



Local 1277

News

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President's report

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Former V.P. Joe Biden for President!

This One Really is For All the Marbles: Our Constitution, Our Country, Our Future

By Art Aguilar - President, Local 1277

Brothers and sisters, I *know* you've heard this before: "This is a very important election, one that may greatly affect your family and future." ***But please believe me—believe me—that the November 3 Presidential election is far and away the most important vote you will ever cast!***

And, yes, November is nine months away, *but the critical and very influential California Primary is very close: Tuesday, March 3. For once, how we vote in our primary matters: Instead of ending the primary battles in June, California may well determine who the Democratic nominee is (or at least greatly winnow down the field).* On March 3, you will vote for state legislators, a ballot initiative and U.S. Congressional representatives, *but above all for a candidate to take on President Trump in the general election.*

Please be sure to review organized labor's list of pro-union, pro-working families state and federal candidates running in your district on page 3. And be sure that you, your family, and your friends and neighbors are all registered to vote!

Why is this Presidential election probably the most important one in the foreseeable future? There are a number of reasons, any of which is vital, but taken as a whole are *absolutely critical to our lives, values and future!*

- **The current *Republican* administration is the most anti-union, anti-working people one in memory.** It has appointed a long, depressing list of pro-business, anti-working families to the National Labor Relations Board. It has turned the Federal Department of Labor into an arm of Corporate America. It has gleefully and ruthlessly rolled back *years of Democratic-passed* worksite protections, strong union regulations, organizing rights, and health and safety regulations.



- **The current administration is packing federal courts—at all levels—with very conservative, pro-business, anti-union judges.** These narrow-minded, socially conservative judges will clog the federal courts for *decades* to come, handing down verdicts that will cripple unions, slash workers' rights and choices, and make our country even *more* of a captive of Corporate America than it is now. And the Supreme Court—the crown jewel of our legal system and the final authority on laws—is already leaning to the anti-union right and will tilt even further if the Republicans keep the White House in November. ***Remember: Federal judges serve far longer than the President who appoints them, so their negative influence on our lives will be felt by you and your children for decades to come!***

- **The current administration is *destroying* the social-economic-environmental safety net that past *Democratic administrations* built to help tens of millions of Americans in need.** It has slashed aid to needy families, seriously attacked a woman's right to choose, trampled on Constitutionally guaranteed freedom of the press, drastically cut spending for education, healthcare, infrastructure upgrades, urban renewal, and turned immigrants seeking only a better life into victims. **Besides the shameful trashing of our common values, think about all the potential, good-paying jobs that are not being created because of awful policy choices!**

- **The current administration has made 'The United States of America' a curse around the world.** It is trying to build a useless, expensive wall to cut off our closest neighbor. It has abruptly and wrongly withdrawn from global trade and environmental accords. It threatens to leave others, including mutual defense treaties that have helped keep us secure for 75 years! It has betrayed allies and cozied up to dictators. It has abandoned our historic role as an "honest broker" in disputes in dangerous hotspots around the world.

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What Can We Do to Fix this Mess?

First thing, *vote Democratic!* In March, in November! As always, your Los Angeles County Federation of Labor has taken the time and effort to interview and decide upon which candidates—at the state and federal levels—are the best for organized labor and working families. The Fed has judged these men and women to be most supportive of our agenda of better, safer jobsites, more aid for mass transit, health, education and infrastructure improvement. They deserve our support.

Second, again, be sure you, your families, and your friends and neighbors are registered to vote in the California primary on Tuesday, March 3. And please be sure to tell people who you are voting for in the state and federal elections and why these candidates are the best choices for working men, women and families.

In the all-important (*and it doesn't get any more important than this!*) Presidential election, your Executive Board thinks that former Vice President Joe Biden is not only the best Democratic candidate for President—someone who has always been attuned to our needs and goals, and will restore our national dignity—but also the one with the best chance of regaining the White House and, maybe, even helping to recapture the U.S. Senate.

I strongly—even urgently—believe that we need a new administration in Washington, D.C. A new way of thinking and governing. A new set of domestic, pro-working people values and goals. A new vision of our commitments to our overseas allies and treaties. Above all, a renewed commitment to civility in both government and society, a respect for our laws and traditions, and a return to honesty, tolerance and optimism in our daily lives.

Former Vice President and U.S. Senator Joe Biden can lead a national revival in all of these necessary and positive goals. Throughout his fine career in the Senate, and in working closely with President Obama from 2008 – 2016, Mr. Biden has been a tireless, outspoken and consistent supporter of organized labor, and working people.

