



**THE WORKERS' RIGHTS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
WILL BE ON THE NOVEMBER 2022 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT**

The Illinois General Assembly with a substantial bipartisan vote passed Senate Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment No.11 in the past session that concluded at the end of May 2021. This will be a major advancement for labor rights if the Illinois votes adopt it because it will be the first U.S. law to create a constitutional right to organize and to protect workers' rights.

While workers have the right to organize set by federal and state law, there is no constitutional right to organize and to bargain for wages, hours, working conditions, economic welfare and safety. The past year has demonstrated the need for workers to be protected by their unions on matters of work place safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. This constitution amendment will prevent the Illinois General Assembly from enacting any law that interferes with these rights, including the right to bargain with an employer for contract provision that will require an employee to join a union.

A copy of the amendment is below, and it is the desire of the Illinois AFL-CIO and the unions that lobbied for it to begin educating members as early as possible so they become aware of the importance of this election issue.

\* \* \*

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 11

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the State for adoption or rejection at the general election next occurring at least 6 months after the adoption of this resolution a proposition to amend the Illinois Constitution in Article I by adding Section 25 as follows:

ARTICLE I

BILL OF RIGHTS

(ILCON Art. I, Sec. 25 new)

## SECTION 25. WORKERS' RIGHTS

(a) Employees shall have the fundamental right to organize and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing for the purpose of negotiating wages, hours, and working conditions, and to protect their economic welfare and safety at work. No law shall be passed that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively over their wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment and work place safety, including any law or ordinance that prohibits the execution or application of agreements between employers and labor organizations that represent employees requiring membership in an organization as a condition of employment.

(b) The provisions of this Section are controlling over those of Section 6 of Article VII.

## SCHEDULE

This Constitutional Amendment takes effect upon being declared adopted in accordance with Section 7 of the Illinois Constitutional Amendment Act.

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