

The 1005 Line

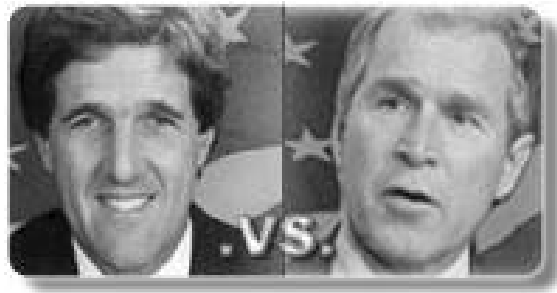
Election 2004

The news and information publication of ATU Local 1005 prepared and distributed by the Education Committee



Local 1005
Minneapolis and St. Paul MN

Learn the Issues, Check the Records, Decide for Yourself and VOTE!



How you vote is a personal decision. But after reviewing the records of George Bush and John Kerry, you will agree that a vote for John Kerry is a vote for working families.

John Kerry

Plans to create 10 million new jobs in his first four years as president. His energy policy alone will create some 500,000 good jobs. (Associated Press, 3/25/04)

Kerry supports worker's rights to overtime pay and co-sponsored legislation to stop the Bush administration's efforts to take overtime pay away from millions of U.S. workers. (AFL-CIO, 2003)

Kerry will reform the federal unemployment insurance program to cover more workers and to provide sufficient benefits and job training.

George W. Bush

Bush's economic policies and tax cuts cost the nation 1.7 million private sector jobs and 2.7 million manufacturing jobs. Bush will be the first president since the Great Depression to end his term with fewer jobs than when he started. (Bureau of Labor Statistics; Economy.com, July 2004)

Bush issued new rules that took away the right to overtime pay from more than 6 million workers. (Federal register, Vol 79, 4/23/04)

Bush's fiscal year 2005 budget for job training and employment programs is \$1 billion less than 2001 levels,



Our Vote is Our Voice!

Comparison Continued Kerry VS. Bush



Companies that move off shore will not receive government contracts. Kerry will stop tax breaks to companies that move offshore and create tax incentives to keep U.S. jobs at home.

Kerry supports significant changes in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which he originally supported but now acknowledges has problems. "We're going to identify every single imbalance or place in which there is an unfairness that has not been addressed, and we're going to address it. I'm going to fix it," he said in February 2004. He also supports strong worker protections in new trade agreements. (The New York Times, 2/17/04)

Kerry supports the creation of a new National Education Trust Fund to ensure the government meets its public schools' priorities. He opposes draining taxpayer dollars from public schools to pay for private education and will fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act.

Kerry believes that vital public-sector jobs, including Homeland Security jobs, should be performed by public employees. He repeatedly has opposed efforts to privatize these jobs, including those in the Defense Department, the Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Postal Service. He also supports restoring the civil service and collective bargaining rights of federal workers whose rights were taken away by Bush administration policies and backs other pro-worker changes in federal workplace rules.

Kerry supports increasing the minimum wage for the nation's lowest income workers. The minimum wage has fallen to a 30-year-low in buying power and Kerry believes the minimum wage must be indexed for inflation to keep low-income workers from falling even further behind. If the minimum wage had kept pace with inflation since 1968, when it was a \$1.60 an hour, it would have reached \$8.46 an hour in 2003.

Kerry will roll back tax cuts for people who make over \$200,000. He will increase aid to education

despite massive job losses. (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

supported giving \$60 million in tax breaks to companies that have moved off shore. He says that exporting jobs is good for America. "When a good or service is produced more cheaply abroad, it makes more sense to import it than to provide it domestically." (H.R. 2896, 2004; The Washington Post, 10/23/03)

Bush wants to expand NAFTA. He currently is negotiating a Free Trade Area of the Americas agreement that will expand NAFTA to 34 Central and South American countries as soon as 2005. The proposed agreement does not contain strong worker, environmental or human rights protections.

Bush has shortchanged education in his federal budgets and refused to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act. He supports draining taxpayer dollars from public education and schools to pay for private education.

Bush wants to privatize 850,000 federal jobs. His plan would give companies the advantage over federal workers in public-private competition for jobs, from the nation's air traffic control system to the U.S. Postal Service. He has denied collective bargaining rights to 60,000 airport screeners and 170,000 Homeland Security Department workers.

