

- ✓ Tax relief for 150 million workers, through a new tax credit of up to \$1,000 per family.
- ✓ An increase in the minimum wage to \$9.50 per hour by 2011.
- ✓ Ending tax cuts for companies that send jobs overseas.
- ✓ \$150 billion invested over 10 years in "clean energy" that will create five million new jobs.

### A Vote for John McCain is a Vote For:



- ✓ A new tax on workers' health care benefits of up to \$2,800 annually.
- ✓ A veto of the Employee Free Choice Act.
- ✓ No tax cut for the poorest workers and minimal savings for middle class families.

- ✓ Making Bush's tax cuts for millionaires permanent and \$4 billion in tax breaks to big oil.
- ✓ Privatization of Social Security.
- ✓ Expansion of "free trade" at the expense of American jobs.
- ✓ More tax protections for companies that send jobs overseas.
- ✓ Opposition to minimum wage increases and laws.

## A Heartbeat Away: The VP Candidates on Workers' Issues



In his over 30 years as U.S. Senator Joe Biden, Barack Obama's choice for vice president, has risen to become the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Biden has also been a strong supporter of the interests and values of America's working families. He's a co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act and a strong voice for making sure government acts on behalf of everyone. Whether it's access to college education, family and

medical leave for workers, fair pay for women, support for our nation's veterans and their families, or funding for police and firefighters, Biden has always been a leader on the issues that affect working people's lives.

**ECONOMY:** Biden voted for an economic stimulus package that would extend unemployment insurance, supported investing in America's infrastructure, and opposed Bush's unfair tax cuts aimed at the very wealthy.

**GOOD JOBS:** Biden voted to raise the minimum wage, for the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, to ensure prevailing wages and other protections for workers on federal projects, and against privatizing jobs in Walter Reed and other federal facilities.

**HEALTH CARE:** Biden supports a health care plan that offers everyone a chance at affordable, high-quality insurance. He voted to allow Medicare to negotiate for lower-cost prescription drugs, re-authorize and improve the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and against cutting Medicare and Medicaid.

**WORKERS' RIGHTS:** Biden co-sponsored and supported the Employee Free Choice Act, voted in favor of collective bargaining rights for public employees, and has written to employers on behalf of workers and their right to bargain for a fair contract.

**TRADE:** Biden voted against the Central American Free Trade Agreement along with bad trade deals with Oman, Singapore, the Dominican Republic and Chile.

**RETIREMENT:** Biden opposes Social Security privatization and voted for a resolution rejecting any Social Security plan requiring deep benefit cuts.



Sarah Palin, John McCain's pick for his vice president was elected as the governor of Alaska in 2006. Between 1996 and 2002, she was the mayor of Wasilla, Alaska, population 10,000.

As mayor, Palin hired high-priced lobbyists to secure more than \$27 million in federal earmarks for the town, and raised the local sales tax to pay for a hockey rink that resulted in a costly botched land deal. By the end of her tenure as mayor, the small town had racked up \$20 million in debt. During her short term as governor, Palin hired a Washington, D.C. lobbyist to assist her in bringing \$198 million in earmarks to the state.

**ECONOMY:** Palin has a thin record on economic issues, and her positions and expertise on these issues are unclear.

**GOOD JOBS:** Palin has not said where she stands on the minimum wage, equal pay for equal work, family and medical leave, unemployment benefits, the outsourcing and privatization of jobs, or investing in school building and infrastructure to create jobs.

**HEALTH CARE:** Palin's record on health care is not extensive. In her run for governor, she supported "flexibility in government regulations" and said health care must be "market driven." Pushing families into the private market and minimizing consumer protections.

**WORKERS' RIGHTS:** Palin has not said where she stands on the minimum wage, equal pay for equal work, family and medical leave, unemployment benefits, the outsourcing and privatization of jobs.

**TRADE:** Palin has not stated where she stands on trade and manufacturing.

**RETIREMENT:** Palin has a poor record on public employee pension funds. As governor, she proposed a \$42 million reduction in the general fund for state employee pensions. As mayor, she left the city pension at only 73 percent funding when she left office—even though it was fully funded when she entered.

