

Amendment 1 – The Workers Rights Amendment

Position: SUPPORT

Amendment 1 will appear on the November 8, 2022 State Ballot. If passed, it would add “Section 25. Workers’ Rights” to “Article I -Bill of Rights” of the Illinois Constitution.

The “Workers Rights Amendment” would guarantee “the fundamental right to organize and to bargain collectively” for all employees in the State and prohibit the passage of any law “that interferes with, negates, or diminishes” that right. It also prohibits so-called “Right-to-Work” laws that prevent “union shop” or “fair share” agreements in the private sector. Public sector unions are currently prohibited from negotiating “fair share” agreements by a U.S. Supreme Court decision (Janus).

ISSUE: The Workers Rights Amendment would add an extra layer of protection to our collective bargaining rights making it more difficult to diminish, impair or repeal those rights. A good example is the “Pension and Retirement Rights (Article XIII Section 5)” of the State Constitution which have given us protection in that area.

FACT: The Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act (IELRA) granting the right of educational employees to organize and bargain collectively has been in effect since 1984. This law can be repealed or changed by a simple majority of the General Assembly.

FACT: The IELRA has been changed several times since its passage, sometimes to our detriment.

FACT: Passage of the Workers Rights Amendment on November 8 will require “either three-fifths (60%) of those voting on the amendment or a majority of those voting in the election (Article XIV Section 3).”

FACT: If passed, repeal of the Workers Rights Amendment would require a similar procedure.

Please remember to **VOTE YES** for the Workers’ Right Amendment in November.