

Fighting for Jobs, Marching for Justice



Kaveh Sardari, Page One Photography

IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger addressed the crowd at the UCubed rally held before the 10.2.10 “One Nation Working Together” march in Washington, DC where tens of thousands of Americans called for jobs and action to rebuild the nation’s middle class.

The historic 10.2.10 “One Nation Working Together” march and rally in Washington, D.C. began with a memorable kick-off event that gave fresh meaning to the day’s activities.

Gathered under a banner that declared, “Hire US America,” Ur Union of Unemployed (UCubed) welcomed the tens of thousands of labor, civil rights and progressive activists who traveled from as far away as

California to be part of the historic 10.2.10 event.

With just 30 days before the decisive midterm elections, UCubed urged unemployed Americans and their allies to vote with a vengeance against candidates who refused to support job-creation policies and denied desperately-needed unemployment assistance.

There are now more than 31 million unem-

ployed and underemployed Americans, far more than acknowledged by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in their monthly tally. Not counted are millions of workers who have run out of options and ceased looking for work and part-time workers trying, but unable, to find full-time jobs.

In the Balance

With control of the House and Senate hanging

in the balance, the unprecedented number of unemployed voters has the potential to be the deciding demographic in dozens of races.

“Our nation is at a crossroads when it comes to these midterm elections,” said UCubed Acting Executive Director Rick Sloan. “We can turn left, right or go straight ahead. And it is the choices made by America’s jobless that will dictate which of those directions we will take.”

In Ohio, the 600,000 unemployed voters have the potential to decide who sits in the governor’s mansion, who wins key House seats and potentially, which party controls the U.S. Senate. Other states have equally decisive numbers of unemployed voters.

“Unemployed Americans may be jobless, but they’re not toothless,” said IAM President Tom Buffenbarger at the UCubed rally. “They’re going to bite back on Election Day and send an



After the UCubed rally, hundreds of IAM members made their way to the National Mall to join tens of thousands of fellow activists to demand action on JOBS Now!

unmistakable message to those who think bashing the unemployed makes for good politics.”

Utah Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch has argued against extending unemployment insurance, claiming, “We should not be giving cash to people who... who basically are just going to go and blow it on drugs.”

Hatch went so far as to urge drug testing the jobless before providing any extended benefits.

Arizona Republican Sen. Jon Kyl says unemployment insurance is a “disincentive” to finding a job, while Pennsylvania GOP gubernatorial

candidate Tom Corbett practically ignored the very existence of a recession, claiming, “The jobs are there, but the out-of-work don’t want them.”

JOBS Now!

“What the unemployed need most are JOBS Now!” said Buffenbarger. “And what they really need right now are political leaders to stand up for them in the halls of Congress and the corridors of state capitols.”

The rally also featured remarks by Edrie Irvine, an unemployed legal secretary and UCubed jobs activist from Silver Spring, MD, who rejected Sen. Hatch’s drug-testing proposal to qualify for unemployment benefits proposal. “I’ll tell you what, Mr. Hatch,” said Irvine. “I’ll pee right after you do!”



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