

I AM VOTING

Americans will be casting their ballots with one of two questions on their minds, “Who’s going to help me get a job?” Or, “who’s going to help me keep my job?”

“They built three giant factories in Mexico... the work has been gradually leaving Portland ever since,” says Daryl Payne of IAM Local 1005 in Portland, OR, recalling the years leading up to January 2009, when he was told he no longer worked for North America’s largest heavy-duty truck manufacturer.

Payne, a 40-year-old production technician, spent 15 years at Daimler Trucks, formerly Freightliner. Payne is married with two children. For him, Tuesday, November 2, 2010, is about his family’s future – and



Photo by Steven Bloch

For millions of workers like Local 1005 member Daryl Payne who have been laid off during the Great Recession, the 2010 midterm elections are about a better future for his family. Pictured with Payne are his daughter, Cassandra and son, Jacob. “If I don’t vote, then the folks that got us into this mess get their way,” said Payne.

the future of millions of other Americans still reeling from eight years of failed Bush policies and who have yet to realize Obama’s promise of “change.”

“I always vote,” says Payne of midterm elections, when many governors, state legisla-

tors, the entire U.S. House of Representatives and one-third of the U.S. Senate are elected.

But this year’s need to show up at the polls has reached a pitch far more personal. Despite having gone back to school, Payne needs a job. His family



AP/World Wide Photo



The recession has thrown millions of Americans out of work. Long-term unemployment is at its highest level in decades.

They've watched the government bail out Wall Street and turn its back on Main Street. They've watched the Republican party block much-needed unemployment benefits again and again and again. They've listened to the lawmakers who've referred to the jobless as lazy, spoiled, drug-addicted hobos. And they're angry," says Buffenbarger.

"Foolish is the candidate who is comparing this midterm election to previous cycles and counting on that to carry them to the finish line. They've yet to experience the wrath of America's 31 million unemployed and their allies."

In an election year where so many people are out of work and the unemployment rate hovers near double digits, issues like health care reform, climate change and immigra-

needs a paycheck.

"If I don't vote, then the folks that got us into this mess get their way. That's not good for any of us. You've got to get up and do something," says Payne.

It's About Jobs

Long-term trends show only about 40 percent of eligible voters participate in midterm elections, as compared to presidential elections.

Incumbents are betting on the same to hold true this midterm, says IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger. "They think mid-

dle-class people – many of whom are unemployed – won't show up. That working families hit hardest by this recession are too weary and distraught to make their voices heard.

"But it's to incumbents' own demise. Unlike previous midterm cycles, the U.S. is in the midst of the worse economic crisis most of us have ever seen. Millions are hurting.

Unemployment insurance is often a family's only lifeline to survive job loss, yet a solid majority of Republicans, and some Democrats, repeatedly blocked efforts to extend those benefits and other programs to help jobless Americans survive the recession.



tion fade into the periphery, says Buffenbarger.

Unemployment benefits, COBRA and JOBS Now! take center stage. "Americans will be casting their ballots with one of two questions on their minds this election cycle," says Buffenbarger. "Who's going to help me *get* a job? Or, who's going to help me *keep* my job? It's that simple."

A Lost Decade?

Data from the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics shows more than eight million jobs have been lost since the start of the 2007 Great Recession.

Many economists estimate it's going to take an entire decade before many of those jobs come back.

"Even if the economy creates jobs from now on at a pace equal to the fastest four years of the early 2000s expansion," says Center for Economic and Policy Research Senior Economist John Schmitt, "we will not return to the December 2007 level of employment until March 2014.

"And, by the time we return to the number of jobs we had in December 2007, population growth will have



AP/World Wide Photo

Without more aggressive stimulus programs to rebuild the nation's economic infrastructure and spur job growth, millions of Americans face long-term unemployment that could take years to overcome.

increased the potential labor force by about 6.5 million jobs. If job growth matched the fastest four years in the most recent economic expansion, the economy would not

"The economy desperately needs action on job creation."

*John Schmitt, Senior Economist
Center for Economic Policy Research*

catch up to the expanded labor force until April 2021."

There's no time to waste, says Schmitt. "The economy desperately needs action on job creation. At current and

projected job creation rates, we will still be suffering from the effects of the downturn well into the next presidential term."

