



# Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

**Strength in Numbers 95,000**

William Hamilton, President & Eastern PA Legislative Coordinator – Joseph Molinero, Sec.-Treasurer & Western PA Legislative Coordinator – Tim O'Neill, Consultant – Dan Grace, Trustee & Legislative Advisor – Robert Baptiste, Esq. Legal Advisor

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

### IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT OUR VOTING HABITS - RIGHT-TO-WORK BILLS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT & IN PA - HOW CLOSE IS PA TO BECOMING A RIGHT-TO-WORK STATE – THE 2018 PA GOVERNOR'S RACE

#### FACTS

- A Right-to-Work Bill Introduced by Senator John Eichelberger, passed the PA Senate recently by a vote of 28-22.
- The November 2016 General election was a crushing blow to labor in the US and especially in PA. All three branches of the Federal government are now under Republican control. Therefore, there is very little, if any, checks and balances for labor. Additionally, The State of PA picked up 3 additional state senate seats giving the Republicans a supermajority status making it a reality they can now override the governor's vetoes.
- There are many registered Republican Teamsters in Pennsylvania. Also, many Teamsters are members of the (NRA) National Rifle Association. We need to start thinking what's best for us as union members, our wages and benefits and start electing labor friendly representatives that will support working families. We can no longer just go to the voting booths and pull the red lever or the blue lever. In the latest campaign material from the NRA in the PA 2016 general election ¾ of the NRA's PA state endorsed Senators voted in favor of PA SB 166. If you're a member of the NRA, thank them for protecting our Second Amendment rights but also tell them to start protecting your paycheck because many of the candidates they support are in fact voting for RTW. Because of our failure to elect labor friendly candidates that care about working people, we now have a National Right-to-Work Bill in the works and a Right-to-Work bill on Pennsylvania's doorstep. There has not been much movement of the national RTW bill. However, the same cannot be said for PA's RTW bills.
- If Senator Scott Wagner, a candidate for governor of PA, is elected you can take your money to the bank that Pennsylvania becomes the next state to fall victim to "Right-to-Work" (RTW).
- If 14 more seats are lost in the PA House to anti-union legislators that support RTW, this would give both chambers a supermajority status to pass and block any attempt to veto.

#### IS RIGHT-TO-WORK DESTINED FOR PENNSYLVANIA

This year marks the first time in history that a "Right-to-Work" bill (SB 166) has been successfully passed by the PA Senate. It is now before the PA House. Should the PA House get enough votes to pass it (and we believe they will) the bill will be sent to the Governor for his signature to make it law. The Governor of PA has stated in the past he will veto right-to-work legislation that comes before him.





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Should SB 166 pass the PA House our only hope is that the Governor veto the legislation. Can the Senate override the Governor's veto? YES. Why? Because Republicans in the 50-member Senate achieved supermajority status, picking up three seats in the November 2016 General Election, which will give the chamber the ability to override a gubernatorial veto without any support from Democrats. A supermajority for an override in the PA Senate requires **33 votes**. The present PA Senate is comprised of 34 Republicans and 16 Democrats. Therefore, the Republicans have one more seat than the necessary 33 seats needed for a supermajority.

Fortunately, six (6) Republican Senators voted against SB 166 and if the bill makes it to the governor's desk and it is vetoed by the governor, provided the six (6) Senators that voted against SB 166 stand firm and vote against an override, there will not be enough senate votes to override the Governor's veto. However, if positions change, and Republicans vote as a 34-member block, the PA Senate overrides the Governor's veto.

Now we move onto the PA House. Republicans picked up 3 additional seats in the House, bringing their total to 122. But unlike their Senate counterparts, House Republicans did not reach the coveted supermajority status - meaning legislative Republicans cannot rely on being able to block any veto by Gov. Wolf. The PA House is currently made up of 122 Republicans 81 Democrats. A supermajority for an override in the PA House requires 136 votes. Therefore, unless 14 PA Democrat House members change their position and vote along with the PA Republican House members, and override cannot take place in that chamber.

Right now, many factors come into play as to whether Right-to-Work is passed in PA. If passed in both chambers, will the Governor veto the bill? Will Senate Republicans vote in a 34-member block to override a veto? Will more than 13 Democrat House members vote to override a veto if it gets to that juncture?

What we do know for a fact is how important your vote is in Pa's elections. By losing three additional senate seats this past election, we gave the Republican Party a supermajority.

We have many Republicans and Democrats that support our position on opposing right-to-work legislation, and we have a very good working relationship with many members in both parties. However, you must pay attention and support the Teamster's endorsed candidates in the future. Please take time and thank the below listed Republicans (by phone or mail) that stood with the working men and women and voted against the bill: GREENLEAF [R], LAUGHLIN [R], MCGARRIGLE [R], RAFFERTY [R], SCAVELLO [R], TOMLINSON [R]. We endorse both Democrats and Republicans that support the working men and women in PA and in all Conference states.

### NEW HOUSE BILLS

#### **PA House Bill 526**

An Act that amends the act of July 8, 1978 (P.L.752, No.140), known as the Public Employee Pension Forfeiture Act, further providing for definitions, for disqualification and forfeiture of benefits and for restitution.

#### **PA House Bill 532**

An act that amends the act of August 15, 1961 (P.L.987, No.442), known as the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act, excluding political subdivisions from the act; and authorizing optional prevailing wage ordinances.





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The PA Conference of Teamsters will be following these two (2) new bills closely. You can view copies of these two (2) bills on our web site under "Legislative Action Alerts".

Stopping Right-to-Work requires all union members to start voting for labor endorsed candidates whether they are Democrat, Republican or Independent In PA and all of our PA Conference states.

In districts that we know the Republican Party will maintain control, we need to support moderate Republicans that stand up for working families and that believe in labor's positions on protecting the middle class.

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**These Legislative Action Alerts will be posted on the PA Conference of Teamsters web site at [www.pacfteamsters.com](http://www.pacfteamsters.com) Go to the home page and click on the black box titled Legislative Action Alert Bulletins. Please share these alerts with your officers, agents and stewards.**

