

# Gubernatorial Sweepstakes

On November 7, voters in 36 states have an unprecedented opportunity to change the direction this country is heading – for the better.

With elections for governor slated in Pennsylvania, California, Ohio and 32 other states, voters can not only reshape their state's priorities, but the outcome will likely impact presidential contests in 2008 and beyond.

The latest issue of the *IAM Journal* examines key gubernatorial races and the economic issues identified in a recent survey commissioned by the IAM.

Over and over, voters cited the issues that matter to them: jobs; skyrocketing gas and utility rates; the cost of getting to work and real-world educational opportunities for the next generation.

“For five years, we have listened to the current administration speak of little but national security,” said IAM President Tom Buffenbarger in the *Journal's* feature article. “Now we want to hear about bold steps to help workers and union families overcome the enormous financial pressures they face every day.”

As the leader of their state's political party, governors can also use their power to expand (or restrict) voting rights, authorize (or outlaw) collective bargaining rights and significantly impact the redrawing of congressional boundary lines.

While voters are frequently discouraged by the policy gridlock in Washington, the powers of a sitting governor are enormous. With three dozen state houses up for grabs, the November 7 gubernatorial sweepstakes may be the biggest opportunity for change in decades.

**Have you heard?**

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