

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2022

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SEIU 721



PURPLED UP AND PROUD



SEIU 721 MEMBERS PURPLE UP TO DEMONSTRATE OUR UNITY, POWER AND PRIDE

Purpling up — wearing SEIU T-shirts, buttons, stickers and other swag in the workplace as a show of solidarity — is one of our union's most effective tactics. An ocean of purple shirts at work or on the street shows bosses that we are unified and committed to justice and fairness for working people. But the real power behind the purple is the accomplishments it signifies.

I was honored to attend the September 10 retirement celebration for SEIU 721 member Mae Thomas, who worked as an instructional aide at the Compton Unified School District. A community icon in Compton, Mae served on the Compton School Board for more than 18 years and as a shop steward, bargaining team member and Executive Board member of SEIU 660. The mountain of gifts, awards and proclamations honoring Mae and the crowd of top LA elected officials in attendance, like Congresswoman Maxine Waters and LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell, are a testament to Mae's impact on Compton.

And standing in the middle of it all was Mae — in an SEIU 721 purple T-shirt.

When I asked her about the shirt, she broke into a huge smile.

"I am so proud of my union."

Mae was proud to wear the purple T-shirt because her union was the vehicle that she used to improve Compton schools and win economic opportunity and jobs for her community.

I had a similar experience in Ventura a few days later. I was invited by Judicial Assistant Kim Goodman, a member of the SEIU 721 bargaining team for Ventura County Superior Court workers, to an action at the Ventura Hall of Justice with court workers, who are in a tough contract campaign. Ventura courts are severely understaffed, and workers are fighting for relief from inflation and spiraling health care costs.

When I arrived at the event, I was met with a sea of purple — workers in SEIU 721 gear, waving flags and banners. Court workers told me they are more unified than they've ever been and ready to fight. Here's a shout-out to Kim, the bargaining team and all of our Tri-Counties members — your union has your back.

From Compton, to Ventura County, to the massive Sticker-Up action at worksites all over LA City featured in this month's issue — SEIU 721 members are purpled up and proud.

David Green



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SEIU 721 LA City gets



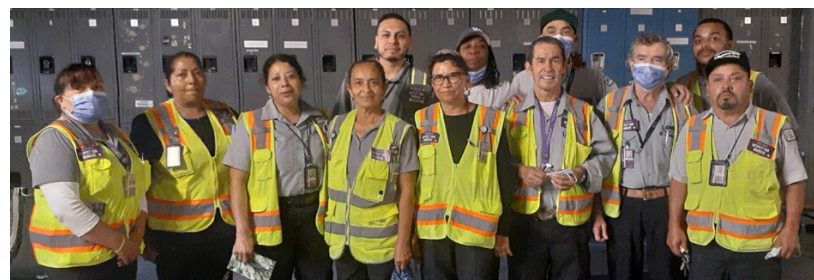
SEIU 721 LA City Workers Stage Sticker Action

From LAX terminals and yards to LA Harbor facilities, LA City SEIU 721 Members are stickering up in big numbers!

We're posing for group shots at the Department of Recreation and Parks, and taking creative selfies at Animal Services to demonstrate our union power.

LA City members deserve fair raises, protection from the privatization of our work, and respect from our LA City leaders for the vital services we deliver.

That's why we're coming together to stand united for respect until we win a strong contract.



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PURPLED-UP and PROUD



ns for a Strong Contract



Sticker Up and Flex Your Union Power

“LA City Workers are standing united for fair raises, protection from privatization of their jobs and the respect we deserve. Sticker up and flex your power.”

Simboa Wright
Vice President, SEIU Local 721

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SEIU 721 Kicks Off Inland Region Campaign

Efforts to Build Political Muscle and Elect Pro-Worker Candidates are Paying Off

On September 24, SEIU 721 kicked off our Inland Region campaign to support pro-worker candidates and ballot measures on the November ballot with presentations from leading SEIU 721-endorsed candidates, field training and precinct walking.

Inland Region SEIU 721 members have been winning unprecedented contracts over the past two years because we've steadily built our political muscle and elected pro-worker candidates.

