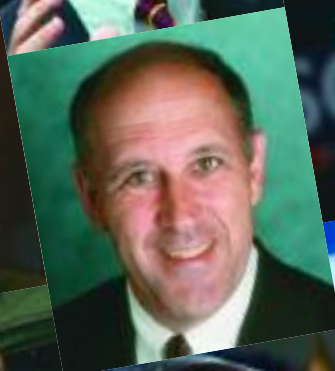


WHO HAS THE JUICE...



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GOVERNORS

Who has the JUICE? You decide. In Illinois, Democratic governor Rod Blagojevich boosted the state's minimum wage in 2003, a move that benefited nearly 450,000 workers in his state.

Three years later, after blocking every attempt since taking office to raise California's minimum wage, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger was forced to sign legislation on the eve of the California primary that will raise California's minimum wage to the highest in the nation by 2008.

Voters would have to look long and hard to find a better example of the enormous power governors have to impact the lives and livelihoods of workers of all income levels.

"It took three years and a reelection campaign to con-

vince Gov. Schwarzenegger that \$6.75 an hour is not enough to get by in California," said Art Pulaski, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation.

"Blagojevich came to us. He insisted on raising the minimum wage as a way of stimulating the Illinois economy," said IAM Midwest Territory General Vice President Phil Gruber. "He put money in workers' pockets as others tried to siphon their pocket change."

And the contrast doesn't stop there. Working folks remember the governors who stiffed them and the governors who fought for them.

Schwarzenegger faces an angry electorate and a tough reelection challenge from labor-backed California State Treasurer Phil Angelides, a Democrat who is calling for

**JOB
CREATION**

**UTILITY
REGULATION**

**INSURANCE
RATES**

**COMMUTING
WOES**

**EDUCATIONAL
EQUITY**





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Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm, right, started the "21st Century Jobs Fund" to invest in new businesses and keep good jobs in the state, including high-tech auto jobs. With little action at the federal level, states have increasingly become the arena for creative initiatives to keep work in the United States.

annual cost-of-living increases to the state's minimum wage. Blagojevich is sailing to an easy victory over Judy Topikna, the Illinois Secretary of State.

In the 36 upcoming governors' races, the stakes could not be higher. Governors hold the power to impact insurance premiums, slow skyrocketing utility bills and increase non-traditional education investment.

The acronym JUICE sums it up: Jobs creation; Utility rates; Insurance regulations; Commuter woes and Educational equity. Favorable policies by a governor on any one of these issues could mean thousands of dollars more in union members' pockets each year.

Governors also direct state spending on roads, bridges, airports and dozens of projects that drive everything from the overall employment rate to

the length of your daily commute. Collective bargaining rights are also in play. Immediately after taking office in 2004, Republican governors in Missouri and Indiana used the power of their office to repeal collective bargaining rights for state employees in a move that revoked union contracts covering nearly 50,000 state workers.

Meanwhile in Illinois and New Mexico, Democratic governors Rod Blagojevich and Bill Richardson reversed similar bans after taking over from GOP governors and signed bills restoring collective bargaining rights for tens of thousands of public employees.

"When you see the total policy gridlock in Washington," explained International President Tom Buffenbarger, "it is easy to get discouraged. But the powers of a sitting governor are enor-

mous. And electing governors who will use those powers to improve the lives of our members just makes sense."

It is in a handful of states, states with more than 200,000 IAM members, where the outcome of governors' races in 2006 could also determine the outcome of the presidential election in 2008.

In addition to Electoral College linchpin states of Illinois and California, voters in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Texas, Florida, Kansas and New York will also be electing governors in 2006.

The nation's political profile could change dramatically on November 7 if those key states are controlled by labor-friendly governors.

And yet, even a highly charged political landscape and the potential for favorable and unfavorable policy changes by governors is no

guarantee working families will prevail. The stark reality is this: More than 30 million voters who went to the polls in 2004 will stay home this November.

Those 30 million non-voters think the 2006 elections are just a half-time show – just enough time to hit the refrigerator before the real action starts. And sadly, they could not be more wrong.

Who has the JUICE? Governors do. Over 90 million Americans know that. On November 7, voters in 36 states will decide who has the real power in their state capital and who can save – or cost – them thousands of dollars each year. Here's a brief overview of the hottest governors' races in the country:

WISCONSIN

While many industrial states continue to hemorrhage high-paying manufacturing jobs, Wisconsin, under the leadership of Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle, has added nearly 170,000 jobs since taking office, including thou-

sands of manufacturing jobs. And for workers whose jobs were lost to rampant globalization, Doyle established apprentice programs and technical education opportunities that give displaced workers a chance to learn new skills for jobs that are still available in Wisconsin.

