



# The Western Kentucky Worker

Official Newsletter of the Western Kentucky Area Council, AFL-CIO

Prepared by Berry Craig, AFT Local 1360 and KEA-NEA

Volume 10, Number 11, November 2011

## Election day is the only poll that counts

By **JEFF WIGGINS**  
Council president and  
Steelworkers Local 9447 president

Polls show our candidate, Gov. Steve Beshear, a Democrat, way ahead of his Republican challenger, State Senate President David Williams. Election day is close but we cannot take anything for granted.

Williams plays gutter politics. He is notorious for attacking his opponents with half-truths and outright lies. He has waged one of the dirtiest-ever campaigns for governor.

Our choice could hardly be clearer. David Williams would be Kentucky's version of Scott Walker, Wisconsin's billionaire-bankrolled, union-busting Republican governor. Williams said he is a big admirer of Walker. Williams even invited Walker to Kentucky to campaign for him.

Williams also would be a repeat of union-hating Gov. Ernie Fletcher, whom Gov. Beshear beat in 2007. Like Fletcher, a Republican, Williams wants a right to work for less law for Kentucky. Like Fletcher, Williams opposes our prevailing wage law.

Between now and Election day, we are going to have to work tirelessly to re-elect Gov. Beshear. But we can't succeed without your help.

Please volunteer. We need you to help staff phone banks and distribute literature at worksites. We need you to talk face-to-face with your union brothers and sisters at your worksites.

More than our good union jobs are at stake: the union movement in Kentucky is at stake. So please urge your fellow union members – families and friends and neighbors, too – to support and vote for our union-endorsed candidates. Besides Gov. Beshear and his running mate, Jerry Abramson, they are:

- ***Jack Conway, attorney general***
- ***Todd Hollenbach, state treasurer***
- ***Alison Lundergan Grimes, secretary of state***
- ***Adam Edelen, state auditor***
- ***Bob Farmer, commissioner of agriculture***

Don't get me wrong. I couldn't be happier that Gov. Beshear is doing well in the polls. But I'm with Brother Jay Latham, a UAW retiree. "We can't let up," Jay warns. "It's just like our old basketball coach used to tell us boys: If you're 15 points ahead, you've got to play like you're 15 points behind."

The only poll that counts is the one on Nov. 8.

## Let's keep our eyes on the prize: reelect Beshear

By BERRY CRAIG  
AFT Local 1360

Some lefty bloggers in the Bluegrass State have been pretty tough on Gov. Steve Beshear.

I understand. I'm a union-card carrying Hubert Humphrey Democrat. Beshear is not nearly as liberal as I'd like, especially on some of the so-called social issues.

Even so, my eye is on the prize.

I'm voting for Beshear again and so is my union buddy, Jeff

Wiggins. "The alternative would be Kentucky's version of Scott Walker," said Jeff, who is president of our Paducah-based Western Kentucky AFL-CIO Area Council.

Wiggins meant state senate president David Williams, the Republican candidate for governor. Williams is a big-time fan of Walker, Wisconsin's tea party-tilting, union-busting governor.

I guess misery loves company. Walker and Williams are about as popular as a wet dog at a wedding.

Walker is facing a possible recall election next year. Williams is way behind Beshear in the polls.

"David Williams hates unions as much as Scott Walker does," said Jeff, who is also president of Steelworkers Local 9447 in Calvert City. "He wants a right to work for less law. He wants to gut the prevailing wage law. Scott Walker is his hero."

Indeed, Williams invited Walker to come to Kentucky and campaign for him. "Birds of a feather," Wiggins said.

Meanwhile, the Kentucky State AFL-CIO has endorsed Beshear again because he's been a solid governor for organized labor.

Beshear is against right to work for less. He is for the prevailing wage.



KY Gov. Steve Beshear in parade

The governor delivered on his promise to restore the office of labor secretary to cabinet-level status and to hire a union member – he turned out to be former State Rep. J.R. Gray -- for the job.

Gray, a Benton Democrat, was directing business representative for Machinists District Lodge 154 in Calvert City. When Gray retired last year, Beshear promoted Deputy Labor Secretary Mark Brown of Brandenburg to secretary. Brown is a member of Louisville-based Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 502. He's a Democrat and an ex-Meade County judge and state representative.

While Williams blew off organized labor from the start, independent candidate Gatewood Galbraith at least made a pretense of courting union votes.

Galbraith has run for office umpteen times and has never even come close to winning. He didn't visit our CLC hall this time.

Galbraith did put in an appearance at Paducah's Labor Day picnic. He trashed Beshear (Galbraith and Williams double-teamed the governor at the Fancy Farm picnic.), talked a little union but was spotted driving away in a shiny Lexus.

The Lexus is manufactured by Toyota, the Japanese automaker that fiercely resists unions in its American plants, including the one in Georgetown.

"If Gatewood is so pro-union, why does he drive a Lexus?" Jeff wonders. More than a few union members are curious about that major-league inconsistency, too.

Anyway, Beshear was honorary grand marshal at our Paducah Labor Day Parade. He rode at the head of the procession in a bright yellow Corvette crafted by members of UAW Local 2164 in Bowling Green.

"David Williams doesn't even talk the talk," Jeff said. "Gatewood Galbraith talks the talk but he doesn't walk the walk. Steve Beshear is our friend in the governor's race, hands down."

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Beshear and other labor-endorsed candidates appeared at large rallies in Mayfield and Paducah Oct. 23. The Paducah rally was at the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 184 hall.**

***MINUTES OF THE OCT. 6, 2011, COUNCIL MEETING***  
***Compiled by BERRY CRAIG, AFT Local 1360, recording secretary***

Because there was no quorum, the executive board did not meet. President Wiggins gaveled the regular meeting to order at 7 p.m. following the customary Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

Wiggins outlined the correspondence he had received since the September meeting. The monthly financial report was read and approved.

COPE Director Howard "Bubba" Dawes called the delegates' attention to the "America Wants to Work" feature on the national AFL-CIO's Internet website. Dawes also suggested that the delegate lists from each local in the council be updated. Craig agreed to start the process.

In other business, the delegates agreed for Wiggins to seek three bids on repairing the council hall roof before winter.

Wiggins also urged delegates to vote for all labor-endorsed candidates from Gov. Steve Beshear on down.

**VOTE NOV 8 LIKE YOUR JOB DEPENDS ON IT, BECAUSE IT DOES. DAVID WILLIAMS AND THE REPUBLICANS WANT TO MAKE KENTUCKY A RIGHT TO WORK FOR LESS STATE.**

[Return to Western Kentucky AFL-CIO Area Council Home Page](#)