



NEWSLINE

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9to5 is building a movement to achieve economic justice, by engaging directly affected women to improve working conditions.

Election Connection

Every vote counts! It's critical that we make our voices heard this election cycle because the issues that are important to us are at stake. Remember, when you vote, you are voting for your values: family supporting jobs with decent wages, paid sick days and stronger protections against workplace discrimination. Visit our website for information, or email activist@9to5.org or call (800) 669-0769 for more details.

9to5's Day of Action Engages Thousands

In celebration of Women's Equality Day on August 26, 9to5 rallied its members and allies in its most successful National Day of Action registering voters and urging them to ask their candidates to support paid sick days.

Pushing for paid sick days, 9to5 activists in 19 cities across the country participated in roundtables, outreach events and canvasses collecting hundreds of pledge cards and voter registrations.

"Securing paid sick days isn't just a women's issue, it affects everyone," says Andrew Ritchie, 9to5 Movement Builder from Miami. "I want to bring awareness to the struggles of working families. The 9to5 Day of Action is essential because it helps hold candidates accountable to their constituents."

In addition to Miami, 18 cities participated in 9to5's Day of Action including: Asheville, NC; Atlanta, GA; Attelboro, MA; Cleveland, OH; Commack, NY; Denver, CO; Detroit, MI; Eau Claire, WI; Houston, TX; Los Angeles, CA;

Millen, GA; Milwaukee, WI; Phoenix, AZ; Portland, OR; Rockville, MD; San Jose, CA; Sacramento, CA; and Washington, D.C.

Don't see your city listed? Join our national movement by getting active with a local 9to5 chapter or our Action Network. Email activist@9to5.org or call (800) 669-0769 to get started today.



CLEVELAND

9to5 members in Cleveland, Ohio, organized a meeting and led outreach by talking to people in the neighborhood about paid sick days. The group collected over 25 pledge cards to vote for candidates who support paid sick days!



ATLANTA

Nicole Corley and her son Jalen joined other Atlanta activists to register voters and talk to them about the need for flexible family leave. In one hour they collected 21 voter registration cards and 41 commitments to vote.



LOS ANGELES

The 9to5 Los Angeles chapter held a vigorous canvass, taking advantage of the crowds at the weekly Farmers Market in downtown Los Angeles. Eleven members collected 37 Paid Sick Days commitment cards and registered 14 voters.

Donating to 9to5, I Can Change the World

By Sarah Maxwell

Women's issues and rights are very important to me as a working woman. I have dedicated my professional career to working with women and families to help them achieve stability, economic opportunity and independence. I have seen personally and professionally the value, intelligence and hard work that women bring to the workplace every day. Through my donations to 9to5, I am able to support an organization that advances a cause that I deeply believe in. And I can help promote their critical efforts and work they do to

ensure that women are treated as equals and are recognized for their valuable contributions in the workplace.

I give to 9to5 through workplace giving because it is easy. Because the funds are taken incrementally over the year out of each of my paychecks, I am able to give what I want instead of what my budget dictates at the time.

Giving through a workplace campaign gives me, as a donor, the satisfaction and pleasure of knowing that every time I get paid—I get to change the world just a little bit.



Sarah Maxwell, a member of 9to5, resides in Colorado.

Dear Helpline

I couldn't vote in the primary election because of my work schedule. Between getting kids to school, commuting by bus and my regular work hours, I can't get to the polls by 7pm. Does my employer have to give me time off to vote?

There are many ways to make sure that your vote is counted in November—vote by mail (absentee ballot), early voting and requesting time off on Election Day. Voting methods and regulations vary by state. Many states require employers to provide paid time off, if the polls are not open two hours before or after your shift.

You can find early voting dates and locations, vote by mail ballot request forms and deadlines for your state on a League of Women Voters website: www.vote411.org.

Take Action: Hard Work Deserves Fair Pay

9to5 member Adrea Pate knows how difficult it is to raise a family making minimum wage. Adrea was hired to work for \$7.25 an hour for 40 hours a week at a chain restaurant. After her training, her hours were reduced. "Earning less than \$14,000 a year makes it nearly impossible to pay my bills and put food on the table for my two kids, let alone save for our future. We should raise the minimum wage so families like mine can make it."