SEIU 721 members heard from Yxstian Gutierrez (Riverside County BoS District 5); Ben Benoit (Riverside County Auditor Controller); Jesse Armendarez (San Bernardino County BoS District 2); Christy Holstege (CA State Assembly District 47) and SEIU 721 Executive Board member Cheylynda Barnard, who is running for City of Moreno Valley Council District 4.

As public employees, we have the unique opportunity to elect our own bosses by supporting candidates who stand with us, and winning key races directly impacts our wages, benefits, and retirement.



UPDATES FROM AROUND OUR UNION

SEIU 721 RISING



STEP UP ON SECOND WORKERS JOIN SEIU 721

More than 175 workers at three Step Up On Second locations across Southern California are now members of SEIU 721!

The Step Up workers, who provide critical services to the unhoused population, overcame an illegal campaign by agency bosses that resulted in a new NLRB election on Sept. 23, where workers voted to join SEIU 721.

As the labor movement surges across the country, the workers of Step Up On Second are the latest to secure a voice at work and are already preparing to bargain a strong contract.

CITY OF RIVERSIDE MEMBERS RATIFY DEAL

After a long fight and years of building power, City of Riverside members ratified a strong contract that includes across-the-board wage increases, classification adjustments, an ample bonus, strengthened benefits and a new paid holiday!

City of Riverside members flexed their union power to win this deal, circulating petitions, rallying at city council meetings — and even authorizing a strike. By standing together, these members secured major gains for themselves and their families.

RIVERSIDE AND SAN BERNARDINO WORKERS WALK FOR SEIU 721'S CHEYLYNDA BARNARD

Dozens of San Bernardino and Riverside County workers joined SEIU 721's Inland Region campaign kick-off and hit the pavement in near triple-digit heat in a critical push to get out the vote for pro-worker Inland Region candidates, including SEIU 721 Executive Board member Cheylynda Barnard, who is running for City of Moreno Valley City Council District 4.



COURT WORKERS JUSTICE JAMBOREE



Ventura Superior Courts Workers Ramp Up Bargaining

Ventura Superior Court frontline workers turned out in droves for the Justice Jamboree on Wed., Sept. 21. It was a lively event organized entirely by Courts members themselves and included a fun meet & greet with SEIU 721 President David Green.

Attendees received swag bags filled with union goodies — including SEIU 721 lanyards, flags, hand sanitizer bottles and a special purple ribbon.

We can't wear official insignias in the Court. So, on Mondays — when we hold contract bargaining sessions — we wear these special purple ribbons to show our union solidarity. It's how we Purple Up!

At the Justice Jamboree, we also gave everyone a contract bargaining update. We've been to the table with management

twice and we're moving in the right direction.

But we deserve more — and we know can get it. Stay tuned for info on future actions we'll be taking to make sure we get the strong contract we deserve.



United we bargain, divided we beg!

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66 Ventura County workers are fired up and taking a stand for the raises, rights and respect they deserve. Your SEIU 721 brothers and sisters have your back in your fight for strong contract! 99

Lillian Cabral, Secretary, SEIU 721



Ventura County Workers Take a Stand

Members Purple Up and Hit the Streets to Cheer on our Bargaining Team

After risking our lives on the frontlines of the pandemic for years, SEIU 721 County of Ventura workers are taking a stand and going to the table to bargain for a strong contract that recognizes our hard work and sacrifices.

SEIU 721 Ventura County members gave our bargaining team a grand send off before the start of bargaining on August 30. Dozens of members from the County Government Center hit the street to cheer on the team and walk them into the bargaining session, while members from across the county Purpled Up at work.

The team presented our proposals to county management, who will review them before returning to bargaining September 28. The Contract Action Team (CAT) also met to review bargaining priorities, set up their CAT networks,

and screen a great video that showcases our bargaining preparations, highlights our priorities, and explains why it's vital frontline workers take a stand.

Watch Ventura Workers Take a Stand

Use Your Smartphone Camera to View



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SEIU 721 GOLD COAST TRANSIT MEMBERS PUT THE PEDAL TO THE METAL FOR GREEN BUSES

SEIU 721 Gold Coast Transit District members joined with district management to deliver a new federal grant that will help the district transition its entire fleet to clean next-generation hydrogen fuel cell buses.

District management invited SEIU 721 member leaders to review their plan to retire the district's aging fleet of CNG buses and replace them with next-generation hydrogen fuel cell buses by 2044.