Bush has opposed increasing the minimum wage since he took office. He sides with Big Business groups that oppose a minimum wage increase. He has supported allowing states to opt out of the federal minimum wage law and backed creation of a sub-minimum wage for some workers.

Bush wants to make the tax cuts that favor the wealthy permanent.

Bush wants to reform medical malpractice by limited wrongful action lawsuits against doctors and hospitals. Incompetence will have its reward.

Wants businesses to band together to pay the same medical premium large companies pay.

Local Elections

2004 Labor Endorsed Candidates

(Source: www.mnaflcio.org)

It's time to vote your job! Listed below are all Labor Endorsed Candidates for congressional and legislative seats in the Twin City Metropolitan Area listed by district. These candidates are fully endorsed by the Minnesota AFL-CIO. For a listing of all out-state endorsed candidates, please visit www.mnaflcio.org.

Congressional District Endorsements

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Leigh Pomeroy | 5 Martin Olav Sabo |
| 2 Teresa Daly | 6 Patty Wetterling |
| 3 Deborah Watts | 7 Collin Peterson |
| 4 Betty McCollum | 8 Jim Oberstar |

Legislative Endorsements

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 19B Lori Schmidt | 47A Denise Dittrich | 62A Jim Davnie |
| 32B John Olson | 47B Melissa Hortman | 62B Jean Wagenius |
| 33A Steve Smith | 48A Mike Starr | 63A Paul Thissen |
| 33B Carol Eastlund | 49A Jim Pithan | 63B Dan Larson |
| 34A Richard Stolz | 50A Barb Goodwin | 64A Matt Entenza |
| 34B Sue Sperling | 50B Geri Evans | 64B Michael Paymar |
| 35A John Sheehan | 51A Kendra Brodin | 65A Cy Thao |
| 35B Ashley Sierra | 51B Connie Bernardy | 65B Carlos Mariani |
| 36A Mark Soloman | 52A Bob Rapheal | 66A John Lesch |
| 37A Shelly Madore | 52B Rebecca Otto | 66B Alice Hausman |
| 37B Lax Sundae | 53A Paul Gardner | 67A Tim Mahoney |
| 38A Christine Habron | 53B Emily Waymire | 67B Sheldon Johnson |
| 38B Jim Carlson | 54A Mindy Greiling | |
| 39A Rick Hanson | 54B Bev Scalze | |
| 39B Joe Atkins | 55B Nora Slawik | |
| 40A Will Morgan | 56A Marc Kimball | |
| 40B Ann Lenczewski | 56B Len Price | |
| 42A Maria Ruud | 57A Katie Sieben | |
| 42B Carol Bomben | 57B Jed Iverson | |
| 43B John Benson | 59A Diane Loeffler | |
| 44A Steve Simon | 59B Phyllis Kahn | |
| 44B Ron Latz | 60A Margaret Anders- | |
| 45A Sandra Paterson | Kelliher | |
| 45B Lyndon Carlson | 60B Frank Hornstein | |
| 46A Michael Nelson | 61A Karen Clark | |
| 46B Debra Hilstrom | 61B Neva Walker | |



Note: If a district does not appear it is because there is no Labor endorsed candidate in that district at time of compilation.

You can use this website to identify your precinct and find your polling place by entering your zip code or the county where you live. <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

Cut and take with you to the voting booth, make copies for your friends.

Key House Bills That Directly Affected Metro Transit

How Democrats and Republicans Voted

By Raymond Vander Wyst

(source: MN AFL-CIO 2004 Voting Record)

The following bills passed and/or failed in the Minnesota House of Representatives. These bills directly affect us, Metro Transit employees. As you will see, it is imperative we elect Labor Endorsed candidates. If we want to keep our jobs, maintain our quality of life and support our families, we must take action. Let the record speak for itself and then you decide.