In July U.S. Rep. George Miller and U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin introduced bills to raise

pay for more than 28 million Americans. The Fair Minimum Wage Act would:

- **Raise the federal minimum wage** from \$7.25 to \$9.80 per hour by 2014.
- **Establish automatic annual increases** to the rate to keep pace with the rising cost of living – known as indexing.
- **Raise the minimum wage of tipped workers** from \$2.13 per hour to 70 percent of the regular minimum wage.

Increasing the minimum wage to \$9.80

per hour would mean more than \$5,000 in additional earnings each year for a full-time working mother, enough to lift her family out of poverty.

TAKE ACTION now to support the Fair Minimum Wage Act. Go to www.9to5.org and click on Action Alerts (right hand column) for more information.



Election Connection: Working Women Have Power!

2012 will be a historic election year for many reasons. Important issues that include maintaining the Affordable Care Act and increasing the minimum wage are at stake. Representing more than half of the electorate, women will

be a powerful force this election year. To help ensure that the voices of low-wage women are heard, 9to5 has been organizing voters. Here's what you can do:



- **Register to vote.** While you're at it, register five working women in your workplace or neighborhood.
- **Vote!** The simple act of voting is one of the most empowering actions you can take.
- **Contact 9to5 for a free copy of the 2012 Voter Guide.** This guide can help you track where the candidates stand.

Take action now and be a part of 9to5's Election Connection to help ensure that working women and their families, and people of color have the opportunity to vote on values that are important to us: work-family flexibility, equal opportunity, family supporting jobs and an end to poverty.

Over 100 community members gathered on August, 27, 2012, in Milwaukee, to turn the tables on candidates running for state Assembly in Wisconsin. 9to5 hosted a candidate briefing where 9to5 members and other voters shared their experiences around work, family and solutions to end poverty in their community. The seven candidates listened and responded at the end.



The City of Colorado Springs held a special election on August 28, which included a ballot initiative regarding the future of the Memorial Hospital. Since this was a special election and voting only occurred through mail-in ballots, 9to5 wanted to ensure voters knew about the election and had received their ballots. Volunteers knocked on hundreds of doors, spoke with voters about the initiative on the ballot and made certain that everyone got their ballot turned in on time.

Why Do I Vote?



"I vote because it is my right as a woman of color. It's my obligation as a citizen, and my parental commitment to model the expectations I have set for my children."

~ 9to5 Colorado member Dawn Marquante.



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9to5 Bay Area Leaders Win Rights for Workers

In northern California, 400 employees working for Santa Clara County as dependent contractors were being deprived of their rights. Misclassified as contractors, these employees were denied union representation, job security, health insurance and paid time-off.

Since 2009, these dependent contractors have been organizing with 9to5 Bay Area for their rights to basic labor standards.

Taking on the risks of retaliation, 9to5 leaders worked tirelessly for change, maintaining a persistent pressure on county, union and



Members petitioned the county government, alerted state and federal regulatory agencies, held press conferences, collected pledges, met with legal teams, and organized several "know your rights" programs on wage theft.

political leaders, and never turned back. We can now report some good news:

- **The County Board of Supervisors** has agreed to end the use of dependent contractors in the Mental Health Department.
- **The Mental Health Department** has now created and filled 20 permanent positions with workers who were previously doing the work as non-benefitted dependent contractors.
- **Dependent contractors whose annual contracts were not renewed** have been informed by 9to5 of their rights and have received unemployment benefits.

We are grateful to 9to5's project organizer, Evelyn Gutierrez and our allies—Equal Rights Advocates of San Francisco, the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center, SEIU Local 521, members of the county Mental Health Advisory Board, and our generous funders: Resist, Inc; Unitarian Universalist Funding Program; and Self-Development of People Fund.

Fall for Workplace Giving

Through workplace giving, you can support 9to5 with a one-time donation at work or with regular deductions from your paycheck. Many companies offer giving programs as a way for employees to connect with the causes they value. Your employer may even match your gift. If your employer does not yet offer workplace giving, ask your human resources manager how you can help start a program. Call (800) 669-0769, ext. 5 for more information.

Join 9to5: the organization that works around the clock for your rights as a working woman. Members receive discounts on our publications and invitations to leadership trainings, plus the 9to5 Newline. To become a member, please visit www.9to5.org/join.

Want to contact us? Call our Job Survival Helpline at (800) 522-0925 or email helpline@9to5.org



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