



(Click on headlines for link to full story)

Report: S.B. 5 could save Ohio \$1.3B annually

Columbus Business Journal Online, 4/05/2011

The figure includes about \$191 million in annual savings by eliminating step pay increases as existing contracts expire. Other tenets of S.B. 5, which Gov. John Kasich signed Thursday, are expected to save city and county governments and school districts nearly \$1.1 billion, the news service reported.

Unions want members to pay for SB 5 referendum

Columbus Dispatch Online, 4/05/2011

Betting on an expensive referendum drive, opponents of Senate Bill 5 are turning to rank-and-file union members to help cover campaign costs predicted to reach \$20 million.

At least three statewide labor organizations - the Ohio Education Association, the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police and the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters - are considering charging members extra fees to fund a ballot effort to repeal a GOP-backed bill signed by Gov. John Kasich last week that would limit collective-bargaining rights for state- and local-government employees.

Union backers tie rallies to MLK

Columbus Dispatch Online, 4/05/2011

Labor unions and civil-rights groups held hundreds of rallies and teach-ins yesterday to defend collective bargaining and to tie it to the cause the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was fighting for in the days before his death 43 years ago.

Repeal effort ramps up as labor ranks dwindle

Toledo Blade Online, 4/05/2011

According to U.S. Department of Labor statistics, the number of Ohio workers who belonged to unions in 2010 was about 655,000, representing a new low of 13.7 percent of all employment. That compares to about 931,000 in 1997, or 18.9 percent, when the workers' compensation law was trounced.

Unions back to Concord to fight right-to-work bill

UnionLeader.com, 4/05/2011

Today the Senate Commerce Committee will hold a hearing at which officials and members of several labor unions plan to speak. Unions represent nearly 12 percent of the state's labor force, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Forum: If Cat wants fiscally stable state, it should bring jobs back to Illinois

pjstar.com, 4/04/2011

In 1979, Local 974 had 24,000 members. In 2011, that figure is just over 4,000. Where are those 20,000 jobs and the families they support now? They are in South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Texas and other right-to-work states - non-union - and other countries. That's also lost tax revenue for Illinois.

Firefighters Union Threatens Republicans

UnionWatch.org, 4/02/2011

“Our political principles are pretty straightforward. We’ll support those that support us.”

This comes from Harold Schaitberger, President of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), as quoted earlier this week in a Huffington Post article entitled “Firefighters, Cops Warn Republicans [that] Anti-Union Stance Has Consequences.”

D.C. Circuit Declines to Enforce NLRB Ruling Union Wrongly Fined Worker for Safety Claim

Daily Labor Report Online, 4/05/2011

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit April 5 denied enforcement of the National Labor Relations Board's decision that an International Union of Operating Engineers local violated federal labor law by imposing a \$2,500 fine on a union member who reported a safety hazard to the Missouri construction contractor that employed him (Int'l Union of Operating Eng'rs Local 513 v. NLRB, D.C. Cir., No. 10-1121, 4/5/11).

Donahoe Calls APWU Pact ‘Best Outcome’; House Republicans Skeptical of Increases

Daily Labor Report Online, 4/05/2011

Perhaps the most vehement exchange took place between Rep. Dennis Ross (R-Fla.), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform's Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and Labor Policy, and APWU President Cliff Guffey, when Ross asserted during the hearing that APWU on its website was offering “monetary compensation” to union locals that support ratification of the agreement.

Guffey responded that he considered the suggestion that the union was paying for ratification votes an “affront.” The national union's intent is to “encourage people to vote” on the contract, he said.

Teachers Union Campaign Fee Proposal Draws Complaint

NBC4i.com, 4/06/2011

COLUMBUS, Ohio --

An Ohio woman is expressing anger over a proposal by the Ohio Education Association to fight Senate Bill 5 by requiring union members to pay \$50.

On Tuesday, Governor John Kasich's office released an email from Connie Ash.

NLRB finds supervisor solicitation of petition signatures not objectionable

Lexology.com, 3/30/2011

A supervisor gives a pro-union petition to her subordinates and asks them to sign it. Not surprisingly, some of them do so. The supervisor then remains actively involved in the organizing campaign. She speaks at union meetings and wears union insignia. In the secret ballot election the NLRB conducts, the union wins the majority of the votes cast.

Should the election result be set aside based on the supervisory employee's conduct? Not according to a decision released yesterday by the NLRB. In *Terry Machine Co.*, 356 N.L.R.B. No. 120 (2011), the NLRB held (pdf) in a 2-1 decision that the solicitation of signatures on a union representation petition by seven different supervisors didn't warrant setting aside the election results.

WI Union Bosses Sell out Members to Keep Union Dues Flowing

Redstate.com, 4/05/2011

What followed, Liebman goes on to explain, is a sort of template that all five unions agreed to. In explaining one of the contracts (below), you will see how the union practically gave to management nearly everything most unions would try to fight for. In the new contract(s) management (the County) obtained the ability to (in its sole discretion) set all matters of pay; the ability to outsource work; the right to add or eliminate classifications; eliminate premium overtime; the right to select (and/or change) the health insurance program and determine the levels of insurance, the deductibles, and/or co-pays; the elimination of life insurance; and, as opposed to any increases negotiated, the County obtained a wage freeze during the life of the agreement.

Labor Unions and Allies Rally at Oklahoma State Capitol

Tulsa Today Online, 4/06/2011

Members and/or supporters of labor unions rallied at the Oklahoma state Capitol today, declaring opposition to bills moving through the Legislature that would repeal compulsory collective bargaining for larger municipalities.

Teachers union delivers petition to lawmakers

Tennessean Online, 4/05/2011

The Tennessee Education Association delivered a petition today signed by nearly 9,000 teachers and supporters asking lawmakers not to pass bills that would repeal their collective bargaining powers, take away the TEA's seat on the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System and end the use of payroll deductions to pay dues.