Privatization-Metropolitan Transit

H.F. 3141 - Buesgens Amendment (April 7, 2004/House Journal page 6457)

Representative Mark Buesgens (R - Jordan) offered an amendment to the Omnibus Transportation Finance bill to require the Metropolitan Council to begin the process of privatizing the transit system. He and 15 fellow Republican legislators offered this amendment in the middle of the Amalgamated Transit Union's strike against Metro Transit.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: **Oppose**
House Vote: **Failed 54 yeas, 78 nays**
DFL Vote: **0 yeas, 53 nays**
GOP Vote: **54 yeas, 25 nays, 2 non-votes**

Transportation Funding

H.F. 3141 - Final Passage (April 7, 2004/House Journal pages 6465-6466)

HF 3141, the Omnibus House Transportation Finance bill, authored by Representative Bill Kuisle (R-Rochester), made cuts to both Metropolitan and Greater Minnesota transit funding. Metro Transit was cut by \$14.5 million with a \$1 million cut to rural transit. These cuts were on top of cuts to both metro and rural transit over the last several years.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: **Oppose**
House vote: **Passed 83 yeas, 50 nays**
DFL Vote: **6 yeas, 47 nays**
GOP Vote: **77 yeas, 3 nays, 1 non-vote**
Right-to-Strike Attacked

H.F. 3141 - Hilty Amendment (April 7, 2004/House Journal pages 6461-6462)

The House version of the Omnibus Transportation Finance bill contained a provision taking the right-to-strike away from Public Safety Radio Operators by reclassifying them from "non-essential" to "essential" employees. Representative Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson) offered an amendment to remove this anti-union provision from the bill.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: **Support**
House vote: **Failed 58 yeas, 75 nays**
DFL Vote: **49 yeas, 4 nays**
GOP Vote: **9 yeas, 71 nays, 1 non-vote**

Overtime Pay Protection

S.F. 2413 - Sertich Motion to Suspend the Constitution (April 19, 2004/House Journal pages 6721-6722)

The State Senate passed SF 2413 (overtime pay protection) on April 15, 2004. When the bill was sent over to the House on April 19, Representative Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm) made a motion to suspend the Constitution to immediately consider SF 2413 on the House Floor. The motion requires a 2/3 vote (90 votes).

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: **Support**
House vote: **Failed 56 yeas, 72 nays**
DFL Vote: **50 yeas, 0 nays, 3 non-votes**
GOP Vote: **6 yeas, 72 nays, 3 non-votes**

Voter's Guide - Who can Vote?

Anyone who is a U.S. citizen, is at least 18 years old and has lived in Minnesota for 20 days is eligible to vote. If you are not registered to vote and this is your first time voting in a federal election in Minnesota, you may be required to show identification at the polling place. That will be the case for first time voters who have registered by mail since Jan 1, 2003, unless information on their voter registration applications has been verified by the state or county. To be safe, bring identification to the polling places.

Absentee Ballots are available 30 days before each election. Call you county auditor or clerk for information.

If you are not able to register at least 20 days before the election, you must register at your polling place to vote on election day. To register on the day of elections, you must have one of the following: identification (driver's license, student ID, military ID, or other photo ID), a witness, utility bill, prior registration, or another method of identification.

Not So Long Ago That We Have Forgotten

They want us to hear them, to understand, to agree, and support them at the polls. Why should we? What did they do for us? Where were they when we needed them? Did they answer our calls for help? Did they come to our rallies while we walked the picket line, or take our side when we needed them? Some of them did, while others worked actively against us. It is not easy to think about some of the emotional issues that separate us, but it's important to remember who was there for us when we needed them. Our votes are important, we owe it to ourselves and our families to make an informed decision.

K.H.Rice, Dr. 5975 - East Metro, Education Committee Member





John Kerry

Since his election to the U.S. Senate in 1984, Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) has compiled a 91 percent lifetime AFL-CIO voting record on important working family issues. Kerry was elected to the Senate after serving as lieutenant governor of Massachusetts and a private-practice attorney. He served his nation in Vietnam, and for his distinguished combat service was awarded three Purple Hearts, a Silver Star and a Bronze Star.

As a U.S. senator, Kerry often has stood up for workers' rights, most recently in 2003, voting to protect workers' overtime rights in the face of a Bush administration assault on the Fair Labor Standards Act that could cost millions of workers their overtime pay. He backed the extension and expansion of federal unemployment insurance benefits for long-term jobless workers and voted to protect millions of retirees from the loss of their employer-provided prescription drug coverage as part of the recently passed and seriously flawed Medicare prescription drug law.

In Kerry's legislative career, he addressed the nursing shortage, increased the minimum wage, expanded early childhood development and children's health insurance coverage, increased law enforcement funding and provided assistance to families of Vietnam veterans who were victims of Agent Orange.

As president, Kerry says one of his first priorities will be to restore the 1.7 million private-sector jobs-and 2.7 million manufacturing jobs-that have disappeared under the Bush administration.

