



# R4: ACTION NOW

ISSUE 4

JANUARY 2025

## Worker Power and Solidarity in 2025

### We Determine the Struggle



## THIS ISSUE

UNION SUPPORT REMAINS HIGH  
 MLK, LABOR ADVOCATE  
 THE TARIFF DEBATE  
 REGION 4 BOWLING TOURNEY  
 VENDOR BINGO AT LOCAL 865  
 R4 STATE COORDINATORS  
 BEST/WORST WORKER STATES  
 VCAP SMOKER GRILL RAFFLE  
 LABOR WINS AND HOPES IN KS

## MLK ON LABOR

ON JANUARY 20TH, WE CELEBRATED MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY, ONCE AGAIN REMEMBERING THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER AND VOCAL ADVOCATE FOR THE LABOR MOVEMENT.



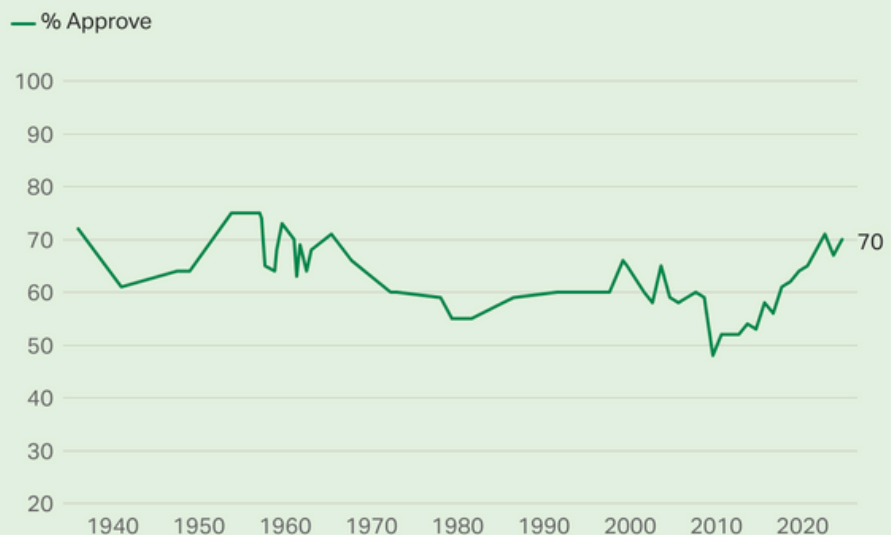
*MLK with Reuther and other Civil Rights Leaders at Detroit's Cobo Hall in 1962*

ON APRIL 3RD, 1968, MLK STOOD IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE AFSME SANITATION WORKERS OF MEMPHIS, TN, PROCLAIMING: "SO OFTEN WE OVERLOOK THE WORK AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THOSE WHO ARE NOT IN PROFESSIONAL JOBS, OF THOSE WHO ARE NOT IN THE SO-CALLED BIG JOBS. BUT LET ME SAY TO YOU TONIGHT THAT WHENEVER YOU ARE ENGAGED IN WORK THAT SERVES HUMANITY AND IS FOR THE BUILDING OF HUMANITY, IT HAS DIGNITY AND IT HAS WORTH."

## UNION SUPPORT HIGH DESPITE 2024 ELECTION LOSSES FOR DEMOCRATS

As of the most recent Gallop Poll taken in August of 2024, Union support remains very high among the American public at 70%. This is very exciting news. We welcome you to take a look at the [historical trends of Gallop polling with respect to Labor Unions in the United States](#) and share in the enthusiasm building for workers among the American people. *2025 is still our year to unite, grow, and expand worker power!*

### Do you approve or disapprove of labor unions?



GALLUP





## THE TARIFF DEBATE: WHO BENEFITS? CONSUMERS, JOBS, AND REVENUE

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly referred to “tariff” as his favorite word, promising aggressive use of them by executive order in his second term. Tariffs are an economic tool, and often an economic weapon, used as a trade barrier to increase the cost of imported goods. The goal of them is two-fold: to make these goods less competitive than domestic goods in the market and to produce revenue for the government through taxation by tariff.

Economists, think-tanks, and leaders of US financial industries have been weighing in for months on the consequences of these proposed tariffs. Douglas Rediker of Brookings Institute, writes that “Trump’s broader trade strategy reflects a worldview rooted in the 19th-century mercantilism, emphasizing protectionism...to encourage reshoring American manufacturing and to generate revenues to pay for tax cuts and spending.” In 2018, Trump initiated tariffs on washing machines, hoping to motivate foreign manufacturers to move production back to the US. These tariffs did result in approximately 1800 more jobs brought back by LG and Samsung in attempt to avoid tariffs. The taxation provided about \$82 million dollars in revenue annually to the federal government, but cost consumers \$1.5 billion in increased pricing, as the price of all washing machines and dryers (which were never tariffed, but are often purchased in conjunction with washing machines) increased due to demand. Douglas Irwin, Professor of Economics at Dartmouth College, and published author on US trade policy history, explained to the Wall Street Journal in 2024: “there is a myth out there that if we tax imports, domestic producers will not raise their prices. However, this is not the case, as the tariff creates more demand for these products, so prices go up for consumers.” In the end, the 2018 tariffs cost consumers about \$815,000/job. Most economists would consider this a very expensive job creation program and would suggest other more cost-effective and efficient economic tools to create jobs.

