

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2020

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SEIU 721



**“NO MATTER WHO WINS,
WE’LL NEED TO FIGHT
LIKE HELL TO SAVE
SERVICES AND JOBS”**



**A MESSAGE FROM SEIU 721
PRESIDENT BOB SCHOONOVER**

When Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell adjourned the U.S. Senate on October 26, he doomed any chance of additional federal stimulus, abandoning millions of small business owners, workers and families desperate for support. McConnell and Senate Republicans rammed through the blitzkrieg confirmation of Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett in just 31 days. Meanwhile, it's been more than 90 days since Congress approved a stimulus bill, and state and local governments ravaged by the federal government's failed pandemic response are rapidly running out of money.

For sure, we need to vote out both Donald Trump and his enablers in Congress. But even if we are successful, we'll still need to fight like hell to save vital services and jobs. State and local government revenues will decline \$155 billion in 2020, \$167 billion in 2021, and \$145 billion in 2022, according to the Brookings Institution. Unlike the federal government, state and local governments can't deficit finance and must balance their budgets every year. The federal CARES Act helped local governments keep nurses, social workers, firefighters and essential workers on the job, but funding runs out at the end of the year.

The stakes are high for SEIU 721 members. LA County already is forecasting a \$2.5 billion deficit and the City of LA just raised next year's deficit projection to \$600 million.

Joe Biden's comments on the campaign trail suggest that he gets it. "When you lay off so many educators, janitors, and bus drivers, you not only cause them a great difficulty, but you slow the economy even further," Biden told union leaders in July. "It's in the economic interest of this country to have these jobs maintained."

Biden publicly endorsed the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions, or HEROES Act, which contained a \$90 billion stabilization fund for states and an additional \$1 billion for local governments. The HEROES bill passed the House, but McConnell and Senate Republicans made sure to doom it in the upper house.

Win, lose or draw on November 3, workers need to fight to resurrect the HEROES bill or something like it. We must extend unemployment benefits, limit evictions and foreclosures, and fund our vital front line service providers.

Bob Schoonover



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Hispanos y latinos
tienen una tasa de
hospitalización
4 veces más alta.

SANDRA BELTRAN
NURSE

Sí a la 15

SEIU 721 Olive View Registered Nurse Sandra Beltran.

SEIU 721 NURSES PUSH FOR PATIENT CARE AND WORKER SAFETY ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

SEIU LATINO CAUCUS CELEBRATES HERITAGE MONTH BY PHONING BATTLEGROUND STATES



SEIU 721 member Angel Quintanilla phoned Latino voters in swing states.

SEIU 721 registered nurses and healthcare leaders have fought tirelessly at work to keep their patients and co-workers safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many of them continue their activism in their off hours by participating in key political campaigns aimed at preserving funding for vital services and protecting patient care.

On October 8, LAC-USC Nurse Practitioner Hamida Khanmohamed represented SEIU Local 721 on a national healthcare round table with Dr. Jill Biden, moderated by SEIU President Mary Kay Henry. Hamida shared her experience working with COVID-19 patients.

Also this month, Olive View Emergency Department Registered Nurse Sandra Beltran filmed a Spanish-language commercial for Yes on Prop 15 — Schools & Communities First. Look for her on Univision and Telemundo.



With a worldwide pandemic raging in the middle of the most important election in modern history, the SEIU 721 Latino Caucus skipped a celebratory gathering in favor of phone banking battleground states.

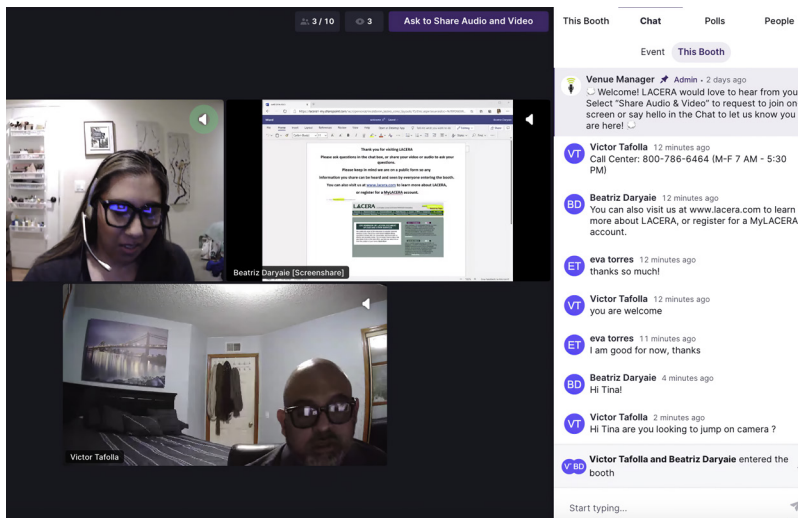
Over three October Saturdays, dozens of bilingual SEIU 721 members spoke to thousands of Latino voters in Texas and other states in support of SEIU-endorsed candidate Joe Biden.