SEIU 721 liked the plan and put our union's lobbying muscle to work, helping secure a \$12 million federal grant that will kick start the fleet replacement with the purchase of up to 5 new buses.



SEIU 721 Backs Green Transit

“SEIU 721 members at Gold Coast Transit District are making good on our union's commitment to climate justice.”

**Adolfo Granados
Treasurer, SEIU 721**

SEIU 721 Family Fun Day & Assembly



Saturday, October 29, 2022

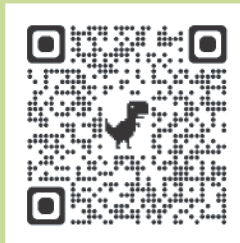
11AM - 3PM

Whittier Narrows Park

751 S. Santa Anita Ave , South El Monte

Parking \$7

RSVP by 10/8 at 5PM:



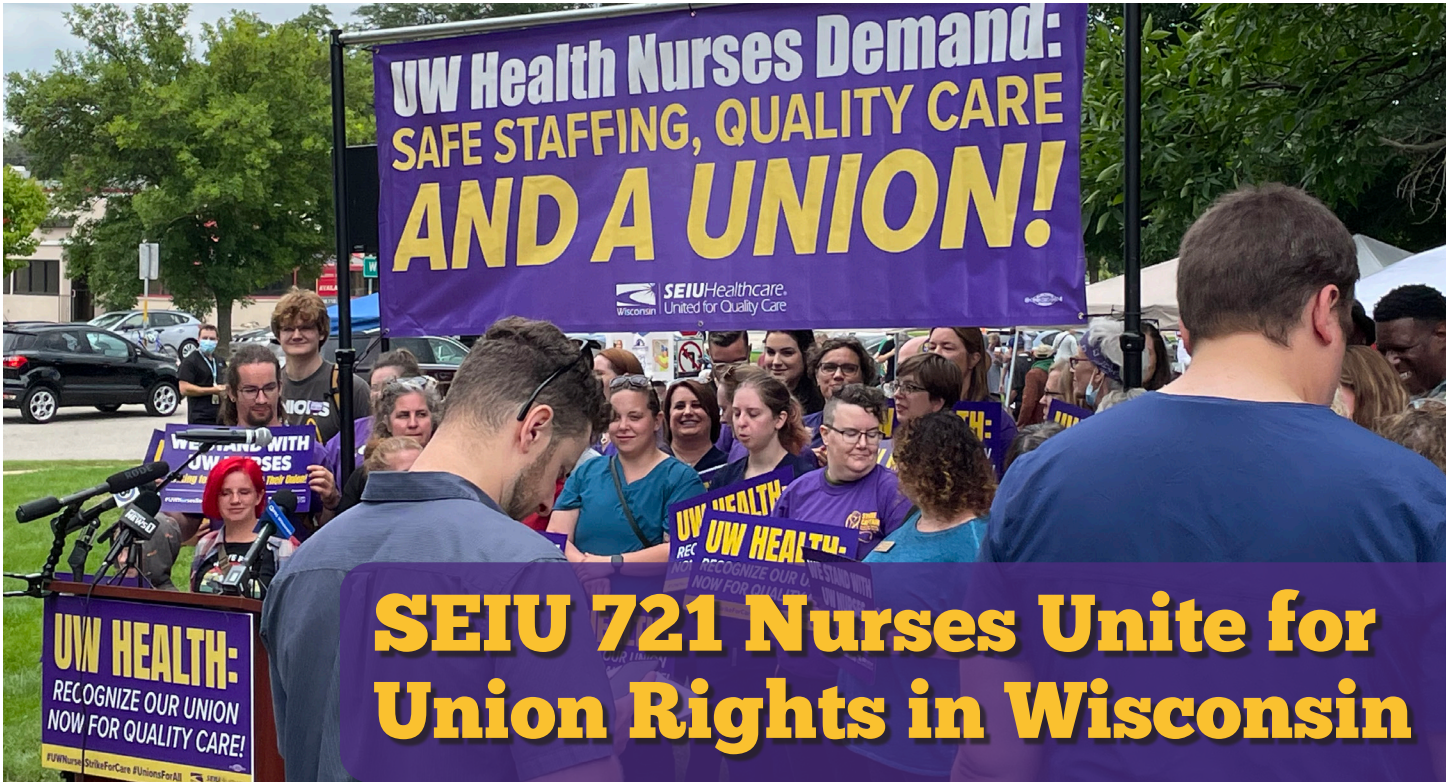
No Dogs

No Alcoholic Beverages



***Bring Your Own
Chair/Blanket***

Member Event



SEIU 721 Nurses Unite for Union Rights in Wisconsin

SEIU 721 NURSES JOIN NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN FOR WISCONSIN RNs

