

LA City Election Update

SEIU 721 members showed their strength and commitment to the City of Los Angeles in last week's municipal elections.

I'm proud to say that all SEIU 721 endorsed candidates won their elections or moved on to run-offs.

This is a tremendous victory for our members. And it demonstrates that all the hard work they did, from making endorsement decisions to participating in phone banks and precinct walks can make the difference.

The one campaign that did not succeed was Los Angeles City Measure A (sales tax), which failed to gain the necessary support.

The day after the election, SEIU 721 members took another bold step and endorsed Wendy Greuel for LA Mayor. I was proud to be flanked by my colleagues from the City as I announced our endorsement at a press event covered by dozens of TV, radio and print outlets.

As I told the press, SEIU 721 members decided to endorse Wendy because Wendy knows that members of SEIU 721 and the Coalition of LA City Unions kept the city going during the last budget crisis by agreeing to a package that saved the city \$850 million. In these times, we need is a mayor who is willing to open her door and listen. That mayor is Wendy Greuel.



You can see media coverage from the event as well as list of all the candidates we supported on our website at www.seiu721.org

Do you want to volunteer to support candidates in the runoffs? Contact Devin Osiri at (213) 368-8623.

Sincerely,

Bob Schoonover
SEIU 721 President and LA City Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic
I'd like to hear what you think. Send me an email at presidentschoonover@seiu721.org



Representing Our Membership News From Around the Local

Courts in Crisis

Under a cost-saving plan recently put forth, eight LA County courthouses that serve our community and employ our members will be closed. The plan will lead to layoffs, long lines, higher costs and more fees—all of which will hurt middle class people the hardest. A Superior Court spokesperson recently acknowledged that "it may be difficult to have all cases heard within statutory time limits."

This plan is bad for courts and bad for our communities. I urge you to join us at a rally to save our courts in downtown LA on March 14 at 11 a.m. You can find more information about the struggle to keep justice in our communities on our website.

Ventura Staffing Victories

Members across Ventura County are overworked because their worksites are understaffed. So they decided to do something about it.

First, SEIU 721 social worker members told the Board of Supervisors about their high caseloads, the increasing complexity of cases and the need for a safer work environment. As a result, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of 20 new social workers in the County.

Continued on page 2

Then SEIU 721 members worked diligently on the County of Ventura Human Services Agency Workload Committee and lobbied the state Exchange Board to support eligibility workers. That hard work paid off with the County Board of Supervisors unanimously approving 61 new Human Services Agency positions.

Make no mistake about this: change is happening because SEIU 721 members are speaking up with a united voice. Our bargaining slogan is not only catchy, it's true: Ventura County Works Because We Do.

Bargaining Begins in Riverside

Contract bargaining in the City of Riverside began on March 7. In preparation for contract negotiations, the SEIU 721 City of Riverside bargaining team has been hard at work reviewing member's contract surveys, conducting worksite visits, and refining bargaining proposals. Based on feedback from member surveys, the top priorities of the team will be:

- maintaining retirement security
- safeguarding healthcare benefits
- meeting the challenges of a new state pension reform laws

In the past, the bargaining team has been able to prevent cuts to wages, benefits and CalPERS retirement through member involvement and support. Now is the time for all Riverside City members to unite and support one another.

Gold Coast Transit Victory

SEIU 721 members at Gold Coast Transit will soon see more money in their paychecks.

That's because the GCT Board voted on Feb. 6 to approve an amendment to the existing Memorandum of Understanding calling for GCT to pay a higher percentage of health benefit costs.

"We think this proposal is reasonable and that it is evidence that we are here to work together in this partnership," SEIU 721 Bargaining Team member Roger Stephens told the Board.

Continued on page 3



LA County Bargaining Update

In preparation for bargaining, LA County members have elected their bargaining committee. You can see all the names on our website at www.seiu721.org.

Don't forget!

**Rally for Raises!
Tuesday, April 16
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

(Buses leave work sites at 9 a.m.)



We've just learned that SEIU International President Mary Kay Henry will attend.

Election Post-Script: Hail to Our Retirees



Members of the Retirees Committee get out the vote for LA City Council candidate Curren Price.

SEIU 721 retirees have consistently been among the most ardent supporters of SEIU 721-backed candidates during the most recent election cycles. Seniors, who operate in conjunction with our Retirees Committee, staff phone banks and precinct walks. They attend rallies, candidate forums and other events. Truth is, we couldn't win elections without their valuable support.

Are you a retired SEIU 721 member? Then call Deejai Young at (213) 368-8680 and sign up for the Retirees Committee.

From the Chief of Staff

Almost 1,500 members completed our Representational Excellence Survey. We're currently combing through the responses, with the goal of tailoring our representational services to the needs of our members.

If you didn't get to fill out a survey don't worry. The SEIU 721 Member Connection Committee is hosting a Representational Excellence Forum in Los Angeles on Saturday, April 6 at 9 a.m. We encourage all members to attend and tell us how to make SEIU 721 better and stronger.

Can't wait for the forum? Send me an email at chiefstaff@seiu721.org

In Unity,



About this report: The President's Report covers the President's activities in major areas spelled out in the SEIU 721 bylaws. It is presented each month to the Executive Board.



LG:dso opeiu 537, afl-cio 3/13