## Two Worker-Friendly Candidates Make Bid to Oust Anti-Worker Incumbent U.S. Representatives

To make the real change the Obama/Biden team has planned for America, they need a Congress that will work with them to change America, not stand in their way.

In Michigan, two politicians, with a proven history of standing up for workers, Mark Schauer (D) 7th District, and Gary Peters (D) 9th District, are challenging anti-worker incumbent U.S. Representatives. Both democratic candidates are running strong campaigns and stand a good chance of ousting their incumbent opponents. Local 876 has endorsed both of these candidates and urges members in their districts to support these candidates who share the Obama/Biden vision for America and will work with them to make this vision a reality.



Mark Schauer wants to represent the people of Michigan's 7th Congressional District in Washington to help bring about the change needed to turn Michigan and the nation around.

"When our leaders are prioritizing big business and foreign countries over the interests of the middle class, it's clear that we need change," Schauer said. "I'm running for Congress because we deserve leaders who understand that American jobs are a priority."

A former Battle Creek City Commissioner, Schauer, has spent the last 12 years in the Michigan State Legislature, the last as the Senate democratic leader. In the state Senate, Schauer has fought to save jobs and voted to increase in the minimum wage.



Gary Peters is taking on the eight-term incumbent in Michigan's 9th District, Joe Knollenberg, who has a dismal record on workers' issues, voting against workers' 100 percent of the time.

A former financial manager and Director of the State Lottery, Peters served for eight years in the State Senate. On his very first day in the Michigan Senate in 1995, Peters introduced three bills to cut taxes for middle class families and three bills to improve children's health care. He was elected by his colleagues to serve as the Chairman of the Senate Democratic Caucus, and went on to build a strong record of bipartisan leadership, having more of his bills signed into law than any other Democratic senator.

## The Reagan Question: Are You Better Off Now Than You Were Eight Years Ago?

The following results from an economic study by the Center for Economic Policy and Research show Americans are worse off after eight years of the Bush administration -- policies John McCain has supported and pledged to continue if elected president.

	Then	Now
Unemployment Rate	4.0%	6.1%
Inflation Rate	3.3%	5.4%
Job Growth		
Total Non-farm	21.4%	4.3%
Private Sector	23.6%	3.6%
Manufacturing	2.9%	-22.2%
Real Wage Growth	8.2%	1.8%
Minimum Wage (July 2008 Dollars)	\$6.58	\$6.55
Family Income Level (July 2008 dollars)	\$61,083	\$61,355
Family Income Growth (July 2008 dollars)	14.7%	0.4%
Poverty Rate (percent of population)	11.3%	12.5%
Poverty Rate (people in millions)	31.6	37.3
Uninsured (health ins.) (percent of population)	14%	15.3%
Uninsured (health ins.) (people in millions)	38.7	45.7
Personal Savings	2.3%	0.6%
College Tuition (public) (July 2007 dollars)	\$4,221	\$6,185
Gasoline Per Gallon (July 2008 dollars)	\$2.03	\$4.09

## Whose On Your Side? • Whose On Your Side? • Whose On Your Side? • Whose On Your Side?

### Barack Obama

Obama's health care plan would cover all Americans giving them access to benefits like those enjoyed by members of Congress. His plan tackles medical inflation, spiraling health care costs, and develops new mechanisms to extend portable, affordable coverage emphasizing prevention and efficiency. *Newsday, 5/29/07; Obama for America.*

### Health Care

America has a health care crisis. Forty-seven million Americans have no health insurance, while millions more are feeling the pressure of skyrocketing health care and insurance costs and inadequate coverage. The nation's health care system needs serious, comprehensive reform that will provide guaranteed, affordable health care for all.

