



OPEIU LOCAL #9

Newsletter



For Bulletin Board Posting

MARCH 2012

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PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, March 20, 2012
6:00 p.m.

WI STATE AFL-CIO
6333 W. Bluemound Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Please Join Your Union Brothers & Sisters on March 10th

The Wisconsin AFL-CIO and community partners have been on the road all across Wisconsin talking about the local effects of Gov. Walker's disastrous agenda and how this cannot be allowed to continue.

The "Reclaim Wisconsin" tour has emphasized the impact of this Governor's policies on working people including the loss of family-sustaining jobs, the loss of employment protections and benefits, the continual transfer of wealth to Wisconsin's 1% and the hammering of quality public services and education.

The "Reclaim Wisconsin" tour will culminate in statewide candlelight vigils on Friday March 9th and a "Reclaim Wisconsin March in Madison on Saturday, March 10th". These events will mark the one year anniversary of when the Governor and Senate Republicans rammed through the collective bargaining bill, illegally, in the dead of night.

The march will begin on the Square at 1 pm on the 10th and be followed by a rally at 2 pm featuring a number of prominent labor and political leaders. Show your support for this effort and plan on joining in the march on Madison. All details are posted on our website.

Yes, Governor Walker, There will be a Recall Election

With more than one million signatures on petitions to recall the Governor and more than 850,000 signatures for the Lt. Governor there is no doubt that there will be a recall election. The only question that truly remains is when this election will be held. The Government Accountability Board is continuing its analysis of the petitions but with the decision by the parties being to not challenge signatures on the petitions, it is all just a matter of time. Additionally, it is highly likely that there will also be recall elections in four State Senate seats.

While some public sector unions have already endorsed a candidate for Governor against the current Governor, OPEIU will not be taking any action until such time as the field of candidates is fully determined.

Citizens United=Citizens Sidelined??

Citizens United vs. FEC is the U.S. Supreme Court case (rendered January 21, 2010) that eliminated the restrictions on corporations from directly spending unlimited amounts on our elections, secretly, with no accountability to the public.

Citizens United is responsible for the rise of “super PACs” (Political Action Committees), which can receive unlimited contributions and make unlimited campaign expenditures for or against a candidate, all under disclosure rules with so many loopholes that it’s essentially a form of legal money laundering.

In the 2010 election cycle—the first election after the decision, outside groups backed by corporations spent \$300 million on political ads and campaigns—more than double the amount spent in 2008—and half came from undisclosed sources. In 60 of the 75 congressional races in which power changed hands, the unaccountable outside groups backed the winners, spending freely and overwhelmingly on negative ads. Political campaign ad spending hit a record \$2.3 billion, which is expected to be shattered in the 2012 elections. Outside political spending has favored Republican politicians by 2.5 times over the past three years. The Koch brothers, with an estimated \$50 billion fortune, already bankroll the campaigns of many Republicans in Congress and have vowed to spend over \$200 million themselves in the 2012 elections.

Citizens United has changed our political environment in a profound and frightening way. We’ve lost our way when corporations are people, money is free speech, and politicians are for sale to the highest bidder.

We’ve already seen the outcome: big corporations get massive taxpayer handouts, gut safety regulations, and take away the rights of workers—while sticking American families with the bill.

This decision is so significant that it will now take a constitutional amendment (or another US Supreme Court decision) to fix the problem. Congress could possibly act to contain some of the worst effects but that is not likely to happen.

We need to talk about this with our co-workers, our family and our friends and

neighbors. We need them to not be influenced by the ads all the money will buy. We need them to vote. We need to help educate them on the right votes.

Did He Really Say That?? (only really rich people say stuff like this)

- “I’m not concerned about the very poor. We have a safety net there.”
- “I like being able to fire people who provide services to me.”
- “There were a couple times I wondered whether I was going to get a pink slip.”
- “I should also tell my story. I’m also unemployed.”

Comments from Mitt Romney on the campaign trail.

What is right-to-work?

“Right-to-work ...provides no “rights” and no “work” ...

Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining...

Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.

As always if you have any problems do not hesitate to call or email the office.

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