And wasting time is exactly what some in Washington have been doing, says Buffenbarger.

"On the ballot this midterm are candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, governors, state legislators, county executives, city council members, etc.," wrote the IAM President in his Labor Day message to members and their families. "For some, their time in office was well spent. In the wake of the historic economic crisis, they put aside political gains and made working families,



job creation and economic recovery their top priorities. For others, it didn't matter the straits, their time in office was simply about doing (and undoing) everything in their power to make sure the other side lost."

He points to the recent debate over legislation to extend unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed – those who have been out of work longer than 26 weeks. Republican lawmakers in the Senate blocked the legislation four times, citing concerns over the budget deficit, while in the same

For many, the Great Recession has meant long-term job loss. The Coalition of the Heartless has repeatedly blocked efforts to create a fifth tier of unemployment benefits to help families who have exhausted all benefits at 99 weeks.

breath, calling for \$3 trillion worth of extensions on the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy.

Coalition of the Heartless

On the floor of the U.S. Senate, Kentucky GOP Senator Jim Bunning declared aloud it was "tough sh*t" if the unemployed disagreed with his choice to single-handedly

One in every eight Americans now rely on food stamps to survive. The stimulus bill increased benefits, but Republicans forced a cut in future benefits even though the program is one of the most effective ways to stimulate the economy.

block jobless benefits.

Despite there being five job applicants to every one job opening, Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ) later said "continuing to pay people unemployment compensation is a disincentive for them to seek new work."

"We should not be giving cash to people who... basically are just going to go blow it on drugs," said Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), suggesting the jobless should be required to take drug tests before receiving benefits.

Buffenbarger refers to these lawmakers and others as the Coalition of the Heartless.

"There exists a Coalition of the Heartless who want to make the lives of the jobless – and our members' lives –

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Hall of Shame

Much of Congress' 2010 jobs debate was spent on deciding whether to continue providing unemployment insurance benefits to those who have been unemployed longer than the allotted 26 weeks. Republican lawmakers, belonging to what IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger calls the Coalition of the Heartless, repeatedly blocked help for the unemployed to provide for themselves and their families. Then, adding insult to injury, here's what members of the "Coalition" said about unemployment benefits:

"My grandmother was not a highly educated woman, but she told me as a small child to quit feeding stray animals. You know why? Because they breed. You're facilitating the problem if you give an animal or a person ample food supply. They will reproduce, especially ones that don't think too much further than that. And so what you've got to do is you've got to curtail that type of behavior. They don't know any better."

Lt. Gov. André Bauer (R-SC)



Bauer



Hatch

"We should not be giving cash to people who basically are just going to go blow it on drugs."

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT)

"The jobs are there, but if we keep extending unemployment, people are just going to sit there."

Tom Corbett (R-PA)

Gubernatorial candidate



Corbett



Angle

"...we have put in so much entitlement into our government that we really have spoiled our citizenry and said you don't want the jobs that are available."

Sharron Angle (R-NV)

U.S. Senate candidate

"...if anything, continuing to pay people unemployment compensation is a disincentive for them to seek new work."

Senator Jon Kyl (R-AZ)

"Is the government now creating hobos?"

Representative Dean Heller (R-NV)



Kyl



Heller



To focus national attention on getting America back to work, the IAM and the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades launched a nationwide bus tour in key election battleground states. In Ohio, IAM General Secretary-Treasurer Warren Mart addressed a large rally outside the state capitol building in Columbus.

the jobless were taken out. Those provisions included a 65 percent COBRA subsidy, a fifth tier of benefits for individuals out of work longer than 99 weeks, a \$25 weekly stimulus bonus and funds to save teachers and

other state employees from layoffs.

