



Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

Strength in Numbers 95,000

William Hamilton, President & Eastern PA Legislative Coordinator – Joseph Molinero, Sec.-Treasurer & Western PA Legislative Coordinator – Tim O'Neill, Consultant – Dan Grace, Trustee & Legislative Advisor – Robert Baptiste, Esq. Legal Advisor

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF LEGISLATION ON WORKERS & JOBS

For unions in Wisconsin, a fast and hard fall since Act 10 “Right-to-Work”

JOURNAL SENTINEL ©

Highlights from an article by Dave Umhoefer of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel © Link to article:

<http://projects.jsonline.com/news/2016/11/27/for-unions-in-wisconsin-fast-and-hard-fall-since-act-10.html>

- Public-sector unions now have to win support from a majority of employees in the bargaining unit, not just a majority of those voting in the certification election. Every year. And that status allows them only to negotiate a sliver of what they could before — pay raises, capped by inflation.
- Nationally, no state has lost more of its labor union identity than Wisconsin. Union members made up 14.2% of workers before Act 10, but just 8.3% in 2015
- Membership is down by about 30% since Act 10. 132,000 fewer union members, mostly teachers and other public workers
- The decline has put Wisconsin, the birthplace of public-employee unions, near the bottom third of states for unionized workforce. Southern and western states make up most of the lowest tier.
- AFSCME, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, since Act 10 has lost 70% of its members at two of its councils.
- Labor is not in a position to be the campaign player it was before Act 10.
- Dues from membership, a tough sell without collective bargaining, are off nearly 50% — \$12 million in lost revenue as of 2014, based on the most recent tax return available.
- Under the Act 10 caps, the negotiated base wage increase in many districts was limited to 0.12% this year.
- Firing or disciplining public school teachers is a simpler, speedier and far more management-friendly process after Act 10. In the collective bargaining days, public sector unions often had the right through union-negotiated contracts to help select an independent arbitrator to decide disputes. Now, school administrators alone typically pick — and pay — the referees, known as “impartial hearing officers.”





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Philadelphia Beverage Tax Leads To 30-50% Plunge in Sales, Mass Layoffs

According to Philly.com reports, two months into the city's sweetened-beverage tax, supermarkets and distributors are reporting a 30% to 50% drop in beverage sales and - adding insult to injury - are now planning for layoffs.

One of the city's largest distributors told the Philadelphia website it would cut 20% of its workforce in March, and an owner of six ShopRite stores in Philadelphia says he expects to shed 300 workers this spring. "People are seeing sales decline larger than anything they've seen up to this point in the city," said Alex Baloga, vice president of external relations at the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association.

Meet the Dark Money Forces behind Philly's Soda Tax

Phillymag.com © BY HOLLY OTTERBEIN

Link to article:

<http://www.phillymag.com/citifed/2016/06/27/jim-kenney-soda-tax-dark-money/#AzAB6ORDhzojDm7T.99>

In an article that appeared in Phillymag.com the article discussed "Dark Money" that helped pass the beverage tax. An organization Known as **Philadelphians for a Fair Future**, it aired TV ads, funded polls, and partnered with an army of volunteers to help persuade lawmakers to support the tax. On one hand, the group's experience gives other cities a much-needed guide to fighting off business lobbies. On the other hand, Philadelphians for a Fair Future is a 501c(4) — essentially a dark-money nonprofit — that can raise unlimited amounts of money without needing to disclose anything about some of its donors.

The article also stated that "Michael **Bloomberg**, the billionaire who tried to ban big sodas as mayor of New York, was the biggest contributor, providing about \$1.5 million to \$1.6 million, according to Bloomberg adviser Howard Wolfson." **Action Now Initiative**, an anti-obesity nonprofit funded by Texas billionaire/former **Enron trader** John Arnold and his wife gave \$400,000.

These Legislative Action Alerts will be posted on the PA Conference of Teamsters web site at www.pacfteamsters.com Go to the home page and click on the black box titled Legislative Action Alert Bulletins. Please share these alerts with your officers, agents and stewards.

