

The *UFCW 951 Bulletin* is a regular publication of UFCW Local 951, designed to give members a quick update of union news and notice of upcoming events. The flyer is distributed at the workplace by union representatives and is also available on-line at www.ufcw951.com. To receive e-mail copies of the *Bulletin* during the first week of publication, call the UFCW 951 Communications Department at 1.800.999.0951.

Anti-Worker Agenda Turns to Right-to-Work

Since gaining control of the Michigan Legislature in January, Governor Rick Snyder and his fellow Republicans in Lansing have waged an all out assault on middle class families, swiftly working through their agenda. Republicans are acting quickly to ensure their priority items are completed in case they lose their legislative control in the 2012 election.

“Republicans in Michigan and other parts of the country are promoting the agenda of their wealthy corporate donors and using the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression to attack seniors, students, poor families and dedicated workers,” Marv Russow, Local 951’s president, said. “When you look at the actions of the republican legislature, you will see they have nothing to do with the jobs they promised and everything to do with helping corporations and the wealthiest among us become richer and more powerful at the expense of everyone else. As an organization we try to be nonpartisan, but these types of actions make it difficult.”

With much of their agenda accomplished, many republicans believe it’s time to aggressively pursue right-to-work.

“There is a group of republicans who have made it their goal to pass right-to-work legislation by the end of the year,” Russow said. “With this increased focus on right-to-work will come a barrage of inaccurate media reports and false advertisements

Agenda Items Implemented in 2011 by Michigan Republicans

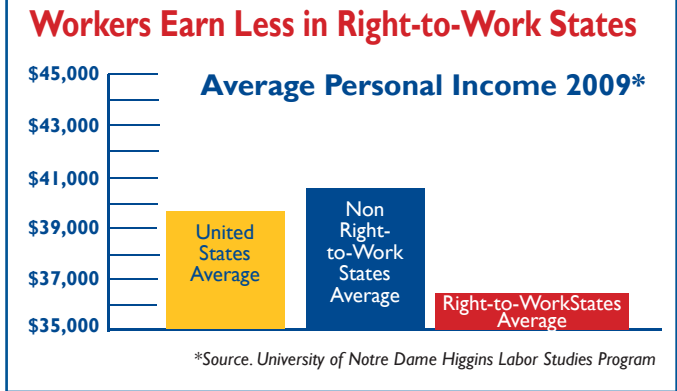
- Eliminated item pricing, giving businesses a windfall at the expense of consumers and workers.
- Hand picked emergency financial managers to take total control over local governments without any input from voters.
- Balanced the budget on the backs of workers, students and the poor to finance \$1.8 billion in tax breaks for big business.
- Redrew Michigan’s political districts to give republicans an advantage in upcoming elections.
- Imposed a tax hike on retirees whose pensions will now be taxed by the state.

Next Up: Right-to-Work

A group of republicans are working to make Michigan a right-to-work state this year.

proclaiming the benefits of right-to-work. Members and the general public need to understand that this legislation is simply part of the republican agenda to give more money and power to the wealthy and less of both to workers, and that all workers and Michigan communities will suffer under right-to-work.”

As the chart above illustrates, workers earn less in right-to-work states. In addition, it is estimated that Michigan’s tax base will suffer a loss of approximately \$21 billion a year under right-to-work, resulting in fewer services and higher taxes.



Kroger Members: Return Your Contract Bargaining Survey

Kroger members are reminded to have a voice in their upcoming contract negotiations by completing and returning their collective bargaining questionnaire.

“The best way for Kroger members to have input in their contract negotiations is to complete their UFCW 951 collective bargaining questionnaire,” Marv Russow, Local 951’s president, said. “The Local uses the survey information to establish bargaining goals and make important decisions during negotiations.”

A high survey return rate will also send a strong message to Kroger that UFCW 951 members are involved in their negotiations, strongly united, and determined to reach a fair and just contract.

If you need a survey, they are available from stewards and union representatives.

Join the Effort to Expose the Reality of Item Pricing’s Repeal

UFCW 951 members recently received a letter detailing UFCW Michigan’s effort to protect members’ jobs and expose the realities of the elimination of item pricing.

Members, regardless of whether or not they work in retail, can assist in this effort by providing (1) notification of layoffs or the reduction of hours of retail workers (both union and non-union) due to the elimination of item pricing, (2) any instructions regarding the pricing of items, and (3) stories of personal and customer reaction to the elimination of price stickers. Members can also begin tracking their food bill to see if they enjoy the cost savings promised by retailers and politicians following the September 1, 2011 repeal of item pricing.

Members should call 1.800.321.6406 ext. 8643 with this information, any questions regarding the elimination of item pricing, or to request a copy of the letter sent to members. The letter is also available at www.ufcw951.com.