### John McCain

McCain's health care proposal is similar to President Bush's failed plan. Both plans undermine employer-based benefits and pushes workers into the private market. It will reduce benefits, increase costs and leave many with no health care at all. *The Commonwealth Fund, Envisioning the Future, 1/08; Kaiser Family Foundation and HRET, Employer Health Benefits 2007 Annual Survey.*

### Barack Obama

Obama wants to strengthen Social Security and block attempts to privatize it. He has fought against raising the retirement age, cuts in Social Security and Medicare and worked to lower prescription drug prices for seniors. *Quad-City Times, 9/21/07; S.Votes 49, 3/15/05; 47, 3/15/05; 287, 1/13/05; 132, 4/18/07.*

### Retirement Security

After a lifetime of work, retirees deserve a basic level of security. But employer-provided pensions are disappearing and Social Security is under threat. The next president must strengthen Social Security, rather than allow dangerous privatization schemes, and protect workers' pensions and retirement savings.

### John McCain

McCain still supports Bush's risky plan to privatize Social Security, voted to raise the Medicare eligibility age, missed a critical vote to reduce prescription drug costs for seniors, and voted to cut billions from Medicare. *S.Votes 68, 3/16/06; 363, 12/21/05; Wall Street Journal, 3/3/08; Campaign Website, Congressional Quarterly, 12/26/05.*

# Employee FREE CHOICE ACT

## How Your Elected Officials Voted

### U.S. Congress

Bart Stupak (D-1): YES  
 Peter Hoekstra (R-2): NO  
 Vernon Ehlers (R-3): NO  
 David Camp (R-4): NO  
 Dale Kildee (D-5): YES  
 Fredrick Upton (R-6): NO  
 Timothy Walberg (R-7): NO  
 Michael Rogers (R-8): NO  
 Joseph Knollenberg (R-9): NO  
 Candice Miller (R-10): NO  
 Thaddeus McCotter (R-11): YES  
 Sander Levin (D-12): YES  
 Carolyn Kilpatrick (D-13): YES  
 John Conyers (D-14): YES  
 John Dingell (D-15): YES

### U.S. Senate

Carl Levin (D): YES  
 Debbie Stabenow (D): YES

As the U.S. economy continues to falter, more working families are watching their American Dream evaporate. Wages are stagnating, homes are being lost to record-rate foreclosures, health costs are skyrocketing, and pensions are disappearing.

Surveys reveal workers understand the best path to restoring the American Dream is to unionize. In fact, more than half of U.S. workers say they would join a union immediately if they could.

"Unfortunately, the U.S. system for forming unions is badly broken. Employers routinely harass, intimidate, coerce and even fire workers trying to unionize, and U.S. labor law is powerless to stop them," Roger Robinson, Local 876's president, said. "America's workers must regain their bargaining power to restore and grow the middle class."

The Employee Free Choice Act can help workers reclaim the American Dream by restoring their freedom to unionize and bargain for a better life. With more workers covered by union contracts existing agreements will be strengthened.

"It will be up to the next congress to pass the Employee Free Choice Act, and new president to sign it into law. Senator Barack Obama co-sponsored the legislation and has pledged to sign it into law," Robinson, said. "But first the legislation must get to his desk. This will only happened if we elect candidates who will stand on the side of workers and vote for the Employee Free Choice Act."

# See How Your State

Members of the Michigan State House of Representatives are up for re-election in November. To help Local 876 members determine if their representative deserves their support, the local has compiled a scorecard (at right) showing how each member of the state house voted on the seven bills placed before them of greatest importance to workers.

A summary of these worker issues included in the seven bills appears below. A "yes" vote on each of these bills was a vote for workers, Local 876 used this scorecard to determine its endorsements, giving the union's support to representatives whose score was 70 percent or higher. To find out your voting district, go to [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos) or call the Local 876 office at 1-800-321-6406.

