

# PRO **vote** NEWS

## Welcome Julie Burkhart, Pro-Vote's New Executive Director!



*Julie Burkhart, Pro-Vote's  
new Executive Director*

Inspired by the feminist movement in the 1970's, I have dedicated my life to progressive activism. I am very impressed with the work of Missouri Progressive Vote Coalition. By the time you read this, I will have already dug into the vital work we do at Pro-Vote as the new Executive Director.

I've come to Missouri from Wichita, Kansas, where I was able to dedicate myself to the protection of reproductive freedom as the CEO of ProKanDo, Kansas's largest political action committee. ProKanDo is a pro-woman, pro-choice political organization that supports pro-choice candidates and lobbies at the state level to ensure that all women are guaranteed the right to comprehensive reproductive health care.

Before growing ProKanDo into Kansas's largest PAC, I worked with Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri. In Washington State, I managed a wide spectrum of political races and worked with the Washington State Democratic Central Committee and the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee.

I am ready to continue the struggle for progressive values and fight the right wing. I was at ground zero in Wichita during the infamous "Summer of Mercy," when anti-choice extremists blocked access to women's health clinics, and will be at ground zero in Missouri as we face and defeat the right wing here!

## Fighting for Health Care for America Now!

With the election of President Obama and a U.S. Congress responsive to the needs of working people, the moment for progressive legislation guaranteeing quality, affordable health care for all has arrived.

Pro-Vote is working closely with our member group ACORN, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, and GRO-Grass Roots Organizing, to win quality, affordable health care for all. On the national stage, we are organizing in concert with Health Care for America Now, which is active in 43 states.

The fight for health care is in full swing. Please join us in fighting for health care by taking action. We must push Congress to enact health



*Ashli Bolden, Julie Terbrock, Adam Seehaver, Keith Tubbs, Claudia Netter,  
and Jason Federow stand up for health care for all!*



*Keith Tubbs and Ashli Bolden helped citizens contact Senator Claire McCaskill's office to keep health care in the federal budget using the SEIU predictive dialer.*

care reform that includes a choice for a public health insurance plan. We must call Congress at critical moments in the legislative process, write letters to the editor, go to town hall meetings with our elected officials, and do whatever is necessary to win quality, affordable health care for all.

If you haven't already signed up for the Health Care for America Now campaign, go to [www.missouriprovote.org](http://www.missouriprovote.org) and sign up today!

## Passing the Torch by Joan Suarez



My level of excitement has been increasing as the date for Julie Burkhart to begin her new role as Executive Director of Missouri ProVote has moved closer and closer!

Julie Burkhart is pro-active. Even though she has not officially started as I write this, she's already helped Pro-Vote construct a grant proposal. She drove from Wichita to Kansas City to meet Pro-Vote's KC Board members at a monthly meeting. While she was there, she participated in a Focus Group—a joint project between Pro-Vote and one of our newest affiliates, the Missouri Women's Coalition. There, we listened to progressive women who have run for elected office discuss lessons learned from their campaign experience that will help future progressive candidates. She is working her way through stacks of information to familiarize herself with the programs and day-to-day operations of Pro-Vote. Julie's head start demonstrates to me her dedication and determination to win!

My six months as Pro-Vote's Interim Director has been so rewarding for me personally. It has been my pleasure to work with the Pro-Vote staff. Julie Burkhart is inheriting a truly great staff committed to Pro-Vote's mission.

Our primary focus, once past the November election, has been federal health care reform. As the Missouri Lead Partner for the nationally coordinated effort Health Care For America NOW campaign, we are building support for the principles of quality, affordable health care for all. Pro-Vote is moving the progressive community to ACTION on these principles, which includes an absolute imperative for a choice of a public health insurance plan as part of any health care reform.

We are now launching new initiatives in regard to the federal budget. You will be hearing about those initiatives in detail soon. And we haven't forgotten about 2010—the search for progressive candidates to run for the Missouri Legislature is well underway. If you or someone you know is interested in running for the Legislature, please contact the nearest Pro-Vote office or Julie Burkhart at 314-531-2288.

