

DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONS is published by Capital Area UniServ-North

Volume 1, No. 3 – October 14, 2011

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THE RACE TO RECALL WALKER BEGINS

United Wisconsin has announced its intent to start gathering signatures on or about November 15.

Under state statutes, a recall of an elected official cannot be mounted until the person has been in office a year. Walker was inaugurated Jan. 3, which makes Nov. 4 the earliest date to begin collecting over 540,000 petition signatures needed to trigger a recall election. Once the intent to recall is filed, the filing group has 60 days to collect signatures. The Government Accountability Board (GAB) says the agency's staff then has 31 days by law to review signatures. But the verification process will most likely take longer than that.

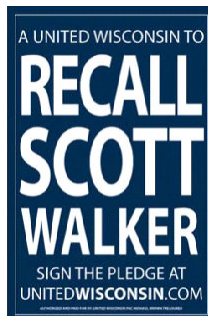
In verifying the 180,000 signatures for the 9 Senate recall races earlier this summer, the GAB asked and was granted extensions. By law, an election would be held 6 Tuesdays from the verification date. But because verifying hundreds of thousands of signatures will be a time-intensive process, it is difficult to give an exact election date.

It is also unclear how the state will handle a recall effort against Walker's Lieutenant Gov., Rebecca Kleefisch. The GAB has requested the state Attorney General's Office to give an opinion, but has yet to receive an answer.

Beyond these logistics looms the big question of which Democrat will step up to run against Walker. But we know the answer to one question:

We need your help and support to make this happen.

Stay tuned for more information on ways to help.



TOP 12 REASONS TO RECALL WALKER

“One Wisconsin Now” developed this summary of the Walker administration’s attack on working families. A more detailed version of each of these points can be found on their website at:

<http://www.recallscottwalker.org/>

1. **Unprecedented attack on working families** - stripped rights of 175,000 workers by eliminating Wisconsin’s 30-year collective bargaining law.
2. **Slashed \$1.6 billion from public schools** while handing out \$35 million for private school vouchers in Milwaukee County.
3. **Devastating cuts to our health care programs** - Cut \$500 million from Medical Assistance, including BadgerCare; cut programs to help seniors and people with disabilities stay in their homes by \$284 million and froze enrollment.
4. **Raised taxes on seniors and working families** by \$70 million, while giving \$2 billion in tax cuts to corporations and the rich.
5. **Tuition hikes and massive cuts to the UW and tech college systems** by allowing the UW system to increase tuition 5.5% annually. Walker cut \$250 million from the UW-System and \$70 million from technical colleges.
6. **Joined lawsuit to repeal federal health care act**, allowing insurance companies to drop people when they become sick and even deny coverage for children with pre-existing conditions.
7. **Refused to defend state’s domestic partnership registry.**
8. **Racked up hundreds of thousands of dollars to his friends at a pricey law firm** over the collective bargaining attacks.
9. **Killed high-speed rail** and the thousands of jobs it would have created.
10. **Tried to repeal phosphorous, clean water laws.**
11. **Consolidated power in the executive office**, including stripping legislative oversight of health care programs.
12. **Passed the most restrictive voter ID law in the nation** that will disenfranchise tens of thousands of voters, including students, minorities and the elderly.

RETIREMENT SYSTEM CHANGES

If the top twelve reasons weren't enough to question Governor Walker's leadership, CAUS News found one more – changes to the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). As of July 1, 2011, all new employees must work more hours to qualify for pension coverage and must work five years before they are fully vested in their pension.

Before the changes, a teacher needed to work 452 hours or roughly 30% time, based on a 188 day school year with an 8 hour day, to be eligible for WRS contributions. The new regulations require a teacher to work over 58% time to be eligible at 880 hours.

The standard is even worse for ESP. For example, many full-time ESP work 7 hours per day with a 185 day school year. The old law required 600 hours of work per year or just shy of a ½ time position to qualify for a WRS pension. The new requirement is 880 hours per year, which is about a 68% full-time equivalent position.

How long will it take for employers to begin hiring even more part-time staff to avoid paying pensions all together? This will eventually lead to a two-tiered workforce of those with and without many benefits creating further ways to try to divide and conquer our ranks.

NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED

If you are interested in being elected as a representative from Wisconsin at the upcoming National Education Association Convention, June 30 to July 5, 2012, in Washington, DC., please contact your local union president or the CAUS Office. The deadline to declare your candidacy is December 1, 2011.

CAUS-N PAC CONTRIBUTIONS

The Political Action Committee (PAC) is used to support legislation favorable to students, schools, educators, local referendums, and campaign contributions to candidates recommended by our members. The full-time member contribution of \$3.00 (\$1.50 part-time member) is refundable.

Individuals who choose not to contribute to the CAUS-North PAC must file a written request to the CAUS-North Office, 4800 Ivywood Trail, McFarland, WI 53558, no later than October 31. Please include your name, home address and in what school district you are employed. Rebate requests after October 31 will not be honored.

NOMINATE AN ESP OF THE YEAR

Each year, one Education Support Professional receives the NEA ESP of the Year Award in recognition of his or her outstanding contribution to schools, communities, and profession. The ESP of the Year serves as an ambassador for Education Support Professionals around the country, promoting the value of ESP members at national and state conferences.

While it showcases one outstanding support professional each year, the Award recognizes and honors the contributions all Education Support Professionals make to great public schools year-round. The deadline to enter a nomination is December 9.

For more information on the 2012 ESP of the Year Award go to <http://www.nea.org/home/1604.htm> or contact the CAUS office.

CAUS SPONSORS PDP PROGRAM

Twenty-five CAUS members attended the free PDP workshop provided by CAUS-North and South on October



8. The program allows PI 34 certified teachers to set goals and obtain verification for submission to DPI.

CAUS will be offering a PDP Training–Plan Verification workshop on January 21, 2012 and a PDP Reviewer

Training on February 11, 2012. All workshops are free of charge to union members. Contact the CAUS office if you are interested in these future trainings.

OVER 200 RECERTIFICATION PETITIONS FILED

For Wisconsin school districts without a contract for this year, September 30 was the filing deadline for unions to seek recertification. At least 212 WEAC locals did so, paying between \$200 and \$2000 to participate. The Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission (WERC) will conduct elections in those locals, requiring 51% of ALL possible voters to cast YES votes in order to recertify. WEAC and CAUS South will work with each local next year to weigh the pros and cons of seeking recertification. Since all locals in both CAUS-North and CAUS South have contract extensions through at least June 30, 2012, we have the benefit of watching the recertification process unfold.