**HB 4316: Worker Freedom Act** was passed by both the House and Senate and prohibits employers from forcing workers to attend a meeting with the primary purpose of communicating the employer's opinion about a religious or political matter, including whether employees should join or form a union. This bill was deemed necessary because of the union-busting tactics commonly used by company officials trying to defeat a union organizing drive. The tactics often include forced "one-on-one" meetings at which supervisors confront individual employees and mandatory group meetings at which employees are sometimes threatened, directly or indirectly, with losing their jobs or at which negative consequences of unionization are described. A study of more than 400 union representation election campaigns found that during 92 percent of union organizing drives, employers forced their employees to attend closed door anti-union meetings. In addition, 78 percent of employers directed supervisors to deliver anti-union messages to employees in one-on-one meetings. On average, employers held 11 captive audience meetings during every union organizing campaign.

**HB 4532: Employee Privacy Protection** passed by the State Legislature, prohibits an employer from taking negative action against an employee because of an individual's lawful conduct away from work and off the employer's premises.

**SB 294: Urban Grocery Bill** was signed into law by Governor Granholm in July and gives tax breaks to a "qualified retail food establishment" if it is built or opens in an "underserved area." This law may be useful in helping attract union supermarkets to underserved, urban areas such as Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Saginaw. These supermarkets might not only lead to increased UFCW membership, but more importantly, improve access to quality, healthy food in these areas.

**SB 120: Food Stamp Bill/Social Welfare Act** was signed into law by Governor Granholm in April and upped the food stamp distribution from once to twice a month, benefitting food stamp recipients, along with the grocery industry and its workers. The advantages of twice a month distribution include greater shopping and budgeting flexibility for food stamp recipients, a greater and more even distribution of work hours for grocery store employees, the elimination of the financial, management and inventory problems once-a-month distribution created for the grocery industry, and a greater selection of fresh food for all shoppers.

**HB 5408: Closing a Wal-Mart Loophole** a component of this Michigan Business Tax Act, which was signed into law by Governor Granholm in December 2007, closed a tax loophole Wal-Mart used to receive tax cuts for renting property the company owned, to themselves.

**HB 5809: No Worker Left Behind Funding**, this budget bill, signed into law by Governor Granholm in July 2008, provides \$65 million to the No Worker Left Behind program, \$15 million of which comes from the state's General Fund, to help train workers to compete in the 21st century economy. With more than 12,000 people on waiting lists for the program, these funds will provide displaced workers with services and programs to get them back on their feet and competing for 21st century jobs.

**HB 5780: Hire Michigan First Act**, passed by both the State House and Senate, would amend many state purchasing and contracting statutes and economic development statutes to require that preference be given to residents of Michigan, and to disqualify firms from eligibility unless they agree not to hire individuals who are not authorized under federal law to work in the United States.

## Whose On Your Side? • Whose On Your Side? • Whose On Your Side? • Whose On Your Side?

### Barack Obama

Obama would fight for fair trade agreements with strong labor protections, renegotiate or opt out of NAFTA and stop tax breaks to companies sending jobs overseas. Obama voted against CAFTA, and would provide worker retraining aid. *Building Trades Conference, 4/15/08; Democratic Debate, 2/26/08; Detroit Free Press, 6/3/08; S. 1307, Vote 170, 6/30/05; Obama for America.*

### Trade and Manufacturing

U.S. trade deals in recent years have cost American workers millions of jobs and lowered living and working standards for workers globally. The next president must fight for a trade policy that supports and protects, rather than hurts, working families at home and abroad.

### John McCain

McCain said NAFTA was a "good idea" and "free trade is the best thing that can happen to our nation." McCain voted for NAFTA, CAFTA, and trade agreements with Oman, Singapore, Chile and Morocco and supports trade with Colombia and S. Korea. *Des Moines Register, 11/27/07; Reuters, 2/25/08; S. Votes 190, 6/29/06, 292, 11/4/97; HR Votes 318, 7/31/03; 319, 7/31/03; 353, 11/3/99; 115, 5/16/02, 117, 5/21/02, 207, 8/1/02; McCain press release, 5/21/08.*