In addition to the economy and jobs, also at stake in this upcoming election is pro-worker control of Congress. The *Cook Political Report*, a non-partisan, independent newsletter that analyzes elections and campaigns, estimates there are as many as

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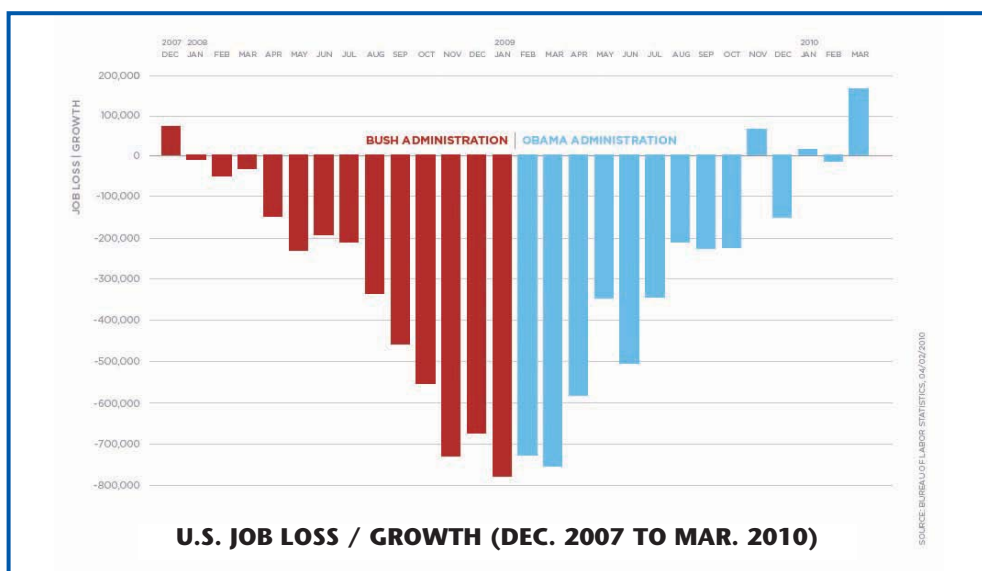
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 more miserable,” says Buffenbarger. “They and their friends at the Republican National Committee and its subsidiary FOX News think bashing the unemployed makes for good politics.”

Bite Back

“I’ve got a news flash for the Coalition of the Heartless: Unemployed Americans may be jobless, but they are not toothless. They’re going to BITE BACK.

“Working families need to take note of those who voted to throw the jobless a life-line and those who decided it was better to let them drown. Their words have waged a personal vendetta against the unemployed. And we will not let them win,” says Buffenbarger.

HR 4213, legislation to extend unemployment benefits to the end of November 2010, narrowly passed in late July, with a 59-39 vote in the Senate and a 272-152 vote in the House. But, in an effort to end the Republican stalemate, several provisions that would have further helped



Stimulus spending works, reversing an almost 800,000 jobs-per-month loss rate to positive job growth. To create enough jobs to get the millions of unemployed back to work, the nation needs more, not less, stimulus spending.

Key Races to Help American Families

California - Senate

Boxer vs. Fiorina

Democrat Barbara Boxer, a strong supporter of California's working families, currently holds this seat in the Senate. She's being challenged by Republican and former Hewlett-Packard (HP) CEO Carly Fiorina. As Senator, Boxer has worked to protect and create American jobs by co-authoring a bill to encourage companies to bring overseas profits back to the U.S. She

has worked to provide funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, which would help American manufacturing companies remain competitive and keep jobs in the United States. Fiorina, her opponent, is responsible for laying off thousands of HP employees, shipping jobs abroad and mismanaging the company, from which she was fired.



Boxer



Fiorina

Illinois - Governor

Quinn vs. Brady

Democratic incumbent Gov. Pat Quinn is defending his seat against Republican State Senator Bill Brady. Like President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Gov. Quinn believes that the best social policy ever devised is a good job. His five-point plan, which specifically outlines his

plans for creating jobs in Illinois, includes rebuilding the state's foundations by investing in public works. Gov. Quinn passed and signed *Illinois Jobs Now!*, a comprehensive plan to rebuild Illinois' infrastructure. Brady's job creation plan, on the other hand, is thin on the details.



