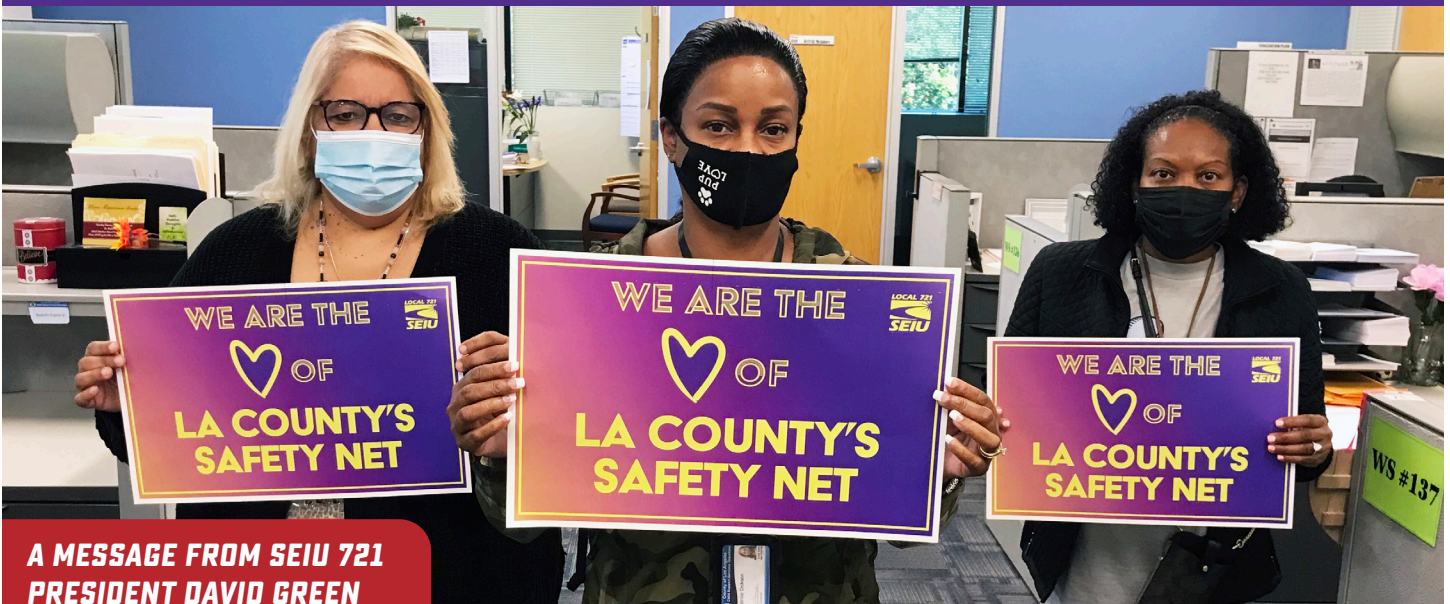


FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SEIU 721



FIGHT FOR THE FRONTLINE!



**A MESSAGE FROM SEIU 721
PRESIDENT DAVID GREEN**

Throughout the pandemic, SEIU 721 members have kept the cities and counties of Southern California working and protected vital services for millions of residents when they needed them most.

We love our work, but we're exhausted — stretched thin by short-staffing on the job and hammered at home by inflation — and its time city and county leaders had our backs. The cost of food, gas, childcare and housing is through the roof in our communities. Workers appreciate being called “heroes” in press releases, but it's time to recognize them in their paychecks.

This is the message I and other SEIU 721 leaders delivered at our recent town hall meetings with candidates for Mayor of Los Angeles, the LA County Board of Supervisors and other offices up for election next year. It's also time to deliver that message on the street, beginning with a march on the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors on March 31, which I expect will be one of the largest in the history of Labor on the West Coast.

In the words of Author Robin Sharma, “Talk is cheap, actions speak.” It's time for action.

**FIGHT FOR THE FRONTLINE
MARCH 31, 2022 ★ 10AM
HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 W. TEMPLE STREET, DTLA**

*Register by using your
smartphone camera
to scan this QR code*



SCAN ME



David Green

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIGHT FOR THE FRONTLINE MARCH ON THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**MARCH 31, 2022 ★ 10AM ★ HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 W. TEMPLE STREET, DTLA**

*Register by using your
smartphone camera
to scan this QR code*



SCAN ME

FIGHT FOR THE FRONTLINE! JOIN THE MARCH ON THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON MARCH 31!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022



Actions Show County Workers are the of Los Angeles!