# Rep Voted on Worker Issues

District	Rep	Party	HB 4316	HB 4532	SB 294	SB 120	HB 5408	HB 5409	HB 5780	Score	District	Rep	Party	HB 4316	HB 4532	SB 294	SB 120	HB 5408	HB 5409	HB 5780	Score	
1	Gaffney	R	N		Y	N		N	Y	40%	56	Ebli	D	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	100%	
2	LeMmons Jr.	D	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	100%	57	Spade	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
3	Scott	D	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	100%	58	Caswell	R	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	43%
4	Young II	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	59	Shaffer	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	29%
5	Johnson	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	60	Jones	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
6	Cheeks	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	61	Hoogendyk	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	29%
7	Smith	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	62	Nofs	R	N		Y	Y	N	N	N	N	33%
8	Cushingberry Jr.	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		100%	63	Wenke	R	N	N	Y	Y	N		Y		50%
9	Jackson	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	64	Griffin	D	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	100%
10	Leland	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	65	Simpson	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
11	Hood III	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	66	Ward	R	N	N			N	N	N	N	0%
12	Tobocman	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	67	Byrum	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
13	Farrah	D	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	68	Bauer	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
14	Clemente	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	69	Meadows	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
15	Polidori	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	70	Emmons	R	N	N	Y	Y		N	N	N	33%
16	Constan	D	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	71	Rick Jones	R	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	43%
17	Dillon	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	72	Steil Jr.	R	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	29%
18	LeBlanc	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	73	Pearce	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N			33%
19	Pastor	R	N	N	Y	Y	N		N	33%	74	Agema	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	29%
20	Corriveau	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	75	Dean	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
21	Lajoy	R	N	N	Y	Y		N	N	33%	76	Sak	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
22	Hopgood	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	77	Green	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	29%
23	Law, Kathleen	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	78	Nitz	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	29%
24	Brandenburg	R	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	43%	79	Proos	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	29%
25	Bieda	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	80	Schuitmaker	R	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	14%
26	Donigan	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	81	Pavlov	R	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	14%
27	Meisner	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	82	Stahl	R	N	N		Y	N	N	N	N	17%
28	Wojno	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	83	Espinoza	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
29	Melton	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	84	Brown	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
30	Rocca	R	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	71%	85	Ball	R	N	Y	Y	Y	N		N	N	50%
31	Miller	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	86	Hildenbrand	R	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	14%
32	Acciavatti	R	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	14%	87	Calley	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	29%
33	Meltzer	R	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	29%	88	Sheen	R	N	N	Y	Y		N	N	N	50%
34	Clack	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	89	Meekehof	R	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	14%
35	Condino	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	90	Huizenga	R	N	N		Y	N	N			20%
36	Palmer	R	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	14%	91	Valentine	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
37	Vagnozzi	D	Y	Y	Y	Y		N	Y	83%	92	Bennett	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
38	DeRoche	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	29%	93	Opsommer	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	29%
39	Law, David	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	29%	94	Horn	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	43%
40	Moss	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	29%	95	Coulouris	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
41	Knollenberg	R	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	14%	96	Mayer	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
42	Accavitti Jr.	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	97	Moore	R	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y		57%
43	Amos	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	29%	98	Moolenaar	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	29%
44	Stakoe	R	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	43%	99	Caul	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	29%
45	Garfield	R	N	N		N	N	N		0%	100	Hansen	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	29%
46	Marleau	R		N	Y	Y	N	N	N	33%	101	Palsrok	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	29%
47	Hune	R	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	14%	102	Booher	R	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	29%
48	Hammel	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	103	Sheltrown	D	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	86%
49	Gonzales	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	104	Walker	R	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	14%
50	Hammon	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	105	Elsenheimer	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	29%
51	Robertson	R	N	N		N	N	N	N	0%	106	Gillard	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
52	Byrnes	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	107	McDowell	D	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
53	Warren	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	108	Casperson	R	N	N	Y	N	N	N			17%
54	Smith	D	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	86%	109	Lindberg	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
55	Angerer	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	110	Lahti	D	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%

## Whose On Your Side? • Whose On Your Side? • Whose On Your Side? • Whose On Your Side?

### Barack Obama

Obama co-sponsored and voted for the Employee Free Choice Act and promises to sign it into law as president. Obama says workers are victimized by current organizing laws and is committed to ensuring workers can unionize without employer harassment or intimidation. *Investor's Business Daily*, 3/30/07; *H.R. 800*, Vote 227, 6/26/07; *Chicago Tribune*, 3/4/07.