In addition to protecting high-paying jobs, Doyle preserved Wisconsin's overtime laws and refused to match federal guidelines that stripped and weakened overtime protection for millions of workers nationwide. While Gov. Doyle was protecting overtime rights and raising the state's minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$6.50 an hour, a move that gave a pay raise to 200,000 Wisconsin workers, his Republican oppo-

nent Mark Green voted against increasing the minimum wage, calling it "irrelevant" and a "false issue." Green also voted to let businesses avoid state insurance regulations and created special protections for negligent insurance companies.

Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle understands that high-paying, high-value manufacturing jobs are still the backbone of Wisconsin's economy and he understands what it takes to keep those jobs from leaving his state.

MICHIGAN

Michigan's Democratic Governor Jennifer Granholm remains one of the brightest stars and sharpest minds on the nation's political stage. Michigan's first female governor took office after 12 years of acrimonious rule under Republican Governor John Engler.

Faced with the ongoing



Gas prices topped out above three dollars a gallon and added to the list of commuters' woes, such as outdated roads and bridges, lack of investment in mass transportation and more time spent commuting.



Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle fought high gas prices that allowed oil companies to rack up record profits at the expense of American consumers.

crisis in the automotive industry and a well-funded opponent in businessman Dick DeVos, Granholm will need the help of union members to fight off a candidate who is attempting to capitalize on voter frustrations while hiding his own record of outsourcing U.S. jobs to China as the head of Alticor, the firm formerly known as Amway.

tional free trade policies, which compounds the challenges and job losses Michigan is now facing.

OHIO

Ohio and Florida are rightfully known as the states most responsible for George Bush being president today. After the Florida debacle in 2000, GOP operatives in Ohio

care premiums and education opportunities for union members and their families.

With a solid understanding of how manufacturing jobs are the driving wheel of the state's economy, Strickland is calling for expanded investment, both public and private, in hybrid energy development. "When I am Governor, I will make this state the epicenter of the advanced energy industry," declared Strickland in response to an IAM questionnaire.

Strickland also differs from Blackwell on Social Security and Medicare. "I oppose all efforts to privatize Social Security," declared Strickland, who also co-sponsored legislation to protect retiree health benefits during corporate bankruptcy proceedings. "A secure retirement must be part of the American way. No longer can American workers lose their pensions because of this Administration's reckless outsourcing policies and huge tax breaks for the rich."

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell traveled to Allentown, PA over Labor Day weekend to meet with hundreds of union members and their families as the remnants of Hurricane Ernesto howled through the state. "It would take more than a hurricane to keep me from being here," said Rendell, who promised to keep fighting for jobs, educational opportunities and public works initiatives to



IAM members were out in force at the Detroit Labor Day parade, above, and union-sponsored Labor Day events in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Ohio and Wisconsin to focus attention on key races for governors and other offices.

Granholm knows there are no quick fixes for an economy that has been devastated by trade laws that encouraged companies to transfer jobs and resources to foreign countries. Her "21st Century Jobs Fund" is designed to steadily grow the state's economy by investing \$1 billion in state and private money in new businesses.

DeVos, on the other hand, is a strong supporter of President Bush and an advocate of the president's interna-

tional free trade policies, which tipped the scales in the 2004 presidential contest with widespread Election Day fraud and targeted voter suppression efforts.

Playing the part of Katherine Harris for Ohio Republicans in 2004 was Ken Blackwell, current Secretary of State and Republican candidate for Governor.

Opposing Blackwell is Rep. Ted Strickland, a Democrat and fierce partisan when it comes to standing up for jobs, less expensive health

Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell has fought for state and private investment to create jobs, funded vocational education and passed the largest increase in community college funding in 15 years.

prevent commuting to and from work from becoming a second job.

Rendell, who is squaring off against former football player and GOP cheerleader Lynn Swann, has made vocational educational opportunities a centerpiece of his tenure as governor and his campaign for another term.

While in office, Rendell signed into law an economic stimulus program valued at \$2.3 billion that is expected to generate at least \$5 billion in private sector investment aimed at creating jobs and start new businesses in Pennsylvania.

Rendell also launched an ambitious \$25 million program to support vocational-technical training and authorized the largest increase in community college funding in 15 years.

Responding to voters' concerns about the price of gas, Rendell refused to support an increase in the state's gas tax and called for a tax on oil companies to help fund the state's infrastructure needs.

KANSAS

IAM members in Kansas are fortunate to have an ally

Governors can have a big impact on their state's regulation of health, auto and other insurance, which could mean the difference between saving or spending hundreds more in premiums.



AP/Wide World Photos

like Gov. Kathleen Sebelius on their side. As a featured speaker at the 2006 IAM National Staff Conference in Denver, CO, Sebelius was warmly welcomed by delegates for her strong defense of IAM aerospace jobs in Kansas and for her work to bring new jobs

and new industries to a state that has seen its workforce ravaged by outsourcing and globalization.

In 2006, her help was critical in preserving hundreds of jobs at Eaton Corp. in Hutchinson, KS when the hydraulics manufacturer was considering closing its aging facility and relocating outside of Kansas.