LA County members showed up in big numbers from hundreds of worksites on Valentine's Day to express our love for our union — and our desire to fight hard for a strong contract in 2022.

We were everywhere throughout LA County's 4,753 square-mile service area — from the healthcare network to the public safety network, from social services to children's services, from Parks and Recreation to Beaches and Harbors, from Animal Care and Control to the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, from the TTC to ISD and beyond! (Check out our social media feeds for more images from our Valentine's Day actions.)

We've started negotiating for our new LA County contract, so we're wearing our hearts on our sleeves for our union. We've worked way too hard — before and during the pandemic — to leave anything to chance.

In 2022, we're fighting for more compensation to fight inflation, funding for full healthcare coverage, more assistance with childcare and elder care costs — and no more privatization of our good union jobs!

Just like we showed up for our Valentine's Day actions in big numbers, we must show up in the streets to FIGHT FOR THE FRONTLINE on Thurs., Mar. 31, 2022 at 10 AM outside the Hall of Administration in DTLA.

RSVP to the FIGHT FOR THE FRONTLINE at by using your smartphone camera to scan the QR code on the opposite page or visit seiu721.org. After you RSVP, make sure you put in a time-off request at your workplace. Then get pumped up for what is shaping up to be the biggest march in our union's history. Together, we win!

LA COUNTY MEMBERS SEND MASSIVE HEARTFELT MESSAGE VIA VALENTINE'S DAY ACTIONS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022

SEIU 721 TRI-COUNTIES MEMBERS **ON A ROLL**

After closing a dozen contracts last year despite the challenge of the pandemic, Tri-Counties is on a roll again — closing another 5 contracts in just the last month!



GOLD COAST TRANSIT DISTRICT

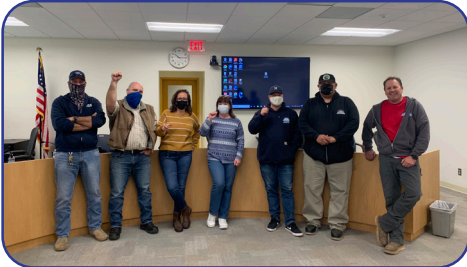
The strong new agreement includes 9.5% salary increases over the term of the contract, with an additional 3.2% for bus operators, who make up 80% of the bargaining unit. The contract also includes an increase in the employer medical contribution.



SEIU 721 Tri-Counties Regional Center

TRI-COUNTIES REGIONAL CENTER — TCRC

The new agreement boosts wages by 20% — including a 7% increase in year one. The agreement also includes a new Juneteenth holiday!



CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

The agreement increases wages by 12% over the term of the contract, including a 6% boost by July 1, 2022. The agreement also includes improvements in standby time, safety equipment and more!



LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

The agreement includes salary increases ranging from 7% to 12% wage increase for the life of the contract, with a frontloaded 4% increase effective January 1, 2022. The contract also provides \$500 for a physical fitness program.



PLEASANT VALLEY RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

After a difficult campaign, our bargaining team delivered a tentative agreement with a 6% salary increase over the term of the contract, starting with a 2% salary increase in February/March 2022, upon ratification by the district board.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022



IT'S NOW OR NEVER FOR ANTONIA JIMENEZ OF LA COUNTY DPSS

LA County DPSS members are preparing to meet again with DPSS Director Antonio Jimenez as a follow up to our December action and January face-to-face meeting, where SEIU 721 President David Green and DPSS leaders discussed several major concerns expressed by union members: micro-management, communication problems, teleworking and short-staffing.

No matter the outcome of this meeting — and no matter what happens next at the bargaining table — all of us at DPSS should be ready to flex our union power.

Antonia Jimenez is a veteran department head. She has known about our concerns for many weeks. We've made our position clear: More care, less stress, in DPSS.

It's now or never for Antonia Jimenez — no more stalling.

Either she takes our concerns seriously or we show her how serious we are — by walking off the job and marching in solidarity with our union to FIGHT FOR THE FRONTLINE on Thurs., Mar. 31 at the Hall of Administration in downtown LA for what may very well be the biggest union march in West Coast history.

