

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 2

Implementing the Executive Council's March 2005 Statement on Building a Unified Labor Movement: Creating Effective State and Local Labor Councils

Submitted by AFL-CIO Executive Council

In March 2005, following a joint meeting between the Committee on State and Local Strategies and leaders of state and local central bodies, the Executive Council adopted a statement based largely upon the proposals and recommendations from the joint meeting that called for an expanded and accelerated effort to strengthen state and local central bodies. The statement recognized the critically important role these organizations play in carrying out and supporting the labor movement's political, legislative and organizing programs, and it reiterated the need for unified, coordinated, effective, accountable and well-resourced organizations at the state and local levels. The statement calls on the federation to establish state-by-state strategic planning and budgeting processes through which state and local labor movements will coordinate and integrate their work and ensure their work reflects the priorities and needs of the federation and its affiliated unions. The statement further calls on the federation to hold state and local central bodies accountable for their performance and to develop mechanisms to ensure full support from affiliated unions for state and local organizations that are fulfilling these responsibilities.

The proposed constitutional amendment builds upon existing constitutional language giving the

Executive Council authority to adopt programs, rules and procedures governing state and local central bodies. The amendment reinforces the central principles expressed in the Executive Council statement and authorizes the Executive Council to adopt such measures as it deems necessary or advisable to implement them. These principles include the federation's policy of full participation and fair affiliation of local unions to state and local central bodies; the need for coordination and integration of state and local central body activities with each other and with the programs and priorities of the federation and its affiliated unions; and the expectation of effective performance by these organizations (and consequences for underperformance).

The amendment also directs the president to establish advisory committees of state federations and of area and local labor councils. The amendment would formally establish in the Constitution mechanisms for consultation that the federation has, until now, conducted informally through various means.

Therefore, the Executive Council proposes the following amendments to Article XIV:

A. Amend Article XIV, Section 2(c) to read as follows:

The Executive Council is authorized to establish such programs, rules and procedures as it deems necessary or advisable to **implement the Federation's policy of** ~~achieve the goal of~~ full participation and fair affiliation of local unions to central labor bodies and **to achieve broad support for these organizations from local unions within their jurisdiction. The Executive Council is further authorized to establish such programs, rules and procedures as it deems necessary or advisable** to ensure **effective performance by central labor bodies and** coordination and integration of central labor body activities with **each other and with** the programs **and priorities** of the AFL-CIO and affiliated national and international unions. The Executive Council is further authorized to modify or phase out the program contained in Section 2(b) of

this Article as part of any program, rule or procedure adopted under this Section.

B. Amend Article XIV, Section 2 by moving the last sentence of Section 2(c) ("The Executive Council shall also issue rules governing the creation and merger of central labor bodies.") to the last sentence of Section 1.

C. Add a new Section 5 as follows:

The President shall establish an advisory committee comprised of representatives of state central bodies and an advisory committee comprised of representatives of area and local central bodies, which shall meet upon the call of the President at least twice each year at a time and place designated by the President.