Kerry will fight to roll back President George W. Bush's tax cut for the wealthy while expanding tax breaks for the middle class. Kerry supports repeal of tax breaks and loopholes that reward "any Benedict Arnold CEO or corporation for exploiting the tax code to export American jobs overseas."

Kerry has a long record of supporting workers' freedom to form unions and supports majority verification or card-check and employer neutrality in which employers recognize workers' choice if a majority of workers sign authorization cards asking for union representation. He also is co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act (S. 1925) and supports measures to restore the bargaining rights of hundreds of thousands of workers in the Defense and Homeland Security departments that are under attack by the Bush administration.

Source: <http://votenov2.com/issuespolitics/politics/kerry.cfm>

The Law

Minnesota Statutes grants employees who are eligible to vote the right to be absent from work for the purpose of voting during the morning of the day of the election day, without penalty or deduction from salary or wages.

Metropolitan Council Policy: Election/Voting Leave - An employee who is eligible to vote in any statewide general election or any election to fill a vacancy in the US Congress shall receive leave time with pay for the purpose of voting during the morning of the election day in accordance with Minn. Stat. Sec. 204C.04. The employee must notify their immediate supervisor in advance of taking such leave. Employees must vote outside of working hours whenever possible.

Dick Cheney's Legislative Accomplishments ... Both of Them



"Cheney's voting record was slightly more conservative than mine." -- Newt Gingrich, Washington Times, 7/25/2000. George Bush loves to attack John Kerry's legislative record. But the fact is that 57 bills and resolutions Kerry sponsored passed the Senate and countless others have been improved because of his work, including the Clean Air Act, the Children's Health Insurance Program and the COPS program. In addition, Kerry has taken on the special interests and won. He fought against Newt Gingrich's anti-labor and anti-environmental regulatory reform, he has fought to raise the minimum wage, and he has worked to shut down wasteful corporate subsidies.

Congressman John Spratt (D-SC), ranking member on the House Budget Committee, made the following remarks "Dick Cheney served in the Congress for 11 years. I served with him for most of these years. In that time, he only passed two bills. One was to build a flood plain on the Colorado River and the other was a bill to help a constituent. What's even more telling about Dick Cheney's record in the House is not what he supported but what he opposed - things like Headstart and funding for seniors. It seems pretty dishonest for Bush and Cheney to be attacking John Kerry - who passed 57 bills in the Senate - for his legislative accomplishments." Here, for comparison is a summary of the legislation sponsored and passed by Vice President Cheney during his 11 year legislative career.

Cheney's Legislative Career by the Numbers

96th Congress: 4 Sponsored; 0 became Law; 97th Congress: 4 Sponsored: 0 became Law

98th Congress: 8 Sponsored: 0 became Law; 99th Congress: 7 Sponsored: 1 became Law

(H.R.1246 : A bill to establish a federally declared floodway for the Colorado River below Davis Dam.)

100th Congress: 7 Sponsored: 1 became Law

(H.R.712 : A bill for the relief of Lawrence K. Lunt.)

101st Congress: 1 Sponsored: 0 became Law

John Edwards is running for vice president to fight for the same people he has always fought for - everyday Americans who deserve a better life. Whether in the courtroom or the Senate, John Edwards has been guided by the small-town values his parents taught him when he was young - hard work, responsibility, and community. And those same values guide him in his campaign to be vice president.

John Edwards was raised in North Carolina by his two hard-working and devoted parents, Wallace and Bobbie. The son of a mill worker, he was the first person in his family to attend college. He worked his way through North Carolina State University and later earned a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

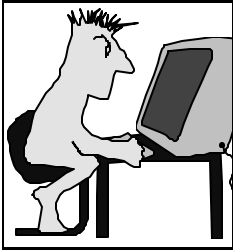
After graduating from law school, John Edwards set out on a path to fight for families who needed help. For nearly two decades, he stood up for victims' rights against the insurance industry and stood down their armies of lawyers. He gave families hope in their darkest moments and helped them overcome challenges greater than any they had ever known. His passion and dedication to the people he defended earned him the respect, recognition, and gratitude of people across North Carolina. In 1998, John Edwards took this commitment to public service to give a voice in the United States Senate to the people he had represented throughout his career. He ran for the Senate and won, defeating an incumbent Republican Senator.