Our staff has been awesome on all of these projects. But we could not have done it without the continued support of all of you. **I know we can count on all of you to give our new Executive Director a strong welcome and continued support. If you are not already a monthly sustaining donor, please join up today! By making a \$20 per month gift, you are helping to bring the dream of quality, affordable health care for all come true.**



*Claudia Netter,  
Communications, Clerical, and Data*

## Pro-Vote Proudly Welcomes New Staff Claudia Netter & Keith Tubbs

In January of 2009, both Keith and Claudia got underway as full-time Pro-Vote Staff.

Keith Tubbs, formerly working with the SEIU MO/KS State Council, is a great addition to the Pro-Vote team. His proven organizing skills and talents are a strong addition to the St Louis region.

For Claudia Netter, the 2008 elections changed everything. Previously working in the for-profit sector, Claudia sought more rewarding work and began at Pro-Vote in the 2008 voter registration program. Now, she is working every day to make a difference by bringing change in our communities!



*Keith Tubbs, St Louis Regional Organizer*

### Pro-Vote Staff

Julie Burkhart — *Executive Director*  
Marshall Rowland — *Internal Director*  
Julie Terbrock — *Program Director*  
Ashli Bolden — *Civic Engagement Cord,*  
Kay Mills — *Spfd Regional Organizer*  
Jane Whitesides — *MidMO Regional Organizer*  
Mindy Brissey — *KC Regional Organizer*  
Keith Tubbs — *STL Regional Organizer*  
Claudia Netter — *Comm., Clerical, & Data*  
Adam Seehaver — *STL Practicum Student*  
Kate Upshur — *STL Practicum Student*  
Jamie Finkelstein — *MidMO Intern*  
Raghvendra Singh — *KC Intern*  
Joan Suarez — *Consultant*

# Pro-Vote in the News



“Think flood wall construction, traffic lights, bicycle greenways, northern riverfront development, business park additions and more. Members representing **Missouri ProVote**, ACORN and Jobs with Justice all stood at a press conference Thursday to urge quick action on Obama’s economic stimulus proposal...”

STLtoday.com December 19, 2008.

\* \* \*

“However, Mindy Brissey, Kansas City regional organizer for the **Missouri Progressive Vote Coalition (Missouri Pro-Vote)**, says the state can’t wait much longer for health care reform. To that end, she says, McCaskill’s support is important. “We’re really happy that she has joined the campaign, since our current health care system is broken. It is crucial that there’s some immediate action taken, before more people are affected by this.”

Missouri Public News Service, December 23, 2008

\* \* \*

“Rallies across Missouri this week are calling for quick action on national economic recovery efforts. Joan Suarez with **Missouri Pro-Vote** says people are losing jobs, homes and health coverage every single day, and it’s time for Missourians to let their voices be heard. She hopes Congress will quickly act on a “people’s bailout” to fund so-called “shovel-ready” projects.”

Missouri Public News Service, January 6, 2009

\* \* \*

“Opponents of the \$819 billion dollar package claim the bill includes everything on the big-government wish list and nothing that would actually stimulate economic growth. But **Missouri Pro-Vote**, which is working to rally support for the package, says that if it is passed, benefit checks would keep coming to the unemployed, with an extra \$25 a week, and a family of four on food stamps could find up to \$79 more a month on their government-issued debit card.”

Missouri Public News Service, February 2, 2009

\* \* \*

“Ashley Bolden and Laderic McDonald were just two of thousands of Americans taking part in protests in 35 states. A group of protesters from SEIU Local 1, Jobs with Justice, and **Missouri Pro-Vote** and St. Louis Workers and Concerned Citizens gathered at the downtown offices of Bank of America to voice rebellion against CEO and corporate greed.”

St. Louis American, March 26-April 1, 2009.

## Fund Pro-Vote in our Monthly Giving Program

Please donate today by joining our monthly givers in the Sustainer’s program. The reply envelope is enclosed, email [statewide@missouriprovote.org](mailto:statewide@missouriprovote.org), or call your local Pro-Vote office. Your financial support of Pro-Vote is essential to turn Missouri into the progressive state we know she wants to be!

