



Labor & Employment Issues Client Alert

Pitta LLP
For Clients
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**“We believe in the ideas of family, mutuality,
the sharing of benefits and burdens
for the good of all, feeling one another’s pain,
sharing one another’s blessing
recognizing that at the heart of the matter
we are bound to each other.”**

-Mario M. Cuomo-

ORGANIZED LABOR LOBBY FOR ELECTRONIC NLRB ELECTIONS

On May 6, 2020 led by the AFL-CIO, a coalition of labor unions asked congressional leaders to correct a past mistake and direct the National Labor Relations Board (“NLRB”) to conduct unions elections electronically. Labor leaders asked that this correction in the law be included in a future COVID-19 economic relief bill.

The coalition of unions included Service Employees International Union, Food and Commercial Workers and eleven other labor organizations. The unions along with the AFL-CIO sent a letter to congressional leaders seeking a change in NLRB election procedures. The letter stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has made it more important than ever for workers to organize, however the crisis has made it “extraordinarily difficult.”

The unions also stated that it made no sense to deny workers an opportunity to hold elections electronically given the circumstances considering that the National Mediation Board, which was established by the Railway Labor Act has held representation elections electronically for over a decade.

This potential change to NLRB election procedures has wide support in congress. This past April a bipartisan coalition of 168 members of congress led by Congressman Andy Levin (D-Mich.) and Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa) asked congressional leaders to include a provision to permit the NLRB to hold electronic elections in future COVID-19 legislation.

FORMER GOOGLE CEO TO LEAD STATE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO IMPROVE TELEHEALTH AND BROADBAND ACCESS AND MAYOR UNVEILS SECTOR REGIONAL COUNCILS

On May 6, 2020 Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that former Google CEO Eric Schmidt will lead a 15-member blue ribbon commission to help integrate the best practices that the state has learned during the COVID-19 pandemic and combine that knowledge with new technologies to improve telehealth and access to broadband. Governor Cuomo said that “we’re working with some of the nation’s great business leaders to ensure we are thinking outside the box and improving and modernizing our systems for the future.”

Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the appointments to the following Sector Advisory Councils: Labor and Workforce; Small Business; and Arts, Culture, and Entertainment Sector Advisory Councils. The Councils will help the de Blasio administration establish guidance and protocols to reopen the economy.

The Mayor will be making announcements to the following Councils in the coming days: Faith, Construction and Real Estate, Non-Profits and Social Services, Public Health and Healthcare, Education and Vocational Training, and Surface Transportation. Deputy Mayors Vicki Been and Laura Anglin have been picked to lead the de Blasio administration's real estate and construction advisory council on reopening the City's economy.

Mayor de Blasio said “these Sector Advisory Councils will provide the insight we need to successfully open our city back up and protect our people.” This is a link to a press release with a list of the people that will serve in the various councils: <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/326-20/mayor-de-blasio-appoints-members-sector-advisory-councils>.

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