In the meantime, at DPSS, our union will focus on strengthening our CAT teams. If you're interested in joining a CAT team, sent an email to Antoinette.Walker@seiu721.org for more info.



**It's time for
Antonia
Jimenez to
Deliver at DPSS**

“Our union has dealt with Antonia Jimenez in good faith. LA County DPSS Workers have legitimate grievances about micromanagement, poor communication, access to telework and short-staffing that she has promised to address. If she doesn't act, we're prepared to take it to the next level.”

**Adolfo Granados
Treasurer
SEIU 721**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022



NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATIONS AT LAX WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO OUR UNION

SAN BERNADINO MEMBERS ARE ENFORCING CONTRACTS AND RACKING UP BIG WINS



Increasing our union bargaining power at LA City means putting boots on the ground to welcome new employees into SEIU Local 721.

That's why union members Joe Martinez, Dion Cornelious, Theodore Sanchez, Felipe Ortega, and Gabriel Lopez are rolling up their sleeves and heading up the first-ever New Employee Orientation (NEO) committee at Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA).

Despite the pandemic, the NEO Committee is signing up 98% of LAWA new hires to join our union. While LAWA begins to staff up at LAX due to the recent airport expansion and early retirements, the NEO Committee will be right there to ensure they sign their union cards.

That's union power.



San Bernardino County members are using their union voice to fight for their rights beyond the bargaining table.

Workers in the San Bernardino Children and Family Services department reached a side letter with the county that provides a \$1.75 hourly differential for any time a Social Services Practitioner is assigned a night shift to take care of a children awaiting placement in the office. This provision also includes a 60-day re-opener.

Meanwhile, workers at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center righted longstanding wrongs, with both clinical therapists and lab workers winning unpaid wages all the way back to 2020.

Its not enough to bargain strong contracts, our union must also enforce them. SEIU 721 San Bernardino members are making sure that management follows the rules.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022



RIVERSIDE COUNTY LAW LIBRARY MEMBERS RATIFY STRONG NEW CONTRACT

SEIU 721 members at the Riverside County Law Library voted unanimously to ratify a strong two-year deal that increases wages and provides increased employer contributions toward healthcare coverage.

Under the new deal, the combination of raises and monthly bonuses equate to an average 27% increase over the life of the agreement and employees are still eligible for merit increases for satisfactory or greater performance on their anniversary date.

This strong contract was only possible because of the effort and dedication of our united membership. By standing together and fighting for a fair deal, we've locked in major wins.

SEIU 721 CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH FOOD DRIVE AND VIRTUAL EVENTS



SEIU 721 celebrated Black History Month with a food drive and a series of Saturday virtual events celebrating important Black leaders in Labor and government.

On February 26, our union collected non-perishable foods, like canned vegetables, peanut butter, pasta, and rice to support families struggling with food insecurity during the pandemic.

Throughout the month, SEIU's national African-American Caucus hosted virtual events, including a session honoring Vice President Kamala Harris, our nation's first Black and first woman Vice President, and featuring SEIU Executive Vice President Valarie Long.

Our union also put together a Black History Month Resource kit, titled "An Ode to Black Joy," with links to podcasts, articles, organizing guides and music from great Black thought leaders, authors, activists and artists.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022

LAC+USC Custodians Sound the Alarm

"Instead of hiring to deal with short-staffing, management is using COVID as a smokescreen to privatize our work."



Rocio Solorio, Esbeida Refugio, Jason Calixto

SEIU 721 custodians at Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center are ringing the alarm bell on increasing privatization of their jobs at the County's flagship hospital.

LAC+USC Medical Center is one of the largest public hospitals and medical training centers in the United States, and the largest single provider of healthcare in Los Angeles County.

LAC+USC also is one of the busiest public hospitals in country, treating nearly 39,000 inpatient and 1 million ambulatory patients each year. LAC+USC's Emergency Department is one of the world's busiest, with more than 150,000 visits per year. For years, SEIU 721 LAC+USC custodians have been on the frontlines of protecting patient safety, cleaning and sterilizing the Emergency Department, examination rooms, clinics and more than 600 patient rooms.