He has the experience, standing and familiarity with global issues that will restore our allies' faith in our country and leadership. His commitment to the global environment assures today's adults and tomorrow's children that the U.S. will again be a leader in this vital fight.

Perhaps above all, Mr. Biden is an honorable, decent man, someone will work for the people he represents, not for his own special interests and gain. He will be a President we can be proud of and confident that he will restore American prestige and admiration around the world.

Former Vice President and U.S. Senator Joe Biden can win in November! I truly believe there is no more important reason to support him on March 3 and November 3. We need him. Working America needs him. Our country needs him. The world needs him.

So, brothers and sisters, active members, retirees and families of ATU Local 1277, there you have it. A call for action in a very dangerous and even desperate political/economic/global/environmental/social time. ***There must be a change in Washington, D.C.! It's no simpler and more important than that. We must restore some sanity to government, policy-making and our place in the world. We must elect a new administration that will care about working people, common values and a fair and just society for us all.***

On March 3—and especially on November 3—please vote as if your future and the future of your families and careers depend on it. Because they will!

A New International Secretary-Treasurer

On a more positive note, I am very pleased to report that Brother **Ken Kirk** has recently been appointed as ATU International's new Secretary-Treasurer, replacing our beloved "Double O", Oscar Owens. International President John Costa praised Brother Kirk's long involvement with the ATU.

Brother Kirk will serve out the rest of "Double O's" term. In 1985, he joined ATU Local 1338 (Dallas, Texas) as a Bus Operator. Brother Kirk served as the local's president and then, in April 2004, was appointed as an International Representative. Shortly after, Brother Kirk was promoted to an ATU International Vice President (IVP), and was re-elected to that position at every convention. *We welcome Brother Kirk to his new and demanding job, and look forward to working with him in the years to come.*

ATU President Costa appointed **Ray Greaves**, from New Jersey, to replace Brother Kirk as IVP, and named **Michael Cornelius** as West Coast International Representative. Congratulations, brothers!

A Call for Swift Congressional Action!

Once again, tragedy has struck our sister ATU local in Tampa Florida. Recently, a Bus Operator was stabbed by a deranged passenger. Fortunately, he will be all right. But just six month earlier, also in Tampa, one of our brother Operators was stabbed on the job and died from his injuries. ***These insane and barbaric atrocities must stop!***

Towards that end, our ATU International is demanding that Congress pass the "Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act", which will help prevent further outrages like these, and protect both our mass-transit operators who faithfully serve the public and the people themselves who are dependent on mass transit in their daily lives.

We know this important legislation can be favorably passed in the Democratic-controlled the House of Representatives. Its fate in a Republican-run Senate is far more uncertain. And its ultimate fate in the current White House is even cloudier. Once again, we can see the absolute importance of electing our friends to public office and getting rid of those who oppose us!

Los Angeles County Federation of Labor's Endorsements for the March 3 Primary

Your Los Angeles County Federation of Labor has endorsed the following pro-union, pro-working families candidates for state and federal offices. Below, are recommendations for the California State Assembly and California State Senate, as well as the United States House of Representatives. Please support these men and women if they appear on your ballot for the Tuesday, March 3 election. They all have been carefully interviewed, and their voting records have been analyzed for their support of our agenda. *Note that they all are Democrats.*

U.S. House of Representatives

District 21 – T.J. Cox
District 22 – Phil Arballo
District 23 – Kim Mangone
District 24 – Salud Carbajal
District 25 – No recommendation
District 26 – Julia Brownley
District 27 – Judy Chu
District 28 – Adam Schiff
District 29 – Tony Cardenas
District 30 – Brad Sherman
District 31 – Pete Aguilar
District 32 – Grace Napolitano
District 33 – Ted Lieu
District 34 – Jimmy Gomez
District 35 – Norma Torres
District 36 – Raul Ruiz
District 37 – Karen Bass
District 38 – Linda Sanchez
District 39 – Gil Cisneros
District 40 – Lucille Roybal-Allard
District 41 – Mark Takano
District 42 – Regina Marston
District 43 – Maxine Waters
District 44 – Nanette Barragan
District 45 – Katie Porter
District 46 – Lou Correa
District 47 – Alan Lowenthal
District 48 – Harley Rouda
District 49 – Mike Levin

California State Senate

District 19 – Monique Limon
District 21 – Kipp Mueller
District 23 – Kris Goodfellow or Abigail Medina
District 25 – Anthony Portantino
District 27 – Henry Stern
District 29 – Josh Newman
District 31 – Richard Roth
District 33 – Lena Gonzalez

Editor's note: Josh Newman, State Senate District 29, deserves special mention and support. He bravely voted for the gas tax, which provided much-needed funding for mass-transit projects in California. Voters in his district wrongly recalled him, and now he is running to regain his seat. His kind of political courage is most worthy of your vote!

