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Los Angeles County Workers Represented by SEIU Local 721 Succeed In Raising Up LA County With Overwhelming Ratification of 3-year Contract

2015-2018 Contract Puts Quality of LA County Public Services First Including a Commitment to a Reduction of Caseloads for Social Workers and Key Benefits to Retain Experienced Nursing Staff At Local Public Hospitals

Los Angeles, CA – After a month-long Tentative Agreement (TA) voting process, an overwhelming 99% of voting SEIU Local 721 members voted in support of the new 3-year contract with Los Angeles County. The yes vote comes as part of an ongoing campaign by public workers to Raise Up LA County by improving the quality of public services. The newly ratified 2015-2018 contract covers over 57,000 County workers who were negotiating with the County since the beginning of the year and were working without a contract since October 1st.

The contract boasts key victories targeting the recruitment and retention of experienced staff through salary adjustments in the Department of Health Services as well as directly improving the quality of services through a reduction of caseloads for Social Workers at the Department of Children and Family Services.

“The 99% have spoken! We’re extremely proud of the contract emphatically supported by the majority of our membership, our commitment to continue to raise up all of LA County brought out an unprecedented number of voters proving that together we will continue to make big things happen” said Linda Dent who for the past 35 years has worked as a Clerk for LA County. “Our agreement guarantees we can continue to provide more critical services, from the Emergency Room nurses saving lives to the caseworkers protecting the safety of children throughout the County, this contract takes big key steps in the right direction.”

The agreement also succeeds in raising up workers and their families by bringing in a 10% general raise for workers over the next 3 years, provides a pathway to permanency for “temporary” workers, guarantees a \$15/hr. minimum wage by 2018, and officially recognizes Cesar E. Chavez Day as an official holiday starting in 2017.

“As the largest employer in LA County, the County must set the bar when it comes to creating jobs that offer livable wages and stability to working families,” said Bob Schoonover, President for SEIU Local 721. “The men and women on the frontlines of providing critical services in our communities must be able to also provide for their own families, this is why we prioritized raising the lowest paid workers to \$15 and ensuring folks like our library pages had the security of a path to a permanent job.”

The agreement now heads to the LA County Board of Supervisors for final approval.

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