Angel Quintanilla, an LA County Community Health Worker based in the San Fernando Valley, was motivated to phone bank for the first time in his life because of the Trump Administration's unprecedented attacks on immigrants and its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I spoke to a Texas mother of three who just three months ago lost her husband," he adds. "I felt my social work experience really came into play, and I tried to be as supportive as I could be."

This might be the first time Quintanilla phone banks for a candidate, but we suspect it won't be the last time. He plans to continue getting involved in his union and encourages his fellow members to do the same.

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SEIU 721 held virtual benefits fairs because of the pandemic.

ONLINE BENEFITS FAIRS HELP LA COUNTY WORKERS LEARN ABOUT OPTIONS DURING PANDEMIC

CITY OF HEMET CAT TEAM EDUCATES RESIDENTS ABOUT THE MISUSE OF MEASURE U FUNDS

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING FROM MEASURE U?



SEIU 721 City of Hemet members call out the misuse of Measure U funds.

This year, due to the pandemic, SEIU 721 was unable to host in-person benefits fairs at LA County worksites, so we reconfigured them to a virtual format.

We hosted seven benefits fairs throughout October during Annual Enrollment. Members were able to talk about their benefits directly with carriers and check in with a Union rep about worksite issues. LA County-sponsored benefits carriers attending were Empower (Horizons), LACERA, Kaiser, and United Healthcare. Also participating were Union Benefits Trust supplemental benefits carriers Zenith American, Dental Health Services, Optum chiropractic plans, Reliance Standard disability income plans, Trustmark

custodial care and cancer catastrophic illness plans, US Legal Services legal service plans, and Vision Service Plan. Hundreds of members participated in the benefits fairs to get information to help with their Options Annual Enrollment elections.



City of Hemet CAT team members took to the streets to educate city residents about what they say is an effort to thwart the will of Hemet voters and shortchange municipal services, like street repair and park maintenance.

On November 8, 2016, Hemet residents voted to approve Measure U, which according to ballot language was intended to fund "police protection and crime prevention services, fire prevention and suppression services, 911/paramedic services, and other general municipal services and lawful public purposes of the City."

But on August 23, 2016, the Hemet City Council passed a resolution modifying the true intent of Measure U, limiting the use of Measure U funds solely for police and fire department costs, despite ballot language that promised to use it for other purposes.

SEIU 721 members say the city council pulled an end run on Hemet voters, who in June 2016 voted to reject Measure E, a public safety-only measure. They say voters already rejected an attempt by the council to fund only public safety to the detriment of other popular services like streets and parks.

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SEIU 721 AND COALITION OF CITY UNIONS HEAD OFF LA CITY FURLONGS BY IDENTIFYING SAVINGS

LA COUNTY SUPERVISORS PASS SEIU-BACKED MOTION PROTECTING FAST FOOD WORKERS

After months of back and forth negotiations with the City of LA, SEIU 721 members secured a promise from Mayor Garcetti not to balance the city budget by laying off or furloughing the first responders, front-line workers and other heroes who kept the city running during the early days of the pandemic.

Forecasting a \$400 million shortfall, Mayor Garcetti issued a September 11 memo directing the city's personnel department to develop scenarios for layoffs and furloughs. SEIU 721 secured a no-layoff, no-

furlough agreement by agreeing to two unpaid days — one each in 2020 and 2021 — and the delay of excess sick leave cash payouts to 2022.



Responding to allegations by SEIU 721 that workers at a Boyle Heights McDonald's were fired for raising COVID-19 safety concerns, the LA County Board of Supervisors voted October 13

to investigate and examine working conditions across the fast food industry.

721 Secretary Lillian Cabral, whose son works in the industry, said the board's actions are an important step forward to protect these workers during the pandemic and beyond.

"Many people are relying on fast food restaurants for their meals because of COVID-19," she said. "And while fast food workers are essential, they have been treated by corporations as expendable. Now LA County Supervisors are taking steps to reverse this."



#PROTECTALLWORKERS



"Thank you LA County Supervisors for taking the first step to protect fast food workers."