Since taking office, Trump has said he is considering 25% tariffs on products from Mexico and Canada and 10% on imports from China. For the auto industry in particular, this would have profound implications. American auto production spans all three North American countries and is subject to the USMCA. “Each vehicle produced under the USMCA framework crosses the border an average of eight times during production, meaning tariffs would be imposed at each stage. This would lead to significant cost increases, impacts on employment, disrupted supply chains, and higher prices for consumers,” explains Rediker. Production must remain profitable to keep wages high and jobs in place at auto manufacturers.

February is said to be the month of reveal for Trump’s trade strategy with respect to tariffs. Will it be a calculated bluff, a process to negotiate better terms for the US, or a genuine shift toward economic isolationism? The stakes are high. As is true with every shift in the American economy, jobs and consumers are the chips on the table.

## UAW REGION 4 BOWLING TOURNNEY SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST

Join us at Illinois Valley Super Bowl in Peru, Illinois, for our 5th annual bowling tournament. It’s a chance to beat returning 2024 champions, UAW Local 434. This tournament is a qualifying event for the UAW International Finals Championship in May.



**LOCAL 434 BOWLING CHAMPS!**

## UAW LOCAL 865 WOMEN’S COUNCIL INVITES YOU!

Gather your family, friends, and fellow union enthusiasts for an evening of thrilling games, fabulous prizes, and unforgettable memories.

**SAT**      **2:00 pm to 4:00 pm**      **1 MARCH**

630 19th Street, E. Moline IL 61244

**12**      [fslocal865@gmail.com](mailto:fslocal865@gmail.com)      **UAW**  
call: 309-755-5273

Vendor Bingo is \$20 and includes entry into the event where you can shop with vendors, and participate in 10 rounds of free bingo! Each round offers cash or vendor prizes. Door prizes throughout the afternoon.



# UAW REGION 4 LEGISLATIVE COORDINATORS & OFFICE SUPPORT

We have had some staffing and office changes in the Region over the past year. Please be advised:

## ILLINOIS KELLI HARRISON

Office: Holly Skoog, Ottawa  
900 E. Center St.  
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## CO/KS/MO DAN KANDBINDER

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## IA/MN/MT/NE ND/SD/WY BRAD SCHWANDA

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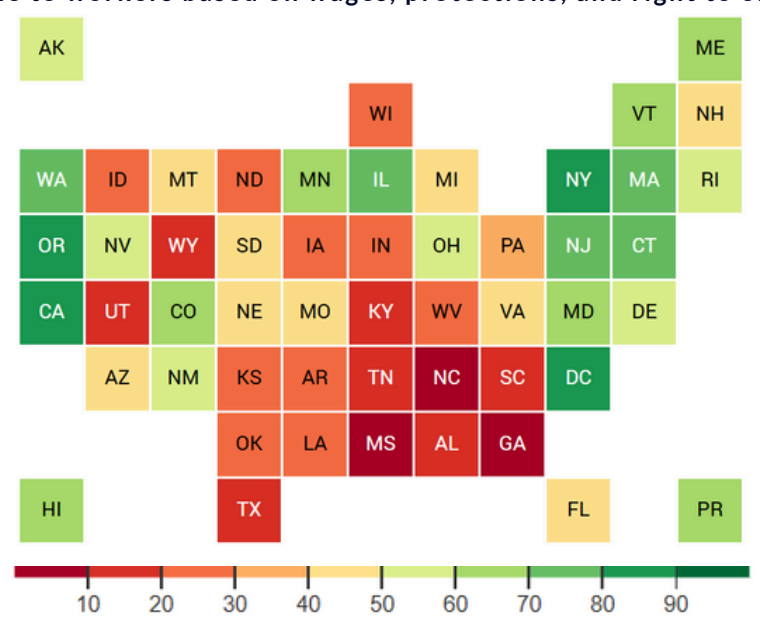
# BEST AND WORST STATES TO WORK IN THE US

## OXFAM AMERICA'S BEST AND WORST STATES TO WORK 2024 REPORT

The 6th edition of Oxfam America's index on working conditions across the United States shows how the states are responding the growing movement for workers' rights across the county. The index weights three policy areas in its criteria for ranking: wage policies (40%), worker protections (35%), and right to organize (25%). The data in their most recent report is based on laws and policies in effect as of July 1st, 2024. As government at the federal level fails to provide universal access to paid leave or increase the minimum wage for millions of workers, inequalities grow across the states.

### OVERALL SCORE

This map ranks all 50 states and Puerto Rico from 0-100. 100 is the most favorable to workers based on wages, protections, and right to organize.





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## UAW REGION 4 VCAP RAFFLE

At Region 4 PGC Conferences this year, we will have \$20 raffle tickets available to support the VCAP Program. Grand Prize offers the winner a choice between the Blazin Smoker/Grill or \$2,000 cash. Blazin is American-made in Nebraska.



## SOLIDARITY DAY IN KS STATE HOUSE



The 2025 legislative session has begun in Kansas, drawing labor unions out to the Kansas State House in Topeka for a January 14th Solidarity Day Rally. Labor leaders are coming off of success in the 2023-2024 session, signing the Enhanced Kansas Workers Compensation Act into law. This year's focus will be on tax relief for working families, education, and raising the state's minimum wage. KS Governor, Laura Kelly, continues to tout her support and great appreciation for labor unions, urging KS law-makers to resist the urge to privatize public services and erode the rights of working Kansans. We look forward to future gains for Labor in Kansas this session. UAW Local 31 members represented us at the rally.

## FOLLOW REGION 4 FACEBOOK

