



January, February,
March 2023

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THE GAUGE

IUOE LOCAL 148

Executive Board Appoints Dave Bahr as Interim Business Manger



The Executive Board of Local 148 appointed Business Representative Dave Bahr to interim Business Manager. He will fill the unexpired term of retiring business manager Keith Linderer. Bahr was initiated into Local 148 in 1999. He worked at the Labadie plant as a laborer before transferring to Rush Island.

At Rush Island Dave trained as POE and worked as a Laborer and Coal Equipment Operator before becoming an electrical apprentice and graduating to journeyman electrician. While at Rush Island Dave served as the electrician's shop steward and then as the plant chief shop steward.

Dave then transferred to the Taum Sauk Pump Storage Hydro Electric Plant as a Hydro Plant Technician. While there he served as the Taum Sauk Chief Shop Steward for 10 years before becoming a full-time business representative for Local 148 in 2020.

Dave also served as Local 148's Treasurer from 2008 until 2020, when he stepped down to accept the business representative position.

With his appointment as business manager, he has also become a member of the Greater St. Louis Central Labor Council's executive board as well as a member of the Missouri AFL-CIO executive board.

Dave has emphasized internal and external organizing as major priorities. To help facilitate Local 148's organizing objectives, re-establishing a stationary engineers training program will be a key component. "It will take time, but it has to be done if we are going to survive as a local union," he told *The Gauge*. "With the major changes taking place in the electric utility industry and the elimination of so many power plant jobs we have to diversify our membership to survive."

Dave also wants to focus on training for shop stewards and officers and make sure it is available when they say they need it. "Well trained shop stewards make the job of representing our members that much more effective," he said. "And as far as officers are concerned, they need to know what their job consists of in order to fulfill their obligations under the International Union Constitution."

He added that he wants to continue to work on maintaining a strong line of communication with the membership. "We all know membership union meetings are necessary but are poorly attended. So, we need to continue to maintain strong communication through social media," he emphasized.

As part of this effort, he plans to start publishing *The Gauge* again. *The Gauge* is Local 148's quarterly newspaper, which ceased publication during the pandemic when the St. Louis Workers' Education Society, the organization that published it, went into a hiatus. They are now back in operation and are excited to start publishing *The Gauge* again.

The Officers and Executive Board are appreciative of Dave's willingness to take on the responsibilities of business manager and ask for every member to pledge their support to Dave as he begins this important challenge.

Officers & Staff

Dave Bahr

Business Manager

Glen Tolan

President

Bryant Wooten

Vice President

Gregg Glass

Treasurer

Roger Mitchell

Financial Secretary

Tyler Osia

Recording Secretary

Nathan Chambers

Trustee

Josh Long

Trustee

Patrick Wooten

Trustee

Neil Burchett

Conductor

Tim Barren

Guard

Steve Joyce

Business Rep./Org

Doug Williams

Business Rep.

Tony Fisher

Business Rep.

Jay Wright

Business Rep.

Brad Wooten

Business Rep./Org

Ray Simms

RAP Rep.

Gregg Glass

Referral Rep.

Sarah Rushing

Administrative Asst

Kelly Scott

Health & Welfare

Administrative Asst.

IUOE Local 148

11000 Lin Valle

Dr.

St. Louis, MO

63123

314-865-1300

Business Manager Keith Linderer Announces His Retirement



Business Manager Keith Linderer announced that he will be stepping down as business manager of the Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 148 on May 1, 2023.

"After 12 years as business manager and 39 years as a full-time representative of the union I am finally ready to retire," he told *The Gauge*.

Keith entered the office as business representative in September 1984 when Don Giljum was first elected business manager.

Prior to becoming business representative, Keith served Local 148 as a shop steward and chief shop steward for five years.

Keith joined Local 148 in 1972 and worked as a laborer, machinist apprentice, and journeyman machinist at the Venice and Meramec power plants in the Ameren MO system.

Over the years Keith became an expert in Health and Welfare and Pension rules and regulations. He was responsible for leading joint bargaining efforts for Local 148 on the Ameren MO properties relative to the Major Medical Plans and the Pension Plan. Keith took the initiative in moving the Ameren MO pension plan from a static defined benefit plan, where increases to the plan had to be negotiated every contract term, to a final average pay defined benefit plan that increased the workers pension every time wages were increased.