But LAC+USC custodians complain the hospital is plagued by chronic short-staffing and say that, instead of staffing up, the hospital is bringing in private janitorial corporations to perform work that should be done by County employees.

"Since the construction of the new hospital and Wellness

Center, LAC+USC management has increased the privatization of custodial services," says custodian Jason Calixto. "Now they're using the COVID-19 pandemic as a smokescreen to end-run our contract and privatize even more functions and jobs."

LAC+USC custodians say that, since the rise of the pandemic in April 2020, LAC+USC management has replaced SEIU 721 union workers with privatized workers from Culver City-based Servicon Systems in the Emergency Department and other key hospital departments. Custodians have raised the problem in testimony before health regulators and the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors.

"Instead of staffing up, LAC+USC management is using the increased workload in the ER and other departments as an excuse to push County workers aside," Calixto said.

"It's time to enforce our union contract and bargain for stronger language that protects our members' jobs and patient safety. We'll be joining the action on March 31 to make sure LAC+USC hears us!"

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022



Trained Leaders Help Members Know Their Rights

SEIU 721 "KNOW YOUR RIGHTS" WORKSHOPS WILL ARM MEMBERS WITH THE SKILLS TO LEAD

In this Month's Steward's Corner, we are announcing the launch of new general member education trainings that you can offer to your fellow members.

Not every member can be or wants to be a Shop Steward, but every member should know his or her rights at work and when to take action if they are being violated.

To meet this need, starting in March, SEIU 721 will offer regular Know Your Rights workshops for all members. The goal of the Know Your Rights training is arm to all members with the skills and knowledge to prepare you to become an effective and empowered leader in the worksite:

- What is a Union?
- What are your Rights in the Workplace?
- What's in Your Contract?
- What is "Just Cause"?
- What is a Grievance?

Use your smartphone camera to scan the QR codes on the page to register or visit seiu721.org.

Use your smartphone camera to sign up for SEIU 721 "Know Your Rights" Workshops:

**Register for
March 8, 2022
Workshop**



**Register for
May 3, 2022
Workshop**



**Register for
June 7, 2022
Workshop**



PRESIDENT'S REPORT FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022

721 Scores Big Win on Supplemental COVID-19 Pay



“Supplemental paid sick leave is a critical piece of the protection that workers need. SEIU 721 and other California unions went to the mat to make it happen.”

Bob Schoonover
Executive Director, SEIU 721

For months, SEIU 721 and labor allies across California fought for COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave for California workers. And with the passage of S.B. 114 on Feb. 7, we've won!

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the bill on Feb. 9, giving workers up to two weeks of paid leave.

Workers can use the time off to recover from a COVID-19 infection or immunization, to get vaccinated, or to care for infected family members and children who cannot attend school because of closures or isolation periods related to the virus. The law is retroactive to January 1, 2022, and remains in effect until September 30.

After Newsom and state lawmakers allowed COVID paid sick leave to expire on September 30 of last year, SEIU 721 and our labor allies demanded action. Workers fanned

out, launching lobbying and petition campaigns.

In a letter sent to Newsom in January, SEIU 721 President David Green urged the governor to do what he could to immediately reinstate COVID paid sick leave to help keep workers, families, and communities safe.

We're glad our state leaders finally listened. This common-sense move ensures that workers will have the time they need to recover from COVID-19 or help their loved ones during this difficult time.

With our advocacy, we upheld an important principle: That no one should have to choose between their paychecks and the safety of themselves, their co-workers, their families, and their communities.

We say it often, but it rings truer in moments like these: When we fight, we win.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022

Dangerous

State Health

Guidance Repealed

After SEIU 721

Healthcare Pros

Speak Out



Dr. Ileana Meza, Chair, LA County Bargaining Policy Committee

“The California Department of Public Health made the wrong call – one that threatened to put nurses, healthcare workers and the public at risk. Workers stood up, and Sacramento heard us.”

**Dr. Ileana Meza
LACBPC
SEIU 721**

After a media blitz led by SEIU 721 healthcare professionals, the California Department of Public Health on February 1 rescinded its dangerous guidance issued in January that would have permitted healthcare facilities around the state to force COVID-positive staff back to work without isolation periods or testing.

