



Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

Strength in Numbers 95,000

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT



NBC NEWS 'Joe's a blue-collar guy': After years of declining power, union leaders look to Biden

Organized labor believes it has a friend coming to the White House. Here's what's on the agenda.

By Alex Seitz-Wald **NBC**
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WASHINGTON — President-elect Joe Biden's campaign began at a union hall in Pittsburgh (Teamsters Local 249), a city with deep ties to organized labor, and it ended nearby with an election-eve promise to be "the most pro-union president you've ever seen." Biden won 56 percent of union households to Trump's 40 percent, according to NBC News exit polls, doubling Hillary Clinton's 8 percentage-point margin among the group four years ago. At the top of labor's wish list is the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, a sweeping overhaul of labor laws that passed the Democratic-controlled House this year. But getting it to Biden's desk for his signature will depend on Democrats' winning Senate control in a pair of Georgia runoff elections in January, which is by no means certain. Union leaders also see plenty of opportunity through executive actions, especially during the coronavirus pandemic, which helps explain the early jockeying among bold-faced names for the job of labor secretary, which is typically one of the lower-profile Cabinet posts. "Joe Biden, regardless of

what happens in the Senate, has the opportunity to be one of the most consequential presidents of our time because of the moment that we're in and who he is," said Randi Weingarten, the president of the American Federation of Teachers.

Along with friendly appointments to key positions on the National Labor Relations Board and other posts, the Biden administration could reclassify some gig workers as employees instead of independent contractors, which could entitle them to benefits and overtime and allow them to unionize. Biden promised during the campaign to "ensure workers in the 'gig economy' and beyond receive the legal benefits and protections they deserve." Through executive action, his administration could raise the salary threshold to qualify as management, which would make overtime rules apply to more workers. And it could more aggressively enforce existing wage and hour rules and health and safety protections, such as requiring employers to provide more personal protective equipment.

See Complete Article at: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/joe-s-blue-collar-guy-after-years-declining-power-union-n1247819>