After serving as a business representative Keith became the assistant business manager in 1999. As assistant business manager Keith took over responsibility for all health and welfare and pension plans covering all Local 148 members with various employers. He also was a trustee for the unions Taft-Hartley Trusted Health and Welfare Plan.

Keith began his in depth education of Pension Plans when in 1985 Foote Mineral Company, a

now defunct company, attempted to unilaterally amend our Taft-Hartley trusted pension plan. The Company decided that \$4 million dollars in excess plan funds should revert to them instead of the members of Local 148 as the plan prescribed.

By eliminating Giljum and Linderer as union Trustees they claimed that the Management Trustees had become the sole trustees of the plan and therefore had the right to claim the \$4 million dollars as theirs. Local 148 sued the company. Keith guided our legal counsel step by step through the arguments. He demonstrated why this was illegal and Local 148 was able to convince the company to negotiate a settlement. The end result was that all \$4 million dollars was divided among Local 148 members who were vested in the plan.

Keith also chaired Local 148's Charity Bass Tournament from its inception in 1988. Over the 34 years that Local 148 has hosted the bass tournament it has raised in excess of \$2 million for charity.

When Keith assumed the position of business manager upon the retirement of Don Giljum in 2011, he was appointed to the Greater St. Louis Central Labor Council Executive Board, as well as to the Missouri AFL-CIO's executive board. He also joined the IUOE's International General Pension Fund covering IUOE members in the US and Canada, as a trustee.

Keith's dedication and leadership over the years has served the members of Local 148 well and he will be greatly missed by all of us.

Good Luck to a long and well deserved retirement.



DOWNLOAD THE NEW LOCAL 148 APP

News and Events

Health and Welfare Information

Negotiation Updates

Important Forms

View your Collective Bargaining Agreement

Download and register on the IUOE148 Mobile App to have up to date information on negotiations with the company.

Our primary communication method for updates on negotiations with the company will be via bulletin board notices and information posted to the app. For quick and easy access to updates, proposals, and notices, download and register on the app by scanning the QR code below with the camera of your smartphone or tablet.



For issues downloading or registering, contact Brad Wooten, 314 865 1300 x111 or via email at brad@iuoe148.com

Jurisdictional Realignment

Due to the reduction in staffing and pending retirements of Business Manager Keith Linderer, as well as Business Representative Doug Williams, the following Business Representative jurisdictions have been realigned:

Steve Joyce:

- Organizing
- Commercial Facilities Management
- BMG Industries / ISS Facility Services
- Facility Services Management, Inc
- Mid-America Airport
- Roodhouse, Illinois Electrical Department
- Roodhouse, Illinois Public Works Department

Brad Wooten:

- Butler County Highway Department
- City of St. Clair, MO
- Cushman Wakefield FKA JLL BOA
- Franklin County Highway Department
- Jefferson County Highway Department
- Jefferson County Parks Department
- Jones Lang La Salle Americas – BOA Static
- Jones Lang La Salle Americas Inc. – Share Services
- Jones Lang La Salle AT&T Data Center
- Southeast Missouri State University
- St. Louis University
- University of Missouri – Rolla
- University of Missouri – St. Louis
- Washington University – Danforth Center
- Washington University – Euclid Power Plant

Jay Wright:

- Ameren – Keokuk
- Ameren – Labadie
- Ameren – Lakeside
- Ameren – Osage
- Ameren – PCM
- Ameren – Sioux
- Ameren – Taum Sauk
- Brandonview
- Caseyville, IL Township – Clerical
- Caseyville, IL Township – Sewer System
- City of Belleville, IL
- City of Collinsville, IL
- City of Fairview Heights, IL – Clerical
- City of Fairview Heights, IL – Land Use and Development
- City of Fairview Heights, IL – Public Works
- Streets and Parks Departments
- City of Nashville, IL
- Integrated Facility Services