The state's move came after SEIU President David Green appealed directly to Governor Newsom and SEIU 721 nurses and healthcare workers spoke out against the health guidance at a January 11 press conference that drew dozens of newspaper and television reporters.

Under the guidelines, state health facilities facing staffing shortages were allowed to require doctors, nurses, and other workers to return to work immediately after testing positive for COVID-19 if they were asymptomatic — so long as the infected staff members wore N95 face masks.

The state's standard endangered healthcare workers and patients who would have been exposed to staff known to be infected

with COVID-19 — at a time when the County and state faces an unprecedented wave of cases because of the highly transmissible Omicron variant.

In a letter to Gov. Gavin Newsom sent on January 13, SEIU 721 President David Green objected to the new standards and called on the governor to protect healthcare workers.

“This guidance endangers healthcare workers across the state, including the thousands of nurses, clinic workers, and other frontline healthcare professionals in Southern California who are SEIU 721 members,” said Green in his letter to Newsom.

Green and SEIU 721 members also called for greater investment in recruitment and retention of healthcare staff to head off future staffing shortages. Too often, the hospitals and clinics where SEIU 721 members work are short-staffed. Instead of hiring up, administrators try to find savings by contracting out vital services to private corporations and relying on tools like nurse registries and traveling nurses.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022

SEIU 721 Members Put LA Candidates on the Hot Seat



SEIU 721 President David Green interviews Congresswoman Karen Bass, who won our union's endorsement for Mayor of Los Angeles. "Members of SEIU 721 work to make Los Angeles better every day," Congresswoman Bass said. "I'm grateful for their endorsement and will count on our city workers as partners."

SEIU 721 MEMBERS HOLD TOWN HALL INTERVIEWS WITH 2022 LA CITY AND LA COUNTY PRIMARY CANDIDATES

After weeks of member candidate town hall meetings, the SEIU Local 721 Executive Board announced our union's endorsements for the June 2022 primary election (See our full slate on the next page).

"Some 55,000 SEIU 721 members work for LA County, with another 11,000 employed by LA City," said SEIU Local 721 President David Green. "It's imperative that we use our collective voice to support candidates who advocate for working families and policies that support the people who are on the frontlines serving our communities: Elections matter."

SEIU 721's democratic COPE process allows members to interview candidates and make informed choices regarding political endorsements. Our union conducted most candidate town halls on Zoom, including some hybrid webinars with candidates interviewed live at the union's downtown LA headquarters.

The union's endorsements for Santa Barbara, Ventura, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties will be released early next month.



SEIU 721 Members question LA candidates on privatization and other key issues

“The great part about SEIU 721 COPE is members of our union can put candidates for office on the hot seat and ask direct questions about their positions on issues frontline public workers care about most.”

**Lillian Cabral
Secretary
SEIU 721**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022

SEIU 721 ONE VOICE

LA CITY & LA COUNTY 2022 PRIMARY ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS

**MAYOR OF LA:
KAREN BASS**



**LA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DISTRICT 1:
HILDA SOLIS**



**LA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DISTRICT 3:
HENRY STERN**



**LA COUNTY SHERIFF:
CECIL RHAMBO**



**LA COUNTY ASSESSOR:
JEFFREY PRANG**



**LA CITY ATTORNEY:
KEVIN JAMES**



**LA CITY CONTROLLER:
PAUL KORETZ**



**LA CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1
GIL CEDILLO**



**LA CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 3
BOB BLUMENFIELD**



**LA CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 5
KATY YOUNG YAROSLAVSKY**



**LA CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 7
MONICA RODRIGUEZ**



**LA CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 9
CURREN PRICE**



**LA CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 11
MITCH O'FARRELL**



**LA CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 13
TIM McOSKER**



Paid for by Service Employees International Union Local 721 CTW, CLC Workers' Strength Committee sponsored by Service Employees International Unions.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022

Victory at LAHSA!

SEIU 721 LAHSA member Lisa Pacheco

LAHSA MEMBERS REACH A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON A NEW CONTRACT WITH RAISES AND BONUSES

Our SEIU 721 Bargaining Team has reached a Tentative Agreement with management at the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA).

The proposed agreement that runs through June 30, 2023 provides a general across-the-board 6% raise over the life of the contract, including a \$1,300 lump sum bonus in October 2022. In addition, the agreement establishes a joint labor management mental health committee to meet regularly to address mental health issues and resources for employees.