Quinn



Brady

Ohio - Governor

Strickland vs. Kasich



Strickland



Kasich

Incumbent Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland will square off against John Kasich, former Republican Congressman turned managing director of Lehman Brothers, the former Wall St. firm whose collapse in 2008 helped trigger the Great Recession. As the proud son of a steelworker, Gov. Strickland allocated \$1.6 billion for job creation and retention, achieved the sixth-highest

economic growth of any state, froze college tuition and increased enrollment, and increased investment in job training and public education. While in Congress, multimillionaire Kasich voted against raising the minimum wage and voted for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which has cost Ohioans hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Texas - Lt. Governor

Chavez-Thompson vs. Dewhurst



Chavez-Thompson



Dewhurst

Labor's own Linda Chavez-Thompson is challenging Republican incumbent David Dewhurst for the lieutenant governor seat of Texas. Having risen from the cotton fields of West Texas to serving as AFL-CIO Executive Vice President and Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee, Chavez-Thompson is a reflection of the power of the American Dream. She knows that when workers are able to provide for their families, they become

more productive, economic contributors and all Americans benefit. Her opponent has a very short track record in supporting working families. Dewhurst is considered the wealthiest man in Texas politics. Chavez-Thompson is running alongside Democratic candidate for governor Bill White, who as Houston mayor, added more jobs than 37 states combined. Under Texas law, governors and lieutenant governors run on separate tickets.



Tens of thousands of Americans from across the country showed up in Washington, DC, for a massive “One Nation Working Together” march on October 2, 2010, demanding action to create jobs and make the American Dream possible for all working families.

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13 seats in the Senate and 46 seats in the House that could go either way – Democratic or Republican.

What working families don’t need, says Buffenbarger, is a Congress resembling that of the previous administration.

“What working families need are political leaders who will stand up for them in the halls of Congress and the corridors of state capitols,” he says. “After eight years under Bush, we’ve seen where the loyalties of a GOP-led Congress lie. It’s with Big Business.”

Party of “No”

“Republican refusal to extend unemployment benefits – despite historic, widespread unemployment – is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the GOP’s disdain for middle-class men

“Incumbents without a comprehensive jobs strategy, and the willingness to support one, must be shown the door.”

*R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President*

and women. Since the start of the president’s term, the GOP blocked every Democratic attempt to bring relief to working families; from real, comprehensive affordable health care, to helping teachers keep their jobs, to providing incentives for small businesses to start hiring again.”

Buffenbarger adds that when it comes to fixing the worst economy since the Great Depression, not only have GOP lawmakers blocked every attempt to help struggling families, they’ve been heavy on the criticism and light on ideas.

“The Coalition of the

Heartless' answer to everything – unemployment, folks losing their homes, pensions and life savings, families not having enough to eat: nothing. They'd rather watch you hang off a thousand-mile cliff before they'll reach out a hand to pull you up. Let's not forget, it was the Republican Party and their way of thinking that got us into this mess in the first place."

Vote for JOBS Now!

The plan moving forward, says Buffenbarger, must be about JOBS Now! "On November 2, we each



AP/World Wide Photo

The 2010 midterm elections will be about jobs; rewarding candidates who are committed to creating them and retiring those who aren't.

have a job to do. We must vigorously support those candidates who will create and support hard-hitting jobs legislation and policies. Incumbents without a com-

prehensive jobs strategy, and the willingness to support one, must be shown the door. Tell incumbents: Either help the unemployed or join them."

**The Coalition of the Heartless
RECORD OF OBSTRUCTION
Percentage of "No" Votes Against Jobs
and Help for the Unemployed**



After gaining large majorities in Congress in 2008, pro-worker Democrats proposed many programs to create jobs and help families weather the economic storm. The Coalition of the Heartless, a solid majority of Republicans and some conservative Democrats, blocked many programs entirely, or forced severe cutbacks in benefits for the jobless.

| Programs to Help Struggling Families | Jobs* | GOP No Votes (%) | Date |
|---|-----------|------------------|------------|
| Prevent Layoffs of Teachers and First Responders (FMAP) | 290,000 | 93% | 8/4/2010 |
| Small Business Jobs and Credit Act | 500,000 | 100% | 7/29/2010 |
| Unemployment Insurance Extension | 785,000 | 93% | 7/21/2010 |
| American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act | 1,000,000 | 98% | 6/16/2010 |
| Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act | 5,600,000 | 68% | 3/17/2010 |
| Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act | 250,000 | 100% | 12/24/2009 |
| Cash for Clunkers | 60,000 | 83% | 8/6/2009 |
| American Recovery and Reinvestment Act | 3,000,000 | 93% | 2/13/2009 |

Source: dpc.senate.gov

*(Jobs created or saved)