- Mallinckrodt F/K/A Covidian
- Metro East IL Sanitary District
- Mighty River Recycling
- Millstadt, IL Public Works Department
- Monroe County, IL
- Montgomery County, IL Circuit Court
- NAES Corp. / Grand Tower, IL Power Station
- Nokomis, IL School District #22
- Phillips 66 – Hartford, IL
- Phillips 66 – St. Louis
- Phillips 66 – West Bank of IL to Borger, TX
- Radiac Abrasives
- St. Clair, IL – Clerical & Sewer Departments
- Village of New Baden, IL
- Williamson County, IL

Tony Fisher:

- ABM Services F/K/A GCA Services Group Inc.
- Ameren – Callaway Plant
- Ameren – Callaway Plant Planners
- Ameren – Lab Services
- Ameren – Maryland Heights
- Ameren – Meramec Plant
- Ameren – Rush Island Plant
- Ameren – Transmission Dispatch Center
- Ameren – Venice Plant
- America's Center, St. Louis
- Bermuda Air Conditioning
- City of Hazelwood, MO
- City of Pacific, MO
- City of St. Charles, MO
- City of St. Louis, MO
- Cool Air Distributing
- DEKA Corporation
- Doll Services
- Galmitche & Sons Heating and Cooling
- Habitat Group
- HMA Management IV
- Illinois American Water F/K/A Alton Water Company
- International Paper, Inc.
- Legacy Service and Supply, LLC
- Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District
- Midwest Refrigeration
- Nestle Purina Pet-care Company
- Pepsi Cola Gen. Bottlers
- Professional Business Providers
- St. Louis Community College
- Southwestern IL College
- Village of Freeburg, IL – Clerical
- Village of Freeburg, IL – Public Works
- Transitional Center of IL
- Woodard & Curran

(Continued on next page)

All shop stewards and members should be sure to introduce themselves to their business representative and get to know them.

Greg Glass will continue to run Local 148's Training and Employment Referral Program and Ray Simms will continue to run Local 148's Referral and Assistance Program (RAP).



Steve Joyce, Bus Rep. Report

I want to welcome the new Bargaining Units.

During the past year we had the opportunity to organize three new bargaining units and secure first time collective bargaining agreements for them.

Commercial Facilities Management is a building maintenance company based in Indiana. It provides building maintenance services throughout the United States. One of their clients is the Federal Courthouse in East St. Louis, Illinois. The employees there were organized into Local 148, and we have entered into a collective bargaining agreement with the Company on their behalf. The workers are very pleased to have a contract that provides them with job security.

Mid-America Airport located in Mascoutah, Illinois, is owned by St. Clair County, Illinois. The building maintenance workers, mechanics, and grounds maintenance workers there believed they were being poorly paid. They decided to organize into Local 148 one year ago. Negotiations with St. Clare County were extremely difficult but we were finally able to negotiate a first time collective bargaining agreement for them that provided for wage and benefit increases.

The Public Works Department workers at Roodhouse, Illinois, also sought to have Local 148 represent them. Local 148 has represented the workers in the City's Electric Department for several years. Not surprisingly the City spent a lot of money on an attorney who made it very difficult to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement for the Public Works Department workers. However, the members persevered, and we finally achieved a three-year agreement with the City.

Achieving organizing and collective bargaining success is not easy. However, if we are to continue to achieve success in these areas we must grow in strength—strength in numbers. Increasing membership numbers builds bargaining power.

Each and every member of Local 148 can be of great assistance to achieve this end.

All of you know family members, friends, or neighbors who are not in a trade union but could benefit by being in one. I urge you to talk to them about the benefits of being in a union and the difference it can make in their lives. If you know someone who is interested in finding out about a union, please let the Local 148 office know and provide us with their contact information so we can follow up with them.

And remember: *Collectively, Workers Bargain! Individually, Workers Beg!*

Tony Fisher, Business Rep. Report



Negotiations with Ameren are now complete, and the membership has ratified a new four-year agreement.

Local 148 members at the Ameren MO Meramec plant are assisting with the plants decommissioning. Ameren MO ceased operating the plant and officially closed it on December 31, 2022. All remaining members will transfer to other Ameren locations once local 148

employees have completed the various remaining job packages. It is anticipated that all members will be out of the plant by June 2023.

