

## **Five Items Of ESP Interest – 2/4/12**

### **Item 1**

#### **Have you checked out Education Votes today?**

Please do at <http://www.educationvotes.nea.org/> and check out the featured video with the story of Robert Sanchez, head custodian at Central High School in Pueblo, CO. He talks about the difference he makes on the job for the school and in the lives of students.

### **ITEM 2**

#### **Just in time for this weekend's Superbowl festivities. . .**

Indiana pols taint the Super Bowl and pass yet another anti-worker law.

"Ignoring the voices of tens of thousands of workers and their families, the will of the majority of Hoosier voters, newspaper editorial boards, and even the union representing professional football players, Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels signed a "right to work" law Wednesday, February 1, that will take [\\$1,500](#) out of the pocket of the average Hoosier worker."

<http://www.educationvotes.nea.org/2012/02/02/indiana-politicians-taint-super-bowl-pass-anti-worker-law/>

### **ITEM 3**

#### **While we are on the subject...**

another view from the Economic Policy Institute with more background about what the anti-labor crowd is doing to workers.

#### **[Super Bowl Sunday not just about football](#)**

<http://www.epi.org/publication/right-to-work-research/>

### **ITEM 4**

#### **WORKERS' RIGHTS UNDER ATTACK AGAIN!**

Today, the House passed legislation to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration that includes anti-worker, anti-union provisions inserted at the last minute. [See](#) how your Representative voted. The provisions in question, which include voter suppression tactics and allowances for wholesale decertification of unions, would be devastating to workers' rights and labor relations. The Senate is expected to vote on the bill on Monday, February 6. [Read NEA's letter](#) to the House.

**Take Action Today!** [Tell your Senators](#) to oppose the FAA bill if the anti-worker provisions remain.

## ITEM 5

### **Sometimes it helps to see the wider picture...**

and the work of the national network of organizations who keep an eye on the doings of private companies – especially when it comes to the subject of privatization of public services – are worth a look. In the coming battles we face, we need all the information we can get to inform our work and help educate our communities. The following is from a blog by Donald Cohen, founder and executive director of [In the Public Interest](#), a national resource center on privatization and responsible contracting.

#### [The Privatization of Public Services, State by State](#)

It seems there's no public service or piece of property that private companies are not eyeing as potential revenue streams. While funding anti-government think tanks like the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), companies like Corrections Corporation of America, Waste Management, Maximus, Intuit, Laidlaw, Northrup Grumman, Koch Companies, Macquarie Capital Advisers, Pinnacle West, and UnitedHealthcare are hoping to use government as their candy store.

They want to take over our roads, bridges, parking lots, water systems, college dorms, and prisons. And they want to deliver public services like transit systems, school cafeterias, [trash and recycling](#) pick up, mental health services and many others. The following is a quick scan of just some of the proposals.

#### **Water**

The Emergency manager of Flint, Mich., is considering selling off its [water and sewer systems](#) to the highest bidder. The systems are currently generating revenues for the city.

Long Island's Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano's proposal is proposing to privatize the county's [sewage](#) treatment system. Mangano also announced the privatization of [Long Island Bus company to Veolia Transportation](#).

The Texas Lower Colorado River Authority is **selling** 18 retail water and wastewater systems in the Hill Country and in its southeast service area to [Canada-based] Corix Infrastructure.

### **Schools**

School districts across the country are planning to contract out custodial, clerical, cafeteria and bus services. In Michigan, home to the right-wing, privatization think tank, the Mackinac Center, lots of school districts are moving forward with plans including **Muskegon Heights, West Branch-Rose City, Rochester** districts. The real estate industry, seeing potential profits from the growth in **charter schools**, wants in. One company, Entertainment Properties, a real estate investment trust, primarily a movie theater landlord, now owns 34 charter-school properties and sees "a huge capacity to grow."

### **Prisons**

The Florida Senate failed to vote on **a controversial proposal** to private prisons in South Florida. A labor community coalition including **AFSCME**, Teamsters, the Justice Policy Center, Grassroots Leaders and the Police Benevolent Association mobilized members and press opposition. Perhaps the Gainesville businessmen who were sentenced to federal prison for paying kickbacks to the former secretary of the state department of corrections official **after the prison canteens system was privatized** had an impact.