



**As we head into fall and the election season, check out recent updates on our issues and actions in this issue of our online newsletter.**

**HUGE Win for Workers in Missouri!** - Given a chance to vote on their future, the citizens of Missouri successfully derailed an anti-union right to work law. On August 7, voters defeated Proposition A by a two-to-one margin. It was the second time in 40 years that Missouri residents voted against right to work through a ballot measure. Boots on the ground, member-to-member education, and a voter registration push helped make this happen.



Our Rapid Response program has been actively engaged in battling right to work since 2011 in Missouri. USW members educated their co-workers, friends, and families on the truth behind the legislation. They also took action repeatedly in the hopes of derailing the law.

Thank you, Missouri, for standing up to corporate interests and protecting our right to collectively bargain.

**The Supreme Court Matters to Workers** – The Supreme Court is the highest tribunal in the nation for all cases and controversies arising under the Constitution or U.S. law. The court weighs in on issues that impact us at the bargaining table, from our right to have unions to the issues we negotiate over. That's why we should pay attention to who is deciding those cases.

For instance, the court recently took an anti-union stance in [Janus v. AFSCME](#). As a result, public employees who are non-members of the union no longer have to contribute towards negotiating or maintaining the contract they benefit from. This can weaken unions' and their members' ability to fight for a good contract. This case directly impacts our Steelworker members working for government entities and indirectly impacts us all.

Find out more our concerns over nominee Brett Kavanaugh in our recent InfoAlerts [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

**Continuing the Fight to Keep Our Members Safe on the Job!** - Our appreciation goes out to every local, member, and retiree who took part in our recent petition action on chemical safety. *A special thanks goes to Districts 7, 10, 9, and 2 for gathering the largest numbers of signatures.* We were able to meet our goal of adding tens of thousands of petition signatures to the USW comments submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). [We did the petition action because the EPA is trying to gut a good rule to improve chemical safety that was already finalized, just never implemented.](#) When it was obvious the Administration was pursuing delaying tactics on implementing that rule last year, the USW also took action through the courts. [The D.C. Circuit Court – the second highest court in the land – gave us a win in this case on August 17.](#)

The court's decision made clear that unions can sue over environmental regulations and that federal agencies cannot delay or

roll back rules without justification. However, with the EPA continuing work to destroy the rule, we're still in trouble. There are more rollbacks, including one on OSHA recordkeeping, that are in the works as well. It remains more important than ever to stay vigilant.

**NAFTA Update** – For over two decades, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has caused harm to workers throughout Canada, Mexico, and the United States. The only clear winners have been global corporations. The Administration is working to renegotiate the agreement. In late August, a “deal” between the U.S. and Mexico was announced. Given that Canada is a key trading partner, it is unlikely that they will simply sign off without negotiating changes. At this time, there are not enough details available to conclude whether or not the preliminary agreement is a win for North America’s working people.

Indications are that the deal will address workers’ rights issues such as the problems of employer-dominated unions in Mexico and lack of access to justice for workers. This is promising, though we know from past experience that without effective monitoring and enforcement, the promises will not become reality. We’re also watching for details on other worker priorities, including the elimination of private justice systems for foreign investors, rules on how currencies are handled (and not manipulated in order to gain a trade advantage), and stronger provisions for the amount of an auto that must be manufactured in North America before getting trade benefits.

Our union will continue to push for the best agreement possible. Stay tuned for more information.



**Are You Prepared for Election Day?** – One of the most fundamental rights that we have in a democracy is our ability to choose how and by whom that democracy is run. Our ancestors fought for the right to vote, and it’s something that we can’t take for granted.

Why is this so important right now? Ask the folks in Virginia that question. Control of their state assembly was decided with the [flip of a coin](#) when two candidates tied in votes last year. This year in Missouri, Steelworkers across the state focused on voter registration to prepare for a ballot referendum on so-called right to work and it paid off as Prop A went down in flames. Our vote is our voice – and a lot is on the line, so every vote counts.

[As more and more legislative attack on voting rights occur every year](#), it is crucial that you make sure you’re ready to vote.

**Check your voter registration status, and if needed, get registered by heading [HERE](#).**

**Work Continues to Protect Our Pensions** – All over the country, our District Rapid Response Coordinators are holding meetings with members and retirees whose pensions are in critical and declining status, shedding light on the need for quick action from Congress. Over one million participants are in plans like NIGPP and PIUMPF that are severely underfunded and at risk of insolvency. This is the

aftermath of a “perfect storm” of challenges including the financial crisis of 2008 and bad trade policies that have resulted in catastrophic numbers of lost jobs in certain industries covered under these plans.

The Joint Select Committee on Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans is tasked with creating recommendations and legislative language that will significantly improve the solvency of these multiemployer pension plans, and our members and retirees are adding pressure through personal letters to lawmakers, office visits and a [social media effort](#).

If you are in a multiemployer plan that’s affected by the pension crisis, please [contact your District coordinator](#) or call our office at (412) 562-2291.



**Key Principle of Rapid Response: We’re Non-Partisan** – Since its beginning, the Rapid Response program has remained issue-focused. We pressure Democrats, Independents, and Republicans the same; we want everyone to support our agenda. As elections draw near, we will urge Steelworker members to vote. When elected officials see union members showing up at the polls, they become more responsive to our issues. It’s one more way we build power for workers in this country.

**Save the Date!** – Keep your calendars open, Steelworkers! Our 2019 Rapid Response and Legislative Conference is scheduled for October 28-30, 2019 in Washington, D.C. at The Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. We are excited about the new location and even more excited to take our message to the Hill!

**Back to the Basics** – All over the country our coordinators are out in full force training new activists and helping locals to revamp existing Rapid Response teams. Does your local need some training? [Contact your District Coordinator](#) to set something up! Please stay tuned for more ways to take action. In the meantime, find us on facebook at [www.facebook.com/USWRapidResponse!](http://www.facebook.com/USWRapidResponse!)