Ameren MO has also announced that the Rush Island plant will be closing in a few years. Local 148 and Ameren have begun discussions regarding the de-staffing of the plant, appropriate manning and classifications needed to remain on site until the plant is finally closed, and the transitioning of employees to other locations.

Negotiations with the City of St. Louis have begun. Operating Engineers Local 148 and 513, IBEW Locals 1 and 4, and Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 562 jointly bargain with the City and are collectively known as the Trades Group for bargaining purposes.

Negotiations with Illinois American Water will begin in the second quarter of this year, as the current five-year agreement is set to expire.

America's Center has recalled all laid off employees. They are also looking at hiring additional workers soon. They are requesting stationary engineers or building maintenance workers. If you know of anyone who is looking for a job with these skill-sets, feel free to have them reach out to us.

We have completed negotiations with the Habitat Company, and the members have ratified a new three-year labor agreement. Additionally, negotiations with the HVAC contractors have been completed and a new three-year labor agreement has been finalized, as well.

Lastly always remember it is always the "U" and "I" in "Unions" that makes us strong

Service Pins have been awarded to the following Members:

January

Timothy R. Davies	Ameren MO	35 Years
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February

Chris Hariston	Ameren MO	25 Years
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Webster Morris	Ameren MO	25 Years
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Greg Glass	Ameren MO/Union Office	30 Years
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March

Percy L. Edwards	AmerenMO	30 Years
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Steven G. Farrow	AmerenMO	30 Years
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Karando P. Harris	AmerenMO	30 Years
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Sherry M. Kassen	AmerenMO	30 Years
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William Wieberg	AmerenMO	30 Years
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Congratulations and thank you for your service!

Report of Member Death:

We regret to report that the following member has passed away:

Brother David Godat — JLL Att MES — Active

We extend our heart felt sympathy to his family and friends.



Jay Wright, Business Rep. Report



Currently I have three grievances that I am working on at the Ameren MO Sioux power plant involving work jurisdiction between the repairmen and machinists. Those grievances are scheduled to be heard at the 2nd step of the grievance procedure. Also ready to be heard at the 2nd step of the grievance procedure is a case involving the suspension of a member over violating the workplace violence policy.

I am currently working on four matters at the Ameren MO Labadie power plant. The first is a case regarding the contracting out of work. It is under review for possible arbitration. I have two grievances ready to be heard at the 2nd step of the grievance procedure regarding job performance. And I am working on a grievance involving the Company's misinterpretation of time limits relative to certifying sick leave.

Negotiations with City of Belleville, Illinois began on March 20th.

The members at the City of Collinsville, Illinois recently ratified a new three year labor agreement. The new agreement provides for wage increases each year of the agreement.

A new four-year agreement was ratified by the members at the Metro East Illinois Sanitary District. The new agreement provides for increases in premium rates of pay and wage increases for each year over of the agreement as well as gains in sick leave and holidays.

I visited members of Phillips 66 Petroleum in Borger Texas. We are preparing for contract negotiations which will begin later this spring and summer. In the first week of April, I will be conducting pre-negotiation meetings with Phillips 66 members in Wichita, Paola, and Kansas City Kansas and Jefferson City, MO. Meetings to prepare for negotiations for the East St. Louis terminals were held on March 8 and 15. I am working at improving the working conditions at the Wichita terminal. At the Hartford, Illinois terminal I am working on an alleged violation of the workplace violence policy and potential new job changes and expectations. I am also pursuing several grievances pertaining to parental leave with Phillips 66. At the St. Louis terminal I am working on a case calling into question the job performance of one of our members.

Recently, we were able to sign Radiac Abrasives up to participate in the ITEC stationary engineers program—The IUOE's International Training and Education Center located in Crosby, Texas. They will send members for training there over the remaining three years of our contract.

At Williamson County we resolved a grievance dealing with overtime canvassing and I am working to get a needed job vacancy filled.

Also, with new Coal to Solar legislation now in place in the state of Illinois, I am currently working on organizing opportunities at previous closed fossil fuel plants that will now be adding solar fields on those idle properties.