In Congress, John Edwards champions the issues that matter to American families. He is working to provide Americans with quality health care and he co-authored the Patients' Bill of Rights and helped pass it in the Senate. He fought for middle-class tax cuts to help families save and get ahead. And he worked to improve our schools, improve teacher pay, and expand afterschool programs.

As a member of the Select Committee on Intelligence, Edwards has worked tirelessly to build a strong national defense and strengthen the security of our homeland. In the wake of September 11th, he served as a member of the joint House and Senate panel investigating the terrorist attacks. Whether in the courtroom or the Senate, John Edwards has defended people who deserve better. And today, he's running for vice president because he believes America can do better. Working families can decide whether John Kerry or George W. Bush is our next president--but only if we vote. In the 2000 election, a few hundred votes made the difference. This year, we can't afford for even one working family voter to sit this election out. Please take these simple steps today--before it's too late.

Source:<http://blog.johnkerry.com/rapidresponse/archives/002321.html>

The 1005 Line



Letters To The Editor

Submissions for Letters to the Editor are subject to approval of the Editorial Board and space considerations. Letters to the Editor are solely the opinion of the author and do not represent endorsement by ATU Local 1005 or the Education Committee. If you have an editorial to submit, please contact a committee member or our advisor Michelle Sommers at: msommers@atu1005.com

To me Homeland security means:

protection of good-paying union jobs, good schools with secure, educated children and adequate fire and law enforcement. Homeland security is also ensuring our right to vote. As far as Amalgamated Transit Union local #1005 is concerned election of Transit, Metro Transit, and Union friendly legislators is needed to change the tenor of debate in the Minnesota Legislature. Genuine progress toward a cohesive and coherent state wide transportation policy is crucial and can only be achieved with a major shift in the make up of the House of Representatives and a substantial increase of majority in the Senate.

I personally worked in the Senate for three years, two years for Senator Jane Ranum, chair of the Judiciary and one year for Senator Linda Berglin, chair of the Human Resources Budget and Policy. I sat in numerous committees listening to testimony from experts and citizens who took respectful questioning from Senators desiring to know all the facts. I sat on the Senate floor observing protocol, debate, and votes by Senators from both sides of the aisle. I came away with the impression that Minnesota government works for all its citizens.

In the five and 1/2 years since, I have seen our previous surplus plunge and Metro Transit's budget depleted to deleterious effect. I have heard of the attempts of the House of Representatives to privatize and negate the service we provide. We have an administration that is essentially anti-transit and very anti-Metro Transit, and rabidly anti-union.

Vice-President Michelle Sommers, Assistant Business Agent Kellie Miller and I attended a fundraiser at the DFL Woman's Caucus at the McLaughlins' Summit Avenue home. All of the candidates were vying for Minnesota House of Representative seats, Congressional seats, city council seats or mayoral positions. Novices and proven experts alike, all candidates were very interested in assisting Minnesota to move forward on transportation policy issues, changing the tenor of debate and most of all bringing civility back to Minnesota State Government.

We as union members need to take direct action. If any of these candidates are campaigning in your district your help is needed. If you as a union member can find 2 hours a week to make phone calls and/or drop literature, do it. If you can somehow find \$10, \$15, \$25 extra dollars to donate, do it. If you as a union member read or hear a misconception about unions and transit, write or speak up, for your job, for your union, for REAL homeland security.

Terry Baird-Lundblad, Clerk, Heywood Maintenance

DRUG TESTING RIGHTS

If you do not use the specific wording when you request results from a positive drug test, the agency has no obligation to comply. All they are required to do is give you a paper stating the results are positive. Every employee has the legal right to request, in writing to the Medical Review Officer (MRO), copies of: the Litigation Package* of the initial test (this will tell you how your test turned up positive); the Confirmative (breaks results down into specific levels); the Threshold Levels (baseline of all tests).

*The Litigation Package can be nearly 100 pages of technical data, which cannot be analyzed or understood by a layperson, including union officers. Professional interpretation is available at the member's expense, starting at about \$50. minimum.

WEINGARTEN RIGHTS STATEMENT

If disciplinary action is suspected, read this statement to your foreman: I request to have a union representative present on my behalf during this meeting because I believe it may lead to disciplinary action taken against me. If I am denied my right to have a union representative present, I will refuse to answer accusational questions and any I believe may lead to discipline.