In September, SEIU 721 nurses joined Registered Nurses in Madison, Wisconsin who are striking to get their union back. RNs Sandra Beltran, Bert Ople, and Health Facility Evaluator Nurse Todd Yeomans joined other SEIU members from across the country in the on-the-ground effort.

Thanks to their efforts, UW Health registered nurses made history! After Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker stripped workers of a host of organizing rights in 2014, Wisconsin workers are uniting to build a powerful union. Their strike generated enormous public support as they fought for patient care and a union voice.

"It's a new day for nurses and healthcare workers in Wisconsin — and it's part of an unprecedented wave of organizing, militant action, and historic victories by essential workers across the U.S.," said SEIU 721 President David Green.



SEIU Nurses Take the Fight to Wisconsin

“It’s a new day for nurses and healthcare workers in Wisconsin – and it’s part of an unprecedented wave of organizing, militant action, and historic victories by essential workers across the U.S.”

David Green
President
SEIU Local 721



IGNITE THE FIGHT FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

66 Happy Latino Heritage Month to SEIU 721 members. Please join me in celebrating our union's efforts to promote racial justice through our support for Asian health, Black leadership, new citizenship and language access. 99

Simboa Wright, Vice President, SEIU 721



CELEBRATING LATINO HERITAGE MONTH

Our local is sending a delegation of member leaders to the International Latino Caucus's Leadership Summit in Florida from October 6 to 9.

As a part of the Latino Caucus Summit, leaders will be mobilizing and knocking on doors to get out the vote for the midterm elections

SUPPORTING ASIAN HEALTH SERVICES

SEIU 721 made a donation to Asian Health Services and attended the organization's virtual annual gala on Sept 24.

Asian Health Services is a clinic that provides services for all, regardless of income, insurance status, language or culture, and serves vulnerable populations in more than 14 different languages.

TRAINING NEW BLACK LEADERS

The African American Caucus is hosting a future leaders conference in Los Angeles. The goal is to train all future leaders within all regions and help Get Out the Vote for Karen Bass.

WELCOMING NEW CITIZENS

SEIU 721 is participating in the first SEIU Virtual Citizenship Workshop on Oct 1 to provide SEIU members and community members with free assistance with citizenship applications. To register, please call 888-839-8682 and use the code "SEIU."

PROVIDING LANGUAGE ACCESS

SEIU 721 is holding a Language Justice Webinar on Oct 19 expand our union's efforts to provide language access for all members and workers we are organizing.

Happy Latino Heritage Month



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Join the SEIU 721 Steward Development Program

Strong unions get strong contracts — and the strongest unions have strong membership. Our Union needs strong shop stewards and union stewards to make sure our members are properly represented in the workplace. Steward representation is the glue that holds our Union together. Becoming an excellent representative means enhancing your skills through training and honing your skills through practice.

SEIU 721 provides this training and education through our Steward Training Program. Our steward coaches will help you apply your training and education through real-world situations so you are prepared to solve a range of problems members will face. Steward coaches are experienced shop stewards who can assist you in preparing for a meeting with management. You will have the opportunity to shadow them in grievance meetings and consult with them before you run your own meetings with members.

Sign up today to attend any of our Steward Trainings by visiting www.seiu721.org. If you want to speak with a Steward Coach, contact Ignacio Garcia at Ignacio.Garcia@seiu721.org or (213) 448-6255, and let's keep our Union strong.



“Thanks to the Steward Development Program, our union stewards are no longer alone. We connect them with Steward Coaches. We’re a lifeline for stewards that need help.”

**Adolfo Granados
Treasurer, SEIU 721**



“When you represent your members, you have to know your job. The Steward Development Program will help stewards improve their knowledge and skills.”

