

The Labor Tribune

A Newsletter for Central Ohio Teamsters

July 24, 2006

Who will be Governor?

The race for the Governors chair is heating up in Ohio. The Democratic party has nominated United States Congressman Ted Strickland and the Republican party has nominated Secretary of State, Kenneth Blackwell, to take the seat currently held by embattled 2 term republican Governor Robert Taft. Who deserves the seat? That depends on your perspective.

Ted Strickland has spent his life in the political realm as a champion of the people. Born in 1941 in Lucasville Ohio, Ted Strickland came from the common roots that he now defends. Strickland was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from Asbury College in 1963. In 1966, he received a Master of Arts degree from the University of Kentucky. He received another master's degree in 1967 from Asbury Theological Seminary (Wilmore, Ky.). He received a doctorate degree in psychology from the University of Kentucky in 1980.

Ted Strickland has been a distinguished United States Congressman since 1992. In that time he has served as a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and is the ranking Democrat on its Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. A six term Congressman, Methodist Minister, a psychologist, and a college professor.

Ted Strickland has been a staunch champion of labor unions his entire political career and currently holds a 100% approval rating from the AFL/CIO for his labor voting record.

Ted has what it takes to Turn around Ohio. Do you? Can you afford not to vote Strickland in 2006?

United States Congressman Ted Strickland



Labor Endorsements for Strickland

Ted Strickland currently carries endorsements by every labor union in the state. Some of them include Teamsters Local 284 and Local Unions No. 24, 92, 293, 377, 400, 416, 436 and Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen. United Auto Workers Region 2B, IUE-CWA Local 84727, Iron Workers Local 55 and 549, Plumbers & Pipefitters Locals No. 392, 396 and 495. To see a full comprehensive list go to <http://tedstricklandforgovernor.20m.com/endorsements.html> and click on the "full list of endorsements" link.

Congress denies minimum wage raise, but could hike its own salary

"A minimum wage employee who works 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, will make about \$10,700 a year. For a family of three, that's almost \$6,000 below the poverty line, qualifying them for public assistance and other federal aid services", said Senator Ted Kennedy in an address before the Center for American Progress. Senator Kennedy mentioned 80 year old Jeannie Battle, of Columbus Ohio. Battle is one of 2 million workers, or about 2.5 percent of hourly wage workers, who earn the minimum wage or less. They say they struggle because Congress hasn't raised the minimum wage since 1997. Today, the \$5.15 minimum wage is worth about \$4 because of inflation.

But even if Congress declines to act, Battle might get a pay increase to \$6.85 an hour. That's because Ohio is one of six states in which there are drives to make increasing the minimum wage a state ballot initiative in November.

Since passage of the minimum wage, Congress has boosted its own pay eight times to \$165,200 a year from \$136,700, about a 21 percent increase. Seven of those eight increases have been labeled cost-of-living adjustments, and lawmakers are poised to vote themselves yet another pay raise to push their pay to \$168,500 while stalling on legislation to lift the minimum wage.

According to Business Week, the Average C.E.O. made 42 times the average workers pay in 1980. By 2000, the average C.E.O.'s pay had skyrocketed to 531 times what the average worker made. So the problem, it would seem, with employers paying for healthcare or wage increases isn't the high price of health care costs as much as it's the high price of C.E.O.'s. According to the Center for American Progress, if minimum wage had kept up with the CEO salary hike in the last 10 years, the Federal Minimum Wage would be \$23.65/hr today.

Oman Trade Agreement Continues Race to the Bottom for American Workers

The Oman Free Trade Agreement was passed on July 22, 2006 by the U.S. House of Representatives. Teamsters President James Hoffa had this to say, "Not only will this continue our current job-killing, race-to-the-bottom trade model, but it jeopardizes our ability to secure our nation's ports." The agreement gives Oman and foreign companies incorporated in Oman the right to own and operate important and sensitive infrastructure in the United States, including our ports. If such rules had been in place during the Dubai ports debacle, our government would have had to pay the Emir of Dubai tens of millions of U.S. tax dollars. President Hoffa went on to say "Every single member of Congress who voted for the Oman agreement voted to sell out our nation's security."



A teamster was originally a person who drove a team of oxen, a horse-drawn or mule-drawn wagon or a muletrain (in the latter case, he was also known as a muleteer)._____

Union Pride

According to 2003 U.S. Labor statistics, U.S. labor workers were paid an average of \$20.56/hr compared to \$16.00/hr for non-Union workers. When you include health insurance, benefits, retirement plans and union compension, it jumps to \$31.82/hr compared to \$21.85/hr for non-Union workers.

Fact: 1897 Sep 11, A strike by some 75,000 coal miners in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia ended after 10 weeks. Concessions included an eight-hour work day, semi-monthly pay, and the abolition of company stores (which were famous for over charging workers). The day before, about 20 miners were killed when sheriff's deputies opened fire on them in Pennsylvania.