### Employee Free Choice Act

The best opportunity workers have to get ahead economically is by unionizing. But the current system for forming unions is broken. Employers routinely intimidate, harass, coerce and even fire workers who try to unionize. The Employee Free Choice Act would level the playing field for workers and employers and restore our freedom to choose a union.

### John McCain

McCain voted against the Employee Free Choice Act, but for a national "right to work" for less law that would attempt to eliminate unions altogether. McCain also voted to allow employers to hire permanent replacements during strikes and crossed the picket line to appear on "The Tonight Show." *H.R. Vote 227*, 6/26/07; *S. Votes 188*, 7/10/96; 189, 7/13/94.

# UFCW Michigan 2008 Political Endorsements

## United States President

Barack Obama

## United States Senate

Carl Levin

## U.S. House of Representatives

1st District: Bart Stupak  
3rd District: Henry Sanchez  
5th District: Dale Kildee

7th District: Mark Schauer  
8th District: Robert Alexander  
9th District: Gary Peters

10th District: Robert Denison  
12th District: Sander Levin  
13th District: Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick

14th District: John Conyers, Jr.  
15th District: John D. Dingell

## Michigan State House of Representatives

HD 1: Timothy Bledsoe  
HD 2: LaMar Lemmons, Jr.  
HD 3: Bettie Scott  
HD 4: Coleman Young II  
HD 5: Bert Johnson  
HD 6: Fred Durhal, Jr.  
HD 7: Jimmy Womack  
HD 8: George Cushingberry, Jr.  
HD 9: Shanelle Jackson  
HD 10: Gabe Leland  
HD 11: Gary Pollard  
HD 12: Rashida Talib  
HD 13: Andrew Kandrevas  
HD 14: Ed Clemente  
HD 15: Gino Polidori

HD 16: Bob Constan  
HD 17: Andy Dillon  
HD 18: Richard LeBlanc  
HD 20: Marc Corriveau  
HD 21: Dian Slavens  
HD 22: Douglas A. Geiss  
HD 23: Deb Kennedy  
HD 24: Sarah Roberts  
HD 25: Jon M. Switalski  
HD 26: Marie Donigan  
HD 27: Ellen Cogen Lipton  
HD 28: Lesia Liss  
HD 29: Tim Melton  
HD 30: Tory Rocca

HD 31: Fred Miller  
HD 32: Jennifer Haase  
HD 34: Brenda Clack  
HD 35: Paul Condino  
HD 37: Vicky Barnett  
HD 39: Lisa Brown  
HD 40: Julie Candler  
HD 42: Harold L. Haugh  
HD 48: Richard Hammel  
HD 49: Lee Gonzales  
HD 50: Ted Hammon  
HD 52: Pam Byrnes  
HD 53: Rebekah Warren  
HD 54: Alma Smith

HD 55: Kathy Angerer  
HD 56: Kate Ebli  
HD 57: Dudley Spade  
HD 60: Robert Jones  
HD 61: Julie Rogers  
HD 62: Kate Segal  
HD 63: Phyllis Smith  
HD 64: Martin Griffin  
HD 65: Mike Simpson  
HD 67: Barb Byrum  
HD 68: Joan Bauer  
HD 69: Mark Meadows  
HD 70: Mike Huckleberry  
HD 75: Robert Dean

HD 76: Michael Sak  
HD 83: John Espinoza  
HD 84: Terry Brown  
HD 9: Mary Valentine  
HD 92: Doug Bennett  
HD 93: Ron McComb  
HD 95: Andy Coulouris  
HD 96: Jeff Mayes  
HD 101: Dan Scripps  
HD 103: Joel Sheltrown  
HD 106: Andy Neumann  
HD 107: Gary McDowell  
HD 109: Steven Lindberg  
HD 110: Michael Lahti