**Mellonie Freeman
Steward Coach
LA County DCFS
Children’s Social Worker III**

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SEIU 721 Salutes Mae Thomas' 59 Years of Service in Compton



SEIU 721 SALUTES UNION LEADER, SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER AND TIRELESS ADVOCATE FOR COMPTON SCHOOLCHILDREN

"If you believe in something you must be prepared to fight, to argue, to persuade," Mae Thomas said, quoting her self-professed role model, Maxine Waters.

During her 59 years in Compton — 18 of them as an Instructional Aide in the Compton Unified School District and as an elected member of the school board — Mae Thomas has fought, argued and persuaded to protect the interests of Compton schoolchildren and the teachers and workers who provide their schooling.

So it was no surprise when Congresswoman Waters, Los Angeles Supervisor Holly Mitchell, SEIU 721 President David Green and a host of other LA elected officials and South LA community leaders saluted her service at her retirement celebration on September 10 at Centennial High School in Compton.

Mae Thomas was a warrior for justice for Compton kids and for the teachers and workers in Compton schools.

As an elected member of the Executive Board of Local 660 — which later became SEIU Local 721 — and a close friend of late SEIU 721 President Linda Dent, Thomas fought to restore bus service for students; fair hiring, testing and raises for union workers; for minority hiring goals and Project Labor Agreements on school bond contracts; and against teacher layoffs during the 2009 financial crisis.

"My service on the Board of Trustees for Compton Schools afforded me an opportunity to represent our students, parents, employees and citizens with honesty," Thomas said. "My voting record over the years demonstrates my passion for doing what's right for the people I serve."

SEIU 721 President David Green Joins Cal Labor Fed Board



California
LABOR
Federation



SEIU 721 PRESIDENT SWORN IN TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF INFLUENTIAL STATE LABOR COALITION

On September 14, SEIU 721 President David Green was sworn in to the Executive Council of the California Labor Federation, California's influential statewide Labor organization.

David Green's appointment gives our union an even stronger voice in the California Labor advocacy group, which plays a major role in influencing the state's economic policy and a wide range of legislation affecting workers.

The California Labor Federation consists of 1,200 affiliated unions that voluntarily join together to help working people build better lives and futures for working people and their families.

The California Labor Federation is dedicated to promoting and defending the interests of

working people through legislative campaigns and grassroots organizing.

Most affiliated unions are also active with central labor councils or building trades councils at the county or regional level. These local bodies function as smaller labor federations that provide organizer training, coordination on legislative and political campaigns, and build progressive coalitions that speak out for social justice.

The Cal Labor Fed is governed by an executive secretary-treasurer and a president. Green joins 46 other vice-presidents representing affiliated unions and central labor councils who were elected to the executive council of the Cal Labor Fed at its biennial convention.

GIG WORKERS UNITE TO FIGHT UBER



SOCAL GIG DRIVERS JOIN PROTESTS IN BRUSSELS, CALL FOR REGULATION OF GIG COMPANIES AND INVESTIGATION OF UBER

Southern California gig drivers with the Mobile Workers Alliance traveled to Brussels, Belgium in early September and joined thousands of fellow gig workers and taxi drivers from all over the world to call on the European Union to adopt strong regulations of gig companies like Uber.

The European Commission and member nations are considering a bill that would grant gig drivers expanded worker rights and benefits — such as holiday pay, a minimum wage, and unemployment protections — that they are currently denied. If passed, the EU law could be a model for regulating gig companies across the world.

The drivers in Brussels also demanded that the EU vigorously investigate Uber following the release of the “Uber Files” in July. The files — tens of thousands of documents leaked to media outlets by a former company lobbyist — show that Uber used many aggressive, often ethically and legally questionable, tactics to push its way across Europe and other areas of the world.



This included using tech tools to dodge law enforcement and other authorities and cozying up to politicians and other influential people — even Russian oligarchs — to win favorable laws and regulations.

The files have led to calls from gig drivers all over the world for accountability and for the company to finally sit down with workers and negotiate better, safer working conditions.

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Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger joined SEIU 721 members at our Fall 2022 Union Benefits Fair kickoff on September 19.

