



# Local 1277

# News

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## President's report

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### **Voting is your duty!** **Los Angeles County Federation of Labor's Endorsements for the June 7 Primary**

By Art Aguilar - President, Local 1277

As you have learned over the years, brothers and sisters, the politicians we elect (or oppose) can often play a very important part in our lives, both personal and professional. *It matters who we support and who we oppose.* Political deliberations and decisions affect our worksites, homes, families, and futures. We must never forget organized labor's time-honored political-action credo: *"We support our political friends and fight our political foes."*

With this in mind, I once again remind and urge every ATU Local 1277 active member and retiree, along with all your families and friends, to *make sure you are registered to vote in the Tuesday, June 7 primary election (or earlier, if you vote by mail).* These federal, state, and local lawmakers will deliberate on, and enact, legislation that bears sharply on our careers and lives. It is important that you make your voice heard! **Ballots will be mailed out on May 9, and the last day for you to register to vote on June 7 is May 23.**

Fortunately, at the time, we are lucky to have a very pro-working families President in Joe Biden and Governor in Gavin Newsom (who, we must never forget, by his own action placed all California public-transit employees to the front of the line when the first Covid vaccines were made available!). And, equally fortunately, the California State Legislature is heavily composed of pro-union men and women.

So, as always, your Los Angeles County Federation of Labor has diligently interview candidates for office at the federal, state, and local levels. The Fed questioned candidates, made organized labors' needs and goals very clear to them, and then decided on the best-qualified men and women to serve in government and reflect our priorities. I am pleased to add that I have been re-elected as Vice President of the L.A. County Fed.

*Note: Local 1277 Members and families who live in the **City of Los Angeles** should be sure to read my comments on the mayoral primary, which follow the County Fed's list of endorsements.*

### **Endorsements for June 7** **State of California**

Governor: Gavin Newsom  
**Lieutenant Governor: Eleni Kounalakis**  
Secretary of State: Shirley Weber  
**Attorney General: Rob Bonta**  
Controller: Ron Galperin  
**Treasurer: Fiona Ma**  
Insurance Commissioner: Ricardo Lara  
**Superintendent of Public Instruction:**  
**Tony Thurmond**

### **United States Congress**

**Senate:** Alex Padilla

#### **Congress:**

District 24: Salud Carbajal  
**District 25: Raul Ruiz**  
District 26: Julia Brownley  
**District 27: Christy Smith**  
District 28: Judy Chu  
**District 29: Tony Cardenas**  
District 30: Adam Schiff  
**District 31: Grace Napolitano**  
District 32: Brad Sherman  
**District 33: Pete Aguilar**  
District 34: Jimmy Gomez  
**District 35: Norma Torres**  
District 36: Ted Lieu  
**District 37: Sydney Kamlager**  
District 38: Linda Sanchez  
**District 39: Mark Takano**  
District 40: Asif Mahmood  
**District 41: Will Rollins**  
District 42: Robert Garcia  
**District 43: Maxine Waters**  
District 44: Nanette Barragan  
**District 45: Jay Chen**  
District 46: Lou Correa  
**District 47: Katie Porter**

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### **California State Senate**

District 20: Daniel Hertzberg  
**District 22: No Recommendation**  
District 24: Ben Allen  
**District 26: Maria Elena Durazo**  
District 28: Lola Smallwood Cuevas  
**District 30: Bob Archuleta**  
District 32: No Endorsement  
**District 34: Tom Umberg**  
District 36: Kim Carr

### **California State Assembly**

District 36: Eduardo Garcia  
**District 38: Steve Bennett**  
District 39: Andrea Rosenthal  
**District 40: Pilar Schiavo**  
District 41: Chris Holden  
**District 42: Jacqui Irwin**  
District 43: Luz Rivas  
**District 44: Laura Friedman**  
District 45: James Ramos  
**District 46: Jesse Gabriel**  
District 47: Christy Holstege  
**District 48: No Recommendation**  
District 49: Mike Fong  
**District 50: Eloise Gomez-Reyes**  
District 51: Rick Chavez-Zbur  
**District 52: Wendy Carrillo**  
District 53: Freddie Rodriguez  
**District 54: Miguel Santiago**  
District 55: Isaac Bryan  
**District 56: Lisa Calderon**  
District 57: Reggie Jones-Sawyer  
**District 58: Sabrina Cervantes**  
District 59: No Endorsement  
**District 60: No Recommendation**  
District 61: Tina McKinnor  
**District 62: Anthony Rendon**  
District 63: Fauzia Rizvi  
**District 64: Elizabeth Alcantar-Loza**  
District 65: Mike Gipson  
**District 66: No Recommendation**  
District 67: Sharon Quirk-Silva  
**District 68: Avelino Valencia**  
District 69: Josh Lowenthal