SEIU 721 members fought for months for a good contract, culminating in a December 21, 2021 day of action, where nearly 100 SEIU 721 LAHSA workers staged simultaneous virtual Zoom actions and an in-person march on the boss at LAHSA's Downtown Los Angeles headquarters.

If ratified, this agreement will be the second-ever contract for SEIU 721 LAHSA members. They ratified their first union contract 3 years ago.



Congratulations to SEIU 721 LAHSA Members

“LAHSA workers demanded that agency leaders respect their work and their experience. They’ve won a Tentative Agreement for a contract that demonstrates this respect with a guarantee of fair wage increases and bonuses.”

**Simboa Wright
Vice President
SEIU 721**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022



SEIU 721 JOINS LABOR AND THE NFL PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION TO SUPPORT STRIKING JON DONAIRE WORKERS

After a months-long strike, workers for the Jon Donaire Desserts' plant in Santa Fe Springs secured a strong new contract with much-needed gains. Their victory comes after SEIU 721 leaders and members, as well as others in the Los Angeles labor movement, joined them on the picket line to call for fair pay, affordable healthcare, and more.

The demands of the more than 150 striking workers, who make ice-cream cakes for major stores like Baskin Robbins and Walmart, were reasonable: a \$1 an hour raise for each of the next three years; no cuts to health benefits; an end to forced overtime; and respect from management.

The workers, who are primarily Latina women and those of immigrant backgrounds, have worked hard through a pandemic, keeping Rich Products' profit machine running even as they have risked their own safety. The workers deserve to be treated as important, vital parts of the company.

Yet, many of the workers say they are routinely disrespected by management. They report being told to work at a faster and faster pace, making workdays feel brutal. They are often denied time off, even for medical appointments, and are forced to work overtime last minute — sometimes leading to shifts of up to 16 hours that disrupt parenting and family duties. (The workers are represented

by the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers' International Union, Local 37).

This unacceptable treatment has turned out many labor allies to rally in support of these workers over the past several months, including: The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, the AFL-CIO, the NFL Players Association, the Mobile Workers Alliance, and more.

Their hard-fought victory shows the power of union solidarity — when we fight, we win!

“We in the labor movement stood united with these workers to put pressure on this company — and we won. Together, our collective voice and member mobilization won a hard-fought victory for our sisters and brothers at BCTGM.”

**Gilda Valdez
Chief of Staff
SEIU 721**



The Racist

Ideas Behind

the Cult of Privatization

Republican lobbyists Paul Manafort, Roger Stone and Lee Atwater in 1980. The trio packaged the economic strategies of the "Reagan Revolution" — huge tax cuts for the rich funded by massive cuts in social programs — by selling the fiction that corporations can provide basic services better than public workers.

Long before they made headlines as two of the 18 Trump campaign officials and associates indicted for federal crimes, Republican political operatives Paul Manafort and Roger Stone and campaign consultant Lee Atwater helped engineer the Reagan Revolution in 1980.

The strategy of Reagan's economic team was called "starve the beast." First, you cut taxes to "starve the beast" (the government) of the revenue it needs to survive. Then, when voters get angry because government services don't work properly, you propose a solution: cut spending. Instead of feeding the beast more money, you propose cutting it even further. Then you introduce the idea of "running government more like a business" and privatizing it by turning over key functions to private companies to run.

Manafort, Stone and Atwater turned this corporate fever dream into a populist rallying cry with overtly racist overtones.

Lee Atwater described its true meaning in blunt language back in the 1980s. "Small government" is simply code for "no more assistance to poor people, particularly poor people of color." Meanwhile, the Reagan administration massively expanded government spending — particularly in the military and in contracts and subsidies to billionaires and wealthy

“‘Small government’ is simply code for ‘no more assistance to poor people, particularly poor people of color.’”

Lee Atwater
Reagan Campaign Strategist

industries like banking, consulting, corporate agriculture and fossil fuels. Fast forward to today. Privatization is growing at all levels of government, but many elected officials and government managers don't understand the toxic thinking behind it. Our union is going to educate them.

Gilda Valdez, Chief of Staff

Gilda Valdez