SEIU 721 Launches Fall 2022 Union Benefits Fairs

SEIU 721 launched the Fall 2022 Union Benefits Fair series Monday, September 19 at the LA County Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

Members had the opportunity to ask questions directly of benefits carriers as part of the annual enrollment process. LA County-sponsored health, dental and retirement providers hosted booths, along with Union Benefits Trust carriers, which provide supplemental voluntary benefits. Additional fairs occurred, or will take place, on:

- Thurs., Oct. 1 from 12 PM to 1 PM
- Sat., Oct. 3 from 10 AM to 11 AM
- Tues., Oct. 6 from 6 PM to 7 PM
- Thurs., Oct. 8 from 12 PM to 1 PM
- Tues., Oct. 13 from 6 PM to 7 PM

SEIU 721 also will host a benefits fair as part of the Assembly and Family Fun Day on October 29.

Registration is open to all SEIU 721 members employed by LA County, LACERA and LA Superior Courts.

Use your smartphone camera to register here:



Barbie workshop works wonders for foster youth



SEIU 721 E-BOARD MEMBER SHARONDA WADE'S CREATIVE PLAN TO COMFORT FOSTER CHILDREN



When children enter foster care, the experience can be painful and confusing — many kids feel their world is turning upside down. It's something Sharonda Wade has witnessed many times as a Supervising Children's Social Worker at the LA County Dept. of Children and Family Services for the past 13 years.

"I started a Barbie workshop at my desk for newly detained foster youth," said Wade, who is also an SEIU 721 Executive Board member. "When kids are removed from their parents, most of the time, they can't bring their belongings. They have to leave everything behind. So, I set up all the toys so that when they come to the office, they can take a toy. And it relieves the tension. They can take whatever toy they want — sometimes I'll let them take more than one depending on what happened — and they can take them to their new foster home."

Wade wanted the toys offered to be both alluring and durable given what could be a long road ahead for the foster children

entering the system.

"I wanted them to have Barbie because the Barbie won't tear up fast," she explained. "It'll last for years and years. Sometimes foster parents live in poverty and sometimes they can't afford to buy toys. Even with the foster care money, they have to use it to pay for rent or other things. So, sometimes social workers will come to my desk for when it's a kid's birthday, too."

Though Wade keeps the Barbie workshop up & running by purchasing the Barbie dolls herself, she has successfully encouraged friends to donate. Fellow co-workers at the DCFS Torrance office also have joined in — and DCFS personnel at the Hawaiian Gardens office recently donated funds to purchase more.

If you're interested in contributing to the Barbie workshop, feel free to purchase a toy and mail it to the LA County DCFS Torrance Office, ATTN: Sharonda Wade, 2325 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90501.

COPE DELIVERS FOR WORKERS



WORKING TO ELECT PRO-WORKER CANDIDATES IS VITAL TO PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS, YOUR WORK AND YOUR FUTURE

The American Rescue Plan protected millions of public employees from layoffs. SB 3 raised California's minimum wage to \$15. AB 257 will deliver workplace protections and raises for 550,000 fast food workers. The LA County budget includes the largest single-year raises in history for county workers.

What do these actions have in common? All of them are policy priorities pushed by our union and our allies with real bottom-line benefits for working people that wouldn't have happened without the active support of pro-worker politicians that our union and our allies helped elect.

Politics can be a turn-off — the focus on negativity and partisanship and division is tiring. It's a sacrifice to give up your evenings and weekends to volunteer on campaigns and to contribute to campaigns. But participating in COPE is the single best investment you can make in your own bottom line and the future of working people — because behind every major decision affecting workers, there are real people — mayors, county supervisors, state legislators, members of Congress and presidents and the officials they appoint. COPE gives working people the

power to affect their decisions in several ways:

- Pool our resources — The only way workers can compete with the super-rich, big corporations and their PACs is to pool our money and our people-power through COPE.
- Choose whom and what to support — COPE gives members the ability to question candidates directly and chose whom they endorse through a democratic process.
- Elect our allies — SEIU 721's goal is to support the candidates who not only support us on key issues but who will take the lead.
- Affect policy — When you elect candidates who share your goals, you can have a real impact on how policy and laws are written.

As we kick off our November election push, and launch major efforts in the Inland Region and in support of Karen Bass for Mayor of LA, I encourage all SEIU 721 members to get involved in COPE. It's the best investment you'll ever make.

Gilda Valdez, Chief of Staff



Gilda Valdez



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