Gov. Sebelius has also taken a lead role in reeling in the skyrocketing cost of health insurance by creating a Cost Containment Commission that brought together business leaders, health care providers, private insurers and patient advocates. As governor, she also consolidated the state's health care purchasing into a single division, allowing Kansas to bargain effectively for high-quality health care at competitive prices.



AP/Wide World Photos

CALIFORNIA

The gubernatorial contest in California pits well-known actor and current Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger against well-respected State Treasurer and Democrat Phil Angelides. The Governor, who ousted former California Governor Gray Davis in a \$50 million



AP/Wide World Photos

Candidate for California Governor Phil Angelides defended pension plans covering more than one million California workers and pledges to create jobs in the state.

recall election, is now facing the same kind of voter discontent and frustration that plagued Davis.

Widely seen as more celebrity than serious statesman, Schwarzenegger's election-year conversion on issues favored by voters, such as greenhouse emissions, may prove to be too little too late to win the controversial actor/politician a second full term.

Angelides brings the kind of professionalism and proposals to the table that can make a real difference for the state and for working families.

A fierce defender of pensions and pension plans, Angelides won accolades from workers when he took on Schwarzenegger's plan to gut pensions for over one million workers and opposed the equally radical plan to silence the union members who opposed him with Prop. 75.

Endorsed by a who's who list of labor unions, state, local and national leaders, Angelides is poised to restore California to its rightful role as a job-creating engine for the nation and the world.

ILLINOIS

A champion among union members for restoring state employees' collective bargaining rights after winning the statehouse in 2003, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich cemented his relationship with Illinois working families with a series of moves that included raising the state's minimum wage and investing \$50 million in critical job training programs.

Blagojevich inherited a \$5 billion state deficit and a state economy reeling from the loss of 250,000 jobs in the three years before his election.

With support from organized labor, Blagojevich oversaw a steady turnaround in the state's economy, including the creation of more than 118,000 new jobs since 2004, more than any Midwest state.

Job creation and restoring a balanced budget are not his only priorities.

Under Governor Blagojevich, Illinois is now the only state in the nation that guarantees access to affordable, comprehensive health care for every child.

And Blagojevich is proposing a \$2 billion jobs program that will create 230,000 jobs by rebuilding Illinois' roads, bridges and schools.

JUICE Campaign

A recent IAM survey of likely voters in five key states revealed a strong desire to hear their gubernatorial candidates address the very issues being raised by each of the governors profiled in this issue of the *IAM Journal*.

"For five years, we have listened to the current administration speak of little but national security," said IP Tom Buffenbarger. "Now we want to hear about bold steps to help workers and union families overcome the enormous financial pressures they are facing every day."

"Over and over, voters picked economic issues, JUICE issues, as what they want to hear from candidates," said Vic Fingerhut, who conducted the IAM survey. "While the national media is hyperventilating over Senate and House races, the contests with the potential to affect issues that matter most to voters are governors' races."

The IAM survey confirmed that voters are highly motivated by economic issues. Nearly



AP / Wide World Photos

School systems, from elementary to college, are a key state responsibility. Governors have the power to dramatically improve every child's chance for a good education.

85 percent of the voters polled want to hear candidates support job creation initiatives and a "Buy America" policy with tax incentives to discourage the outsourcing of U.S. jobs to foreign countries.

"Millions of American workers are casualties of this administration's policy of tax cuts for the wealthy and outsourcing everything from port security to ammo production," said Buffenbarger. "We need leaders who see the world through the eyes of everyday workers just trying to make ends meet."

The IAM survey also found voters outraged over the billions in oil company profits and skyrocketing utility rates. Over three-fourths would support candidates who favor tough regulation of utility rates and an excess-profits tax on oil companies.

The establishment and reg-

ulation of insurance rates may seem arcane, but voters who took part in the IAM poll clearly understand where each political party stands when it comes to the interests of consumers over corporations.

Democrats had a distinct advantage in the minds of voters when asked who they trusted to fairly regulate insurance rates.

Democrats emerged with a 20-point advantage on that score and a 29-point advantage over Republicans on health insurance costs.

Voters are also wary of politicians who point blithely to a college education as the answer to

questions about how their kids can expect to compete for the diminishing supply of jobs.

"If we really want to compete in the world of the twenty-first century, we must offer our young people an alternative pathway to success," said Buffenbarger. "Not every kid can go to college – in fact fewer than one in five ever get that sheepskin. We need alternatives like high-tech institutes to give blue-collar kids training in cutting-edge workplace skills."

The issues of jobs, utility regulation and insurance rates form the nucleus of a powerful political message for the politician smart enough to grasp it. Add workers' worries about education for their kids to the cost and time spent getting back and forth to work and you have the pocketbook issues that matter more this Election Day than any other.

AP / Wide World Photos



Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich restored collective bargaining rights for state workers and created more jobs than any other Midwest state.