Lillian Cabral
Secretary, SEIU 721

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Antonia Cortez fills out her ballot after becoming a U.S. citizen.

The process to become a U.S. citizen can be daunting and discourage permanent residents from fully embracing our democracy and casting their votes in elections. That's why SEIU 721 organized citizenship fairs across Ventura County to help legal residents navigate the paperwork, become American citizens and fully engage in democracy.

SEIU 721 Ventura County member Laura Galindo brought her mom, Antonia Cortez, a documented immigrant, to one of these SEIU 721 citizenship fairs. A team of experienced lawyers and a great group of seasoned volunteers and community allies helped Antonia and dozens of other legal permanent residents fill out their N-400 forms and complete and process their citizenship paperwork.

Antonia, now a U.S. citizen, just received her vote-by-mail ballot and is excited about engaging in the democratic process as an American.

When we work together, we win!

CITIZENSHIP FAIRS HELP SEIU 721 DELIVER THE AMERICAN DREAM AND NEW VOTERS TO ROLLS

SEIU 721 ALLY WINS SEAT ON SANTA BARBARA COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT BOARD



SBCERS members voted to elect our SEIU 721 member-endorsed candidate, Xiaoli Zhang-King, as the General Member of the Board of Retirement.

Xiaoli is a Senior Financial Systems Analyst with the Auditor Controller's Office and she is committed to protecting our retirement. She is currently serving on the SBCERS board after being appointed.

SBCERS oversees how our guaranteed pension funds are invested. Congratulations to all the Santa Barbara County members who helped get the word out and stood up for a secure retirement.

We are facing unprecedented challenges with this COVID-19 pandemic and we need to speak up and make our voices heard at the County level, as we did by electing Xiaoli, and also across our region and state.

CONGRATULATIONS!

**XIAOLI
ZHANG-
KING**
ELECTED AS
GENERAL
MEMBER OF THE
SBCERS BOARD



www.seiu721.org
f seiu721
@seiu721

WE DID IT!

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**LA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT WORKERS
APPROVE NEW CONTRACT BY 100% VOTE**

**SEIU 721 ADVOCACY SECURES LACTATION ROOMS
FOR MOTHERS IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

SEIU 721 Los Angeles Community College District members just unanimously ratified a strong new contract. Because of the economic downturn caused by COVID-19 and its impact on the College District's finances, the bargaining team focused its negotiation on improving working conditions and contract language. The bargaining team won several key improvements to the existing MOU, including an increased shift differential, additional differential pay for long-term employees, a new required progressive discipline policy, and several other enhancements. Congratulations to SEIU 721 Los Angeles Community College District members — Together We Win!



With COVID-19 cases rising in nearly every single state, it's more important than ever that workers advocate for a safe working environment.

When SEIU 721 Tri-Counties Regional Director Danny Carrillo and worksite organizers heard that Santa Barbara County's proposal for a staff lactation room amounted to a cubicle with a curtain and an "in-use" sign, they leapt into action.

Danny and worksite organizer Revi Levi met with county management and pointed out that men had designed the deficient lactation room. "What if it was your wife, daughter or significant other that only had use of a curtain?" they asked. In the end, SEIU 721 successfully negotiated lockable lactation rooms for mothers working in Santa Barbara County.



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MWA member texts voters urging them to vote No on Prop 22.

UBER AND LYFT DRIVERS HOLD FIVE CITY CARAVAN TO DEFEAT GIG COMPANIES' DECEPTIVE PROP 22

Nearly 250 rideshare drivers from SEIU 721's Mobile Workers Alliance and other rideshare groups hit five California cities in two days with a massive car caravan to urge voters to vote against Prop 22, the deceptive \$185 million initiative sponsored by tech giants Uber, Lyft and DoorDash.

Mobile Workers Alliance members then turned their attention to contacting voters via text, reaching an unprecedented one million California voters in just under ten hours after camping at La Placita Olvera as part of their "A Million Against Millionaires" event.

"We're here to fight for what's right," said Mike Robinson, who has driven for Lyft for five years. "In the last ten hours, we've contacted more than a million voters to let them know how disastrous Prop 22 would be, and we're going to keep up the pressure all the way to Election Day."



SEIU 721 SANITATION WORKERS BLOCK INVASIVE DRUG TESTING BLOOD DRAWS BY EMPLOYER

SEIU 721 Bargaining Unit 500 workers blocked an attempt by a contractor working for the Sanitation Districts of LA County to replace a longstanding process for alcohol and drug testing with an invasive blood test.

