Texas AFL-CIO Announces New Hires

In a move to broaden advocacy for working people in Texas, the Texas AFL-CIO announced it has hired Jeff Rotkoff as Campaigns Director.

"In a campaign cycle that is already testing how far national and Texas politics can move rightward, the Texas AFL-CIO and our allies offer an alternative vision that focuses on building better lives for working people and pursuing a Raising Wages Agenda," Texas AFL-CIO President John Patrick said. "Jeff Rotkoff will add a proven strong voice to our political program and begin the process of renewing our state's fundamental priorities so we can help build a better future for all working families, not just a privileged few."

Patrick said the hire underscores the central importance of legislation and politics to working families and the commitment of the Texas AFL-CIO to advance the interests of working families.

"We believe Texans want a different discussion of the future of Texas, one that places heavier emphasis on universal access to education, health care, infrastructure and other basic priorities," Patrick said. "We are delighted to work with Jeff Rotkoff, who brings demonstrated talent and tenacity to the state labor federation."

Most recently, Rotkoff worked for Houston progressive donors Amber and Steve Mostyn, where he helped execute a successful Harris County political effort in 2012. He also helped elect Sen. Sylvia Garcia in 2013. As a political consultant, he has worked for an array of clients, focusing on legislative and occasionally congressional races. Rotkoff advised Texas House candidates in every major Texas community on ways to maximize their chances at the polls. A University of Texas graduate, Rotkoff is married to Neesha Davé. They have fraternal twins, a boy and a girl.

"I am honored and humbled to join the Texas AFL-CIO in the movement to bring political power and economic opportunity to every Texas family," Rotkoff said. "As the Houston Mayor's race just proved, working people can be a mighty army helping to elect candidates who will fight for a Raising Wages agenda. I'm ready to get to work."

The state labor federation also announced that it has hired Kara Sheehan to serve as Field Organizer.

A Missouri native, Sheehan comes to the Texas AFL-CIO after stints as a Workers' Rights Organizer at the Workers Defense Project, a canvasser with Clean Water Action and a Legal Assistant in a law firm that specializes in immigration issues. She has also worked with Austin City Councilman Greg Casar. Sheehan graduated from St. Louis University in 2012 with a B.A. in Anthropology and International Studies.

The Texas AFL-CIO is a state labor federation consisting of 235,000 affiliated union members who advocate for working people in Texas.