

Union Bosses Double Dip Into Workers' Wallets

Rival Democratic Campaigns Both Bankrolled With Forced-Dues Money

Even if they aren't computer savvy, Pennsylvanians who need to get a fishing license or renew their car registration on or before the Keystone State's April 22 presidential primaries would be well advised to try their luck online.

That's because, until the polls close on Election Day, a far smaller share than usual of Pennsylvania's state and local government employees are likely to be available to assist the public face-to-face or over the phone.

And the reason is that top bosses of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME/AFL-CIO) union, who wield monopoly-bargaining power over roughly 90,000 Pennsylvania government employees, will have many of them deployed assisting the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign.

Because Pennsylvania state law has helped AFSCME bosses seize monopoly power to speak for all employees, union members and nonmembers alike, in contract negotiations over pay, benefits, and working conditions, employees tend to take "leave" to do political work whenever Big Labor wants them to.

In Just Three Months, AFSCME Bosses Spent \$5 Million on Clinton Campaign's Behalf

Besides conscripting state and local government employees in Pennsylvania and other key primary states to attend rallies, canvas neighborhoods, and man phone banks for the Clinton campaign, AFSCME kingpins, by their own account, spent \$5 million on behalf of the Clinton campaign just from December to February.

Top bosses of other large AFL-CIO-affiliated unions such as the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the International Association of Machinists (IAM) are also funneling millions of forced-dues dollars into efforts to secure the Democratic presidential nomination for Sen. Clinton (N.Y.).

Meanwhile, political operatives of all the major unions in the so-called "Change to Win" conglomerate, which broke off from the AFL-CIO in 2005, are bilking the rank-and-file employees under their control for millions of forced-dues dollars to help Clinton rival Barack Obama, the Illinois senator.



CREDIT: REUTERS/JOHN GRESS

Even as other union kingpins shake down workers to bankroll Hillary Clinton, Teamster czar Jim Hoffa (left)

and SEIU chief Andy Stern are spending forced-dues millions to prop up Barack Obama.

The hierarchy of the largest Change to Win union alone, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), admittedly spent \$5.4 million, mostly forced-dues money, in support of the Obama campaign in January and February.

Hundreds of Millions of Forced-Dues Dollars Will Be Ready For This Fall

"In the 2008 presidential primaries, top bosses of various unions are pouring unprecedented quantities of forced-dues money into the campaigns of competing Democrats," commented Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Of course, both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have enthusiastically endorsed all of the key items on the union hierarchy's agenda, including, naturally, the top item, the 'Card-Check' Forced-Unionism Bill [H.R.800 and S.1041].

"But today's union bosses have

become so arrogant that they are nevertheless willing to spend huge sums of workers' forced-dues money to promote one Big Labor candidate over another, in hopes of gaining special access to the White House should their candidate prevail.

"And union officials can rest assured that their pool of forced-dues money is so deep that, once the Democratic nomination is finally settled, they will still have hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars to bankroll Mrs. Clinton or Mr. Obama in the general election.

"This is obviously a sweet deal for union bosses. But it's a very bad deal for individual workers, regardless of whom they support for President.

"And by far the most effective way to end the injustice is for Congress to enact a national Right to Work law barring the collection of all forced union dues and fees from workers as a condition of employment." 