In September, County Sanitation notified SEIU 721 that Central Drug Systems/DISA had decided to replace urine tests with blood draws for DOT-mandated alcohol and drug screening.

Needless to say, the blue collar members of Bargaining Unit 500 were upset. Why abandon a testing protocol that has kept the department safe for 20 years and replace it with invasive blood draws during a worldwide pandemic?

SEIU 721 immediately demanded to Meet and Confer and conveyed members' strong opposition to the invasive and potentially risky policy.

Shortly after a Meet and Confer was scheduled, the Union received Notice from County Sanitation District that they will retain the existing proven testing protocol.

When we fight, we win!



SEIU 721 MEMBERS ORGANIZE FOR VICTORY IN NOVEMBER ELECTION



FROM TEXTING SWING STATES TO REGISTERING NEW VOTERS, SEIU 721 MEMBERS LEAVE IT ALL ON THE FIELD

Early voting at the Hollywood Bowl on October 30.

I'm not much of a football fan, but there's something legendary football coach Vince Lombardi said that all organizers should take to heart: "When the game's over, make sure you left it all on the field."

I am proud that, no matter the outcome of the November 3 Presidential election and all the other races in which our union has endorsed, SEIU 721 members left it all on the field. Members worked tirelessly, filling thousands of political shifts and putting millions of hand-dialed calls and texts into battleground states and dozens of districts with key federal, state and local races.

Here are just a few examples:

- SEIU 721 registered nurses appeared in ads for Yes on Prop 15 and a national health care round table with Dr. Jill Biden.
- Bi-lingual SEIU 721 Latino Caucus members phoned thousands of voters in Texas and other battleground states.
- Rideshare drivers from SEIU 721's Mobile Workers Alliance organized a five-city car caravan and phoned and texted one million California voters to defeat Uber and Lyft's deceptive Prop 22.

- Inland Area SEIU 721 members and staff worked more than 150 political shifts, phone banking and texting in favor of San Bernardino ballot measures, supervisorial candidate Joe Baca, Jr. and Riverside Assemblywoman Sabrina Cervantes.
- Tri-Counties SEIU 721 members and staff helped legal permanent residents become citizens and register to vote at citizenship fairs organized by our union in Oxnard and other cities.

Organizing efforts like ours are clearly paying off, with pundits predicting the highest voter turnout since 1908. Still, unprecedented early voting and polling place disruptions caused by the pandemic mean we might not know the outcome of every race until days after the election. And given concerns about voter suppression and post-election unrest, workers must remain vigilant to ensure that every vote is counted.

Gilda Valdez, Chief of Staff




Gilda Valdez

**Digital
Union
Voices**

To prevent furloughs and stop layoffs, we need a #Stimulus4Workers bill from Congress NOW!
To organize during quarantine, we need Digital Union Voices. Text VOICES to 31996 today!



SEIU CALIFORNIA VOTER GUIDE

SEIU members have the unique opportunity to vote on statewide initiatives that will greatly impact the lives of working families, including several that will help address structural racism in our state. Measures indicated by  are key racial justice initiatives. This November, stand for economic and racial justice and cast your vote!

STATEWIDE BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

YES on Prop 15

Prop 15 will reclaim billions every year for our schools and essential local services in EVERY county



YES on Prop 16

Reverse the state ban on equal opportunity programs to fight systemic racism



YES on Prop 17

Allow Californians who have completed their prison terms to fully participate in our democracy by restoring their right to vote.



YES on Prop 18

Allow Californians who would be old enough to vote by the November election to vote in March primary elections.



NO on Prop 20

Proposition 20 will roll back effective criminal justice reforms and waste tens of millions of taxpayer dollars on prisons.



YES on Prop 21

Proposition 21 allows our communities to limit rent increases and preserve affordable housing. It will provide stability for working Californians.



NO on Prop 22

Uber, Lyft, and DoorDash spent millions to buy themselves a ballot measure that creates a special exemption in state law to exploit workers.



YES on Prop 23

Protects dialysis clinics from closure and improves safety standards, reporting and worker protections.



YES on Prop 25

Ends money bail, a system that wastes \$5 million dollars every day by unfairly forcing people to wait in jail for their day in court—just because they can't afford to buy their freedom.



"Remember to vote your whole ballot all the way from President on down. Look for the SEIU 721 slate for your region!"

Linda Dent
Vice President, SEIU 721



"This is the most important election in generations. It's vital that all of us remember to vote by mail or in person by November 3, 2020."

David Green
Treasurer, SEIU 721