Brad Wooten, Business Rep. Report



In January we held an online shop stewards training program over zoom. The training consisted of 1 hour a week for five consecutive weeks. Approximately 35-40 stewards and or interested members participated in each of the sessions. The training covered grievance handling, the rights of the shop steward and bargaining along with a number of other critical subjects. Those who participated will receive a steward's guide as soon as I receive them. The online recordings of the training will be available on line through the end of March. After that time you will have to contact the union office to be able to view the recordings. The feedback from those who participated was overwhelmingly positive.

I have spent some time working with the updated IUOE National Training Fund (NTF) online platform. I think that this program could prove useful in providing some basic training for our membership. There is a nice catalog of basic classes that are available. We will be posting a few of the classes from the catalog on line to see if there is any interest among the members. Two of the courses are EPA 608 Certification and the other is a NFPA 70B Arc Flash Awareness.

The IUOE North Central States Conference holds a weekly conference call for all stationary engineer organizers which I participate in. It is aimed at insuring that we coordinate our organizing efforts across multiple states.

I am currently reaching out to build a relationship with the building engineers and mobile engineers at CBRE, ERM, and EMCOR companies so as to begin discussion with them regarding organizing into local 148. The union has posted job openings with JLL AT&T DC and JLL AT&T MES on social media.

Organizing new members is our union is our life blood, and I am committed to doing all that I can to bring new blood into our union. Please help me in this effort.

A labor management meeting with Jefferson County Highways was held on March 6th.

I am still waiting to hear from Cushman & Wakefield Bank of America to begin negotiations. I met with the membership on March 6th to discuss the union's proposals.

I recently attended the South East Missouri State University membership meeting to introduce myself as their new business rep. I met with the management of the university to introduce myself as well. I also met with the Chief Steward at Washington University; the steward and public works director at the City of St. Clair; and the highway commissioner at Franklin County to inform them that I would be replacing Doug Williams as the new union business representative.

Dates have been set to Meet and Confer with the University of Missouri St. Louis and Rolla over the implemented Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU). Over zoom we are set to discuss changes to the University's Leave Policy. I will be sending a letter to all members requesting their input and Ideas for negotiations. I will also be sending a letter to all non-members of the bargaining units pointing out how their membership would benefit the entire bargaining unit as-well-as themselves.

The JLL AT&T Data Center is currently trying to hire a new engineer for the second shift Monday thru Friday. The pay is \$35.00 per hour with an 8% contribution to the Central Pension Fund (CPF). I am attempting to clarify the pension plan contribution language which is supposed to be reported as an hourly contribution rather than a gross pay contribution. This clarification is merely a recording keeping matter and has no impact on the contributions currently being made. With respect to the job opening, anyone interested can reach out to me at brad@iuoe148.com or by calling me at 314-865-1300 ext. 111.

Labor History Briefs

January—March, 1912

From January through March 1912, more than 12,000 workers, primarily women and girls, walk out of the textile mills in Lawrence, Massachusetts, in response to a pay cut. The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) took over leadership of the strike and established several innovative practices, such as sending strikers' children to sympathizers in other states who temporarily cared for them. The police beat mothers, children, and pregnant women, which inflamed national sentiment. Congress held investigative hearings that revealed the terrible conditions at the Lawrence mills. Eventually the company agreed to nearly all the workers' demands, thus furthering the unionization of the garment industry.

January 17, 1962

President John F. Kennedy signs an executive order granting federal government workers the right to collectively bargain. This landmark executive order was a factor in the explosive growth of public-sector unionism in the 1960s and 1970s, as many states followed Kennedy's example and permitted state employees to unionize. The number of public-sector strikes dramatically increase thereafter, even in states where they are illegal.

January 27, 1850

Labor leader Samuel Gompers was born on January 27, 1850 in London, England. He emigrated to America at age 13. He worked in a cigar factory and eventually became the head of the Cigar Workers' Union. He later brought together several national unions under the name of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) and became its first president.