California State Assembly

District 39 – Luz Rivas
District 40 – James Ramos
District 41 – Chris Holden
District 42 – No endorsement
District 43 – Laura Friedman
District 44 – Jacqui Irwin
District 45 – Jesse Gabriel
District 46 – Adrin Nazarian
District 47 – Eloise Gomez Reyes
District 48 – No endorsement
District 49 – Ed Chau
District 50 – Richard Bloom
District 51 – Wendy Carrillo
District 52 – Freddie Rodriguez
District 53 – Miguel Santiago
District 54 – Sydney Kamlager-Dove
District 55 – Andrew Rodriguez
District 56 – No Endorsement
District 57 – No recommendation
District 58 – No endorsement
District 59 – Reggie Jones-Sawyer
District 60 – No endorsement
District 61 – Jose Medina
District 62 – Autumn Burke
District 63 – Anthony Rendon
District 64 – Mike Gipson
District 65 – Sharon Quick-Silva

California Proposition 13

School Facilities Bond – YES

Editor's note: There are two local candidates who are worthy of your vote if they are on your ballot. Jeanette Barrera is running for Long Beach City Council—District 2. Ms. Barrera comes from a union family and strongly supports our goals of workplace safety, economic and social justice and union rights. She is so committed to mass transit, that she does not own a car and rides buses and light rail throughout the city.

Kevin Deleon, running for Los Angeles City Council, is a proven supporter of unions and working people and families. He has stood with us over the years and will continue to be a vocal and progressive advocate for our needs and goals.

D.O.T.'s new guidelines

Drug & Alcohol Clearing House's New Laws for CDL Drivers

By Jeff Shaffer - Financial-Recording Secretary

The federal Department of Transportation (D.O.T.), through its Drug & Alcohol Clearing House Division, has handed down a new set of laws for people who use their Commercial Driver's License (CDL) for their work. These new guidelines went into effect on January 6 of this year.

D.O.T.'s Clearinghouse is a *secure*, online database that will give employers and other authorized users *real-time* information about any drug and alcohol program violations on the record of both holders of commercial driver's licenses and commercial learner's permits (CLP). The positive and necessary goal of this effort is improving safety—for both operators and others travelling—on our nation's roadways.

Any driver who holds a CDL or CLP *and* meets the requirements of the CDL standards (49 CFR and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration—FMCSA—Drug and Alcohol Testing Program) will be covered by the Clearinghouse.

It's worth noting just how the Clearinghouse's effort relates to improved roadway safety.

- It will make it easier for employers to meet their pre-employment investigation and reporting obligations
- It will make it more difficult for drivers to conceal their drug and alcohol program violations from current or prospective employers
- It will provide roadside inspectors and other enforcement personnel with the means to ensure that drivers receive required evaluation and treatment before performing safety-sensitive functions, such as driving a commercial motor vehicle
- It will make it easier for FMCSA to determine employer compliance with testing, investigation and reporting requirements



Mandatory reporting began January 6. Employees can use the Clearinghouse to provide electronic consent to release drug/alcohol violation information in your record. You can review your own record and initiate the process to revise or remove incorrectly entered info. You will be able to identify a Substance Abuse Professional to report on return to work activities, if you have an unresolved drug/alcohol program violation in your Clearinghouse record.

Register at <https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/register> and click Go to login.gov While Clearinghouse registration is not required for all drivers, you will need to be registered to view your own clearinghouse record electronically, or to provide electronic consent for a current or prospective employer to conduct a full query (including a pre-employment query) in the Clearinghouse. Failing to consent to a query will result in a driver being prohibited from performing safety-sensitive functions for the employer conducting the query.

Here are the upcoming Local 1277 membership meetings for February and March. Please make every attempt to attend the meeting for your unit. It's your Union, and we need your participation at our meetings! All members will receive credit for the meetings.

Tuesday, Feb 4: Los Angeles area members:
Tuesday, Mar 3: L.A. Building Trades Council, 1626 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles. Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Evening Session 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb 5: Metrolink Unit members:
Wednesday, Mar 4: Union Offices, 1744 North Main Street. Morning Session 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb 5: Riverside area members:
Wednesday, Mar 4: 1074 E. La Cadena Dr., Riverside Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, Feb 6: Palm Springs/SunLine members:
Thursday, Mar 5: Rebirth Temple of Faith, 1243 Gene Autry Trail, Room 115, Palm Springs Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, Feb 6: Long Beach:
Thursday, Mar 5: Machinist Hall, 319 W. Broadway, Long Beach Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 3:00 p.m.