## Michigan Statewide Election

**Michigan Supreme Court**  
Diane Hathaway

**Michigan Board of Education**  
John Austin  
Kathleen Straus

**University of Michigan Board of Regents**  
Larry Deitch  
Denise Ilitch

**Michigan State Board of Trustees**  
Dianne Byrum  
Diann Woodward

**Wayne State Board of Governors**  
Paul Massaron  
Gary Pollard

## County and Other Endorsed Elections

**Ingham County**  
**Prosecuting Attorney**  
Stuart Dunning  
**Sheriff**  
Gene Wriggelsworth  
**Clerk**  
Mike Bryanton  
**Treasurer**  
Eric Schertzing  
**Register of Deeds**  
Curtis Hertel, Jr.  
**Drain Commissioner**  
Patrick Lindemann

**Macomb County**  
**Probate Court**  
Kathryn A. George  
**County Commission**  
1st District: Andrey Duzyj  
2nd District: Marvin Sauger  
3rd District: Phillip DiMaira  
4th District: Toni Mocerri  
5th District: Susan Doherty  
6th District: Joan Flynn  
7th District: Jerry Moskwa  
8th District: David J. Flynn  
9th District: Robert Mijac  
10th District: Ken Lampar  
14th District: Brian Brdak  
15th District: Thomas McVicar

16th District: Carey Torrice  
17th District: Ed Bruley  
19th District: Paul Gielegghem  
20th District: Kathy Tocco  
21st District: Irene Kepler  
22nd District: Frank Accavitti, Jr.  
24th District: Michael Boyle  
25th District: Christopher Aiello  
26th District: Jeffery Sprys  
**Charter Commission**  
2nd District: David Willis  
3rd District: James Kelly  
4th District: Louis Burdi  
5th District: Robert Slavko  
6th District: John Olekszyk  
7th District: Elisabeth Sierawski  
8th District: Donna Cangemi  
9th District: Michael Gielniak  
10th District: Rick Flynn  
11th District: Domic La Rosa  
12th District: Kenneth Reid  
13th District: Michael LaBuhn  
14th District: James Haggerty  
16th District: Tom Rombach  
17th District: Jacob Michael Femminineo Jr.  
18th District: Carrie Lynn Fuca  
19th District: Bob Smith, Jr.  
20th District: Marilyn Lane  
21st District: Jan Haggerty

22nd District: Judy Hartwell  
23rd District: James Maceroni  
24th District: Cynthia Konal  
25th District: Tracy Swanger  
26th District: Monika Krefl Leasure  
**Oakland County**  
**County Commissioner**  
Brenda Lawrence  
Andy Misner  
**County Prosecutor**  
Jessica Cooper  
**County Sheriff**  
Jane Boudreau  
**County Probate Court**  
Mark S. Frankel

**Wayne County**  
**County Executive**  
Robert Ficano  
**County Sheriff**  
Warren C. Evans  
**Wayne County Clerk**  
Cathy M. Garrett  
**Wayne County Treasurer**  
Raymond J. Wojtowicz  
**Circuit Court Judge**  
Christopher D. Dingell  
Mark Slavens  
Connie Marie Kelley

**35th District Court Judge**  
Jim Plakas  
**28th District Court Judge**  
James A. Kandrevas  
**Commissioner**  
1st District: Tim Kileen  
5th District: Ilona Varga  
7th District: Burton Leland  
9th District: Jennifer White  
12th District: Joan Gebhardt  
**Other Elections**  
**Benton Twp. Supervisor**  
Ron Ferguson

**Delta Twp. Supervisor**  
Ken Fletcher  
**Ingham County Commissioner**  
Rebecca Bahar-Cook  
Todd Tennis  
**Judge Court of Appeals 4th District**  
Paula Manderfield  
**Missaukee County Commissioner**  
Richard Renner  
**Monroe County Clerk**  
Sharon Lemasters



Tuesday, November 4

7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Photo Identification Required

To find your polling place, call  
1-866-OUR-VOTE

or go to [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)



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