### **County of Los Angeles**

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
District 1: Hilda Solis  
**Los Angeles County Board of  
Supervisors District 3: No Recommendation**  
Los Angeles County Assessor: Jeffrey Prang  
**Los Angeles County Sheriff:**  
No Recommendation

### **City of Los Angeles**

Los Angeles City Mayor:  
Karen Bass or Kevin DeLeon  
**Los Angeles City Council:**  
**District 11 Greg Good**  
Los Angeles City Controller: Paul Koretz  
**Los Angeles City Attorney: Kevin James**  
L.A. Unified School District  
Seat 2: Maria Brenes  
**Seat 4: Nick Melvoin**  
Seat 6: Kelly Gomez

### **City of Long Beach**

Mayor: Rex Richardson  
**City Attorney: Dawn McIntosh**  
Long Beach Unified School District  
Seat 1: Nubia Flores  
**Seat 3: Juan Benitez**  
Long Beach City Council  
Seat 1: Mary Zendejas  
**Seat 5: Megan Kerr**  
Seat 7: Roberto Urango  
**Seat 9: Jodie Ricks-Oddie**

There you have it, brothers and sisters:  
Organized labor's political voice in our area  
recommends these men and women as the best  
incumbents (and candidates) to serve working  
people's needs and goals. I strongly urge you to  
consider these people, and please be registered to vote  
on June 7 (or before, if you mail in your ballot).  
Thank you.

*A special note on the Los Angeles Mayoral  
election for our members and families who live in  
the city: Although this is officially a non-partisan  
election, the two best candidates for mayor in the  
June 7 primary are Democrats Karen Bass and  
Kevin De Leon.*

*Congresswoman Bass has been a strong  
voice and vote for union families and a progressive  
agenda in social, economic, and political matters.  
She was equally supportive of our agenda when she  
served in the California Legislature.*

*L.A. City Councilman De Leon is a long-  
time advocate for working people and families. In  
the California State Legislature (the Assembly and  
the Senate) and on the City Council, he has been a  
reliable author of progressive legislation and a solid  
vote.*

*It is critical to note that either Bass or De  
Leon would be far superior to real-estate  
developer and businessman Rick Caruso, who is*

*also running for mayor. Caruso, who is pouring millions of his own dollars into his campaign, would reflect the interests and goals of Los Angeles' business community and downtown power brokers, who are almost invariably against the needs and goals of unions and the working people and families they represent. He would represent a serious step back from the progressive, pro-worker advancements of the past few years, and could well pose a threat to union influence and achievements in the city!*

## Notes from the Front Line

*ATU Local 265 secures benefits for the families of our brothers who were killed in the May 26, 2021, mass shooting.* Next month is the one-year anniversary of that dreadful day. I am pleased to report that the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (SCVTA) has recently announced that the families of the nine victims (along with the family of another brother who survived the assault, but later took his own life because of mental anguish) will receive much-deserved—and needed—retirement benefits.

Our sister local union worked closely and productively with SCVTA to come up with a deal that provides benefits to the families who lost both their loved ones and main source of income and security. The Authority's Board of Directors *unanimously* voted to give \$4.9 million overall in retirement benefits to the 10 families. What is most interesting and pertinent about this gesture is this: *Seven of the 10 victims weren't old enough (or had not been working at SCVTA long enough) to be eligible for those pension benefits!*

I salute the determination and caring shown by ATU Local 265's leadership that secured these timely and significant benefits for the surviving, still-grieving family members left behind after this devastating tragedy.

*Following the outrageous, inexplicable subway shooting spree in New York City in mid-April,* ATU International President John Costa once again spoke out against violent crime on public transit systems in general, and specifically against attacks on our brothers and sisters who work in those systems.

Charging that elected officials and transit agencies themselves have, for far too long, turned a blind eye to the rising incidents of violence, Costa said, *"For years, they have just been sweeping I under the rug and hiding it."* He cited numerous examples of violence against coach operators and other public-transit workers, and demanded that governments at all

levels, along with transit agencies, *immediately* take long-overdue and very necessary action to curb this spiral of violence and hatred.

### *Amen to that!*

*The Biden Administration extends the mask mandate on public transit.* Acting prudently and decisively, the federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) extended the mask mandate for all operators and passengers on public transit systems across the country into at least mid-May. This action, announced by the CDC, was taken in response to the new BA.2 variant of Covid, which has caused a spike in infections. The mandate covers all public bus, rail, and air systems, as well as the inside of train stations and airports. The ATU strongly supports this protective move that