



This November, workers are on the ballot in Illinois.

The Workers' Rights Amendment will update the Illinois constitution to guarantee every Illinoisan has the right to join together with other workers to negotiate for better pay, improved benefits, and safe working conditions.

The Workers' Rights Amendment helps us build an economy that works for every Illinoisan. It helps families by guaranteeing workers' rights to join together to negotiate for pay raises, lifting worker pay to help deal with rising costs, and helps create good-paying jobs available to all workers.

What you'll see on your ballot:

The proposed amendment would add a new section to the Bill of Rights Article of the Illinois Constitution that would guarantee workers the fundamental right to organize and to bargain collectively and to negotiate wages, hours, and working conditions, and to promote their economic welfare and safety at work. It would also prohibit from being passed any law 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 workplace safety. At the general election to be held on November 8, 2022, you will be called upon to decide whether the proposed amendment should become part of the Illinois Constitution.

- The Workers' Rights Amendment protects Illinoisans, on the job and off. It ensures workers can speak out about dangerous situations that without fear of retaliation from their employer.
- The Workers' Rights Amendment strengthens our communities by protecting first responders like nurses, firefighters, and EMTs, giving the people who put their lives on the line to protect us the training and safety equipment they need to get home safely each day.

The Workers' Rights Amendment helps us build an economy that works for every Illinoisan.

- **Helping working people get raises to deal with rising costs:** The Workers' Rights Amendment puts more money in the pockets of working families by guaranteeing workers' rights to join together to negotiate for pay raises, lifting worker pay to help deal with rising costs.
- **Creating great jobs for Illinoisans without college degrees:** The Workers' Rights Amendment will increase the number of good-paying jobs available to workers without a college degree, giving every Illinoisan access to a comfortable, middle-class life.
- **Stopping pay cuts that make CEOs richer:** The Workers' Rights Amendment protects against laws passed in other states where CEOs make 360 times the average worker and families make \$8,000 less on average.

The Workers' Rights Amendment protects all Illinoisans, on the job and off.

- From food safety concerns to shoddy construction, when workers are empowered to call out problems, it keeps us all safer. The Workers' Rights Amendment ensures workers can speak out about dangerous situations that put all Illinoisans at risk without fear of retaliation from their employer.



The Workers' Rights Amendment strengthens our communities by protecting first responders like nurses, firefighters, and EMTs.

- With the Workers' Rights Amendment, nurses and first responders will be able to negotiate for the training, safety equipment, and staff levels that they need to be safe on the job while caring for Illinoisans in life-threatening situations.
- The nurses on the frontlines of this pandemic know firsthand how important it is to have safe staffing levels and access to the best personal protective equipment, keeping the focus on patient care instead of profit margins.
- The firefighters, paramedics, and police officers who put their lives on the line to protect us deserve to know they'll have the training and safety equipment they need to get home safely.

Q+A

Q: What is the Workers' Rights Amendment? What's this all about?

A: The Workers' Rights Amendment will update the Illinois Constitution to guarantee your right to organize and join together with your coworkers to negotiate for pay raises, better benefits and safer workplaces, putting more money in the pockets of working families while keeping all of our communities safe.

The Workers' Rights Amendment prevents politicians from passing anti-worker laws that bring down wages and make workplaces less safe in the future.

Q: Who is the Workers' Rights Amendment for?

A: The Workers' Rights Amendment is for every Illinoisan, and will create a new standard for constitutional protections for workers' rights for all workers..

Q: When is the election? Where is the Worker's Rights Amendment on my ballot?

A: The Workers' Rights Amendment will be at the top of your ballot, giving workers the opportunity to vote for themselves first. Election day is November 8, with Early Voting beginning 40 days before election day, September 29.

Q: Who supports the Workers' Rights Amendment?

A: The Workers' Rights Amendment has support from a broad coalition of workers, labor unions, and community groups across the state.

Q: What politicians support the Workers' Rights Amendment?

A: The Workers' Rights Amendment isn't about politics, it's about the workers that make Illinois great. The Worker's Rights Amendment will protect Illinois from special interest groups and anti-worker politicians from both parts that push anti-worker laws that drive down wages and make workplaces less safe.

Q: Does this only apply to public sector workers?

A: No, the Workers' Rights Amendment protects all Illinois workers in the public and private sectors by guaranteeing their fundamental rights in the workplace in our state constitution.

Q: Doesn't the federal government control labor policy for private sector workers? How would the Workers' Rights Amendment help private sector workers?

A: The Workers' Rights Amendment will update the Illinois Constitution to guarantee your fundamental rights in the workplace, regardless of the industry or sector they work in, protecting the existing rights of millions of workers and creating new protections at the state level for hundreds of thousands of workers not covered by federal policy.

Q: Is this a tax increase?

A: No, there is nothing in the Workers' Rights Amendment about taxes.

Q: I heard this will raise my property taxes, is that true?

A: This is a lie - politicians are responsible for rising property taxes, not workers. This amendment protects workers' right to bargain for better pay and benefits, putting more money in the pockets of working families and helping them deal with the rising cost of everything from groceries to gas to their property tax bill.

Q: What about pensions? I heard this will make pension costs go up for Illinois taxpayers?

A: No, this is a lie. Politicians caused the state's fiscal problems, not workers. This amendment protects workers' right to bargain for better pay, benefits, and safety conditions and does not affect pensions.

Q: Illinois already has strong labor laws. Why do we need to add them to the constitution?

A: Illinois has always been a workers' rights state, and the Worker's Rights Amendment will keep it that way. The Workers' Rights Amendment will guarantee your fundamental rights in the workplace, and protect you from politicians that try to pass anti-worker laws in the future.

Voting yes for Workers' Rights will also protect Illinoisans from future attacks on workers' rights at the federal level. We've already seen unprecedented attacks on our civil rights and liberties, and we know more attacks against workers are coming. That's why it's important to vote yes for the Workers' Rights Amendment to make sure your rights are protected at home in Illinois.

This amendment holds politicians—Democrats and Republicans—accountable. It stops them from going after workers and means they can't bargain away workers' right to come together and negotiate for better safety conditions and fair pay. A vote to yes will hold political machines accountable if they try to mistreat workers.

The Workers' Rights Amendment will prevent politicians from placing arbitrary limits on what emergency responders and other public sector unions can bargain over. As it relates to the private sector, the Workers' Rights Amendment prevents anti-worker politicians in Illinois from exploiting a loophole in the National Labor Relations Act that has allowed other states to trample on collective bargaining rights among private sector workers.