## Leave a Legacy!

Each of us have supported progressive causes throughout our lives, but know the struggle will not be over in our lifetime. By creating a legacy through a bequest in your will to the charity of your choice, you can ensure others will be able to continue the fight.

Contact Pro-Vote at 314-531-2288 for information to simplify creating your legacy. Please consult your financial advisor and attorney before finalizing any arrangement.

**Missouri Progressive Vote Coalition (Pro-Vote)** moves Missouri forward by fighting the extremist right-wing agenda through issue advocacy, voter mobilization, and progressive electoral strategies in coalition with unions and community groups and the grassroots.

[www.MissouriProVote.Org](http://www.MissouriProVote.Org)

### Springfield Office

305 E Walnut St, Ste 309C  
Springfield, MO 65803  
(417) 873-9943  
[swmo@missouriprovote.org](mailto:swmo@missouriprovote.org)

### Kansas City Office

4224 S Hocker Dr #260  
Independence, MO 64055  
(816) 753-3044  
[kc@missouriprovote.org](mailto:kc@missouriprovote.org)

### Mid Mo Office

611 N. Garth Ave  
Columbia, MO 65203  
(573) 256-7701  
[midmo@missouriprovote.org](mailto:midmo@missouriprovote.org)

### Statewide & St. Louis Office

5585 Pershing, Suite 150  
St. Louis, MO 63112  
(314) 531-2288  
[statewide@missouriprovote.org](mailto:statewide@missouriprovote.org)  
[stl@missouriprovote.org](mailto:stl@missouriprovote.org)

ACORN—AFSCME Council  
72—AFT Local 420  
Americans for Dem. Action  
CWA District 6—CWA  
6355— Democracy for Missouri Freedom Inc. —KC  
Fed. of Teachers Local 691  
Laborers Local 663—Loretto  
Women’s Network—MFT—  
MidMO Labor Club—  
Missouri Women’s Coalition  
— Missouri Women’s Leadership Coalition— Missouri  
NEA — NARAL Pro-choice  
MO — NOW— PROMO —  
SEIU MO/KS State Council—  
SEIU Local 2000 —  
Teamsters J.C. 13 DRIVE &  
Local 245— UAW Region  
5—UFCW Dist Local 2—  
UNITE-HERE! —United  
Steelworkers District 11—  
Women’s Political Caucuses  
in St Louis & Kansas City



**5585 Pershing, Suite 150  
St. Louis, MO 63112  
www.MissouriProVote.org**

Address Service Requested



*On January 23, 2009, President of CWA 6355 Bradley Harmon rallies the crowd calling for Jobs and Economic Recovery Now! On Feb 17, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into Law!*

## No Public Comments Allowed on Dangerous Photo ID Bill

A Photo ID Bill, HJR9 (R-Cox), was drastically amended and passed out of committee on April 7. Democrats requested that Chairman Deeken (R-114) hear the new version and allow for public testimony, but he refused.



“It is disturbing that the majority of this committee has made it their legislative priority to push forth restrictive measures that make it harder for people to vote, instead of working to solve the real challenges that Missouri families currently face,” said Bob Quinn, a spokesman for the Missourians for Fair elections coalition. “Over the past several years, tens of thousands of Missourians have already lost their jobs and their healthcare; with passage of this measure, they could lose their constitutional right to vote too.”

Without rapid action, this may be on the ballot in August. Call your Senator or Representative today at 573-751-2151. Tell them “Just say no to photo voter ID.”

## Why We Need the Employee Free Choice Act Now!

America’s working people are struggling to make ends meet while our middle class is disappearing. Unionizing is the best way working people can win better wages and benefits — workers who belong to unions earn 29 percent more than nonunion workers.

The current system for forming unions is broken. Corporations deny employees the freedom to unionize and to bargain for a better life. They routinely intimidate, harass, coerce and even fire people who try to organize unions!

The Employee Free Choice Act, which has bipartisan support in Congress, would level the playing field for employees and employers.



Call your U.S. Senators and Congressperson at 202-224-3121 and tell them, “I support the Employee Free Choice Act!”