February—June, 2011

Over 100,000 people demonstrated in and around the Capitol building in Madison, Wisconsin, protesting then Governor Scott Walker's bill to strip public employees (excluding police and firefighters) of their right to collectively bargain over pensions, health care, hours, safety, sick leave, and vacations, and to limit pay raises, in addition to ending automatic union dues collection by the state. The bill passed and subsequently survived all legal challenges. In the following years anti-union measures continued to pass in other states, such as Michigan's and Indiana's so-called "right-to-work" laws in 2012.

March 2, 1937

Since the summer of 1936, the Steel Workers Organizing Committee (SWOC) (of the CIO) had been signing up thousands of steel workers as members in the first stage of its drive to organize the steel industry. Early in 1937 the head of U.S. Steel, Myron Taylor, secretly met with John L. Lewis, head of the CIO, and agreed not only to recognize SWOC as the bargaining agent but also agreed to an eight-hour work day for employees, wage increases, seniority protection, and a grievance procedure. These astonishing concessions are partly due to Taylor's desire to avoid a strike at a time when Europe was preparing for war and needed to import steel.

March 25, 1911

Locked inside the Triangle Shirt Waist factory in New York City by its owners, 146 garment workers (mostly young women) died during a massive fire, many by jumping to their deaths from the ninth and tenth floors. While the factory's owners were not convicted of any crime, the incident led to new safety regulations and the modernization of New York's labor laws.

Local 148 Welcomes the following new member:

Members Initiated in January

Jacob Lemons	Phillips 66
Michael Miller	Legacy Service
Keith Bement	Legacy Service
Troy Kysar	TRW
Noah Wisch	TRW
Ryan Porter	Ameren
Cody McClenehan	Ameren
Blake Horning	Ameren
Tanner Brandenburg	Ameren
Atticus Darnin	Ameren
Charles Ellis	Ameren
Trey Davee	Ameren
Cody Rankin	Ameren
Logan Black	Ameren
Ethan Sampson	Ameren
Ethan Wickerham	Jefferson County
David Byers	Jefferson County
David Nail	Jefferson County
Michael Egan	America's Center
Rodney Wilson	America's Center
Chad Gist	America's Center
Mark E. Abkemeier	Jones Lang LaSalle
Shane Donovan	Jones Lang LaSalle
Dustin Miller	Jones Lang LaSalle
Ekepe Usorch	Jones Lang LaSalle
Dwayne Greper	Jones Lang LaSalle

February

Richardo Carter	Coolaire Company
Brandon Floyd	Ameren MO
Gary VanMeter	City of Roodhouse
Jacob Lawson	City of Roodhouse
Crystal Kleidon	City of Roodhouse
Timothy Garner	City of Roodhouse
Chris Ford	City of Roodhouse
Timothy Tegg	Legacy Service
David Neweity	Franklin County Hwy

George Schweiger	City of Pacific
Tyler Dunivan-Scott	Midwest Mechanical
Joel T. Hoffman	Pepsi Co.
Darian Brown	St. Louis University
Anthony McGee	St. Louis University
Steven E. Smith	St. Louis University
Gabriel Barbre	St. Louis University
Josh Andrews	St. Louis University
Josh Rue	Jefferson County
Joseph Certa	St. Louis Community College
Brandon Gilbert	City of St. Charles
Eric Huenfeld	City of St. Charles

March

Lavan Edwards	St. Clair County
Richard Lofftus	Midwest Mechanical
Kyle Cresswell	St. Louis University
Alex Haegele	St. Louis University
Matt Mehler	Jefferson County
Gaven Pullen	Jefferson County
William Wilson	Jefferson County
Stephen Hubbard	Jefferson County
Chance Coie	Jefferson County
Melissa Covarrubias	Fairview Heights
Joseph Certa	St. Louis Community College
Richard Meadows	St. Louis Community College



IN RUSH TO DESTROY THE INITIATIVE PETITION PROCESS, MISSOURI POLITICIANS MAKE CLEAR WHY MISSOURIANS NEED A CHECK ON POLITICIANS' POWER

Despite overwhelming constituent opposition to HJR 43, with more than 96% of committee testimony opposed to this and similar bills to undermine Missouri's initiative petition process, the Missouri House of Representatives passed HJR 43. More than two dozen bills have been filed during this legislative session to fundamentally change and undermine the initiative petition process.

"The Initiative Petition is already a difficult and complicated process. Missourians resort to it only when they feel their voice isn't being heard at the Capitol," said **Marilyn McLeod, President of the League of Women Voters of Missouri**. "The League is opposed to any efforts by the General Assembly to make this process even more difficult. Disgruntled politicians are ignoring regular order and the overwhelming opposition to limitations on this constitutional right as they rush to pass HJR 43."

The Missouri House Committee on Elections and Elected Officials heard five bills on January 24th, and swiftly voted out four of these attacks two days later. During the committee hearing, testimony opposing these bills outnumbered supportive testimony nearly 5 to 1, with more than 1,400 Missourians opposing these attacks. This week's House debate illustrated how a committee substitute was introduced at the beginning of the House executive session and quickly passed - denying the public input on the substitute, which was ultimately passed by the Missouri House.

Missouri Politicians are Ignoring the Priorities of Missouri's Working Families to Push Through their Political Power Grab.

"Like most Missourians, I work hard for my family, but I don't get paid enough and went without healthcare for many, many, many years," said **Bridget Hughes, a mother and fast food worker**. "I voted to raise the minimum wage and expand Medicaid. Because of those initiatives, I was able to pay my bills and treat my cervical cancer. We need to keep the power in our hands. Politicians need to leave the ballot initiative alone."

"Every year, people with disabilities bring our concerns to our elected officials in Jefferson City, especially our inability to find healthy, affordable, and accessible housing and public transportation that meets our needs," said **Elton Thomas, a Missourian with visual impairment & advocate for people with disabilities**. "So far, the General Assembly has not exercised the political will to address these vital quality of life issues for hundreds of thousands of their constituents. The initiative petition process offers us one avenue to bring our needs directly to Missouri voters, and now some elected officials are trying to make it much harder, perhaps even impossible, to use this democratic tool."

Across the Political Spectrum, Missourians Support and Depend on the Initiative Petition Process.

"The initiative process is a power and freedom that We the People have reserved to ourselves as a check on and to be independent of the General Assembly," said **Carl Bearden, a St. Charles Republican and United for Missouri CEO**. "Our state legislators and Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft should listen to our former Gov. John Ashcroft's statement when he vetoed efforts to suppress the use of the ballot initiative."

"It is through the initiative process that those who have no influence with elective representatives may take their cause directly to the people. The General Assembly should be reluctant, therefore, to enact legislation which places any impediments on the initiative power which are inconsistent with the reservation found in the constitution," Former Missouri Governor John Ashcroft, June 27, 1992.

The Will of the People coalition strongly opposes all efforts to undermine the initiative petition process.

Call your [State House Representative and State Senator](#) today and tell them you oppose any change to the current Initiative Petition Law.

The Will of the People is a trans-political coalition that represents a significant portion of Missouri's constituency, identities across the political spectrum, and focus on different policy issues. We collectively object to any actions that interfere with the initiative petition process and any negative change that impacts our right to direct democracy. Visit our website to learn more at www.willofthepeoplemo.com

IUOE Local 148
11000 Lin Valle Dr.

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Permit No. 495

The Gauge

Local 148

11000 Lin Valle Dr.
St. Louis, Mo 63123

Find Current Local Union
News and Information at:
www.iuoe148.com



Meet The Gauge Editors:

The **St. Louis Workers' Education Society** (WES) is a 501c3, non-profit organization chartered by the St. Louis Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO as a Workers' Center.

We educate and train St. Louis residents, especially people of color, women and youth, to become community leaders. We work with unions – like the Operating Engineers' Local 148 – to help educate and mobilize, to turn members into activists.

Our focus is on the intersection of workers' rights, racial justice, sexual and gender-minority rights and disabilities empowerment.

We facilitate on-going worker-education campaigns, partnering and advising union and community groups, to build a permanent culture of worker-education in St. Louis.

Contact us at:

Tony Pecinovsky, President:
tony@workerseducationsociety.org

Don Giljum, Secretary-Treasurer:
don@workerseducationsociety.org

