



**/7.6.22/**

### **IN THIS EDITION, YOU WILL FIND:**

- Updates from key primary races around the country.
- The latest news regarding line speeds in poultry plants.
- News around the nation and in your region.

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## **Legislative and Political Updates**

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- The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Biden administration [can cancel Trump's "Remain in Mexico" program](#) requiring federal immigration authorities to jail asylum applicants or deny them entry to the U.S. until their asylum claims are resolved.
- The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced that it plans to [amend the poultry products inspection regulations](#) related to line speeds, under the New Poultry Inspection System (NPIS) as one of its long term actions with no specific target date for action.
- President Biden announced the final rule implementing the American Rescue Plan's Special Financial Assistance program that will help ensure that current and future retirees from [multiemployer pension plans are fully funded](#). The plan will ensure that over 200 pension plans are funded through 2051 and preserving retirement security for 3 million families.
- New state laws have taken effect in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia giving legal protection to gig employers, by classifying their [employees as independent contractors](#).
- DOL Wage & Hour held an employer forum to get input on the rule being developed defining independent contractors under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Most employers said they needed independent contractors to operate but one healthcare employer, Gale HealthCare Solutions (GHS), said that the

- misclassification of workers [hurts their business](#) because it allows other companies to undermine responsible firms that provide the same services.
- The US House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services approved a \$1.9 billion increase in funding for key agencies adding funds to OSHA, the Wage and Hour Division, and even \$1 million for the NLRB to establish and administer a process for [conducting electronic elections](#). The bill goes to the House floor for a vote sometime this summer.
  - President Biden announced [an extension and expansion](#) of deferred enforced departure (DED) for Liberians. The extension is for an additional two years, ending June 30, 2024.
  - [President Biden signed the Keep Kids Fed Act](#) to extend pandemic school meal waivers that were set to expire June 30th.
  - Congress passed and [President Biden signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act gun safety bill](#). The bill would incrementally toughen requirements for young people to buy guns, deny firearms from more domestic abusers, and help local authorities temporarily take weapons from people judged to be dangerous.
  - The House Committee on Appropriations [approved a bipartisan amendment](#) that would prevent the Department of Justice from using resources to interfere with adult-use marijuana programs in states and other jurisdictions where such use is legal.
  - The U.S. Supreme Court cited the anti-labor arguments from *Lochner v New York* in their decision to overturn *Roe v Wade* paving the way [to weaken labor laws](#) by re-instituting the pro-business provisions of this infamously bad SCOTUS ruling.

## News From Around the Nation

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### Region 1

- Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey's path to receive the Democratic Party's nomination for Governor is now completely cleared thanks to her final remaining primary opponent's announcement that [she is ending her campaign](#). Endorsed by all UFCW locals in the state and the labor movement at large, Healey will likely face Republican Geoff Diehl in the general election.
- Nikki Kateman – Political and Communications Director at RWDSU/UFCW Local 338 – was appointed by New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins to [the New York Cannabis Advisory Board](#). In this role, she will work with the Office of Cannabis Management to establish an equitable and inclusive legal cannabis industry in the state of New York.
- With support from UFCW locals, incumbent New York [Governor Kathy Hochul \(D\) defeated](#) her primary challengers by wider margins that originally anticipated. She will face current Republican Congressman Lee Zeldin (R-NY-1) from Long Island in the general election.

## Region 2

- The Delaware State Senate passed SB 280 - a bill that would mandate all medical cannabis dispensaries with 20 or more employees to [have a labor peace agreement](#). The bill goes to the desk of Governor John Carney (D) where it is expected to be signed into law.
- Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger (D-VA-7) co-authored a guest column published by Fox News in which she criticized the four largest meat packing companies [for charging customers exorbitant prices](#)— while reaping record profits.
- The District of Columbia Council passed legislation that will allow residents over the age of 21 to [“self-certify” their need for medicinal cannabis](#), removing the requirement that customers obtain a doctor’s recommendation prior to purchase. Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) is expected to sign the bill into law.

## Region 4

- Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear (D) [criticized President Biden's plans](#) to nominate conservative, anti-abortion, and Federalist Society member Chad Meredith to a lifetime appointment as a federal judge in the state.
- The Michigan Republican party chaos continues, as their leading candidate for Governor - Ryan Kelly - tops a recent poll of GOP voters, despite his [recent arrest by the FBI](#) for his involvement in the January 6th insurrection. The poll shows 45% undecided, leaving the race wide open.

## Region 5

- A recent poll in Georgia shows that incumbent Governor Brian Kemp (R) is tied with [Democratic challenger Stacey Abrams](#), while incumbent Democratic Senator Raphael Warnock has a 10 point lead over challenger and former football star Herschel Walker.
- Reactions to the recent migrant deaths at the Texas border [highlight stark differences](#) between Governor Greg Abbott (R), and Democratic challenger Beto O'Rourke.
- UFCW Local 1625 and the Florida AFL-CIO [endorsed Charlie Crist for Governor](#) in the state's Democratic primary contest against the Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried.

## Region 6

- Former UFCW Associate Legislative and Political Director Nikki Budzinski [won the Democratic primary in the Illinois 13th](#) Congressional District getting over 75% of the votes! She will face Republican Regan Deering in the general election open seat this November.

- Over 762,000 essential workers in Minnesota have already applied [to receive the state's "hero pay"](#). Applicants have until July 22nd to submit their applications for the \$750 in pay.

## Region 7

- The Oregon Secretary of State's Office is responding to [a complaint filed by UFCW Local 555](#) to investigate "People for Portland" for possible violations of election law. The organization became both a controversial and influential voice in the local debate regarding homelessness in 2021 after advocating for aggressive policies meant to prevent unhoused people from occupying public spaces.
- The Washington State Democratic Party is one of 17 finalists for one of the [early dates on the 2024 presidential primary](#) calendar and will get to make a formal pitch to the Democratic National Committee's Rules and Bylaws Committee later this month. Washington will compete with Colorado and Nevada for the western spot.

## Region 8

- The California legislature approved a wide-ranging bill to change the state's adult-use marijuana program, including eliminating the cannabis cultivation tax and reducing the number of non-management employees that a business can have before being required to [enter into a labor peace agreement](#) from 20 to 10.
- The United States District Court for the District of Arizona issued an injunction requiring Curaleaf Arizona to [reinstate a fired union supporter](#). The injunction also instructs Curaleaf to stop threatening employees about losing their tips if they form a union, promising employees benefits if they don't join a union, and creating an impression that employees' union activities are being kept under surveillance. As a result, Budtenders' at a Curaleaf Dispensary [voted 13-to-6 in favor of unionizing](#), becoming the first cannabis workers in Arizona to join UFCW Local 99.

*This newsletter is distributed by the UFCW Legislative and Political Action Department. To share stories or add subscribers, contact us at: [ufcw-lapad@ufcw.org](mailto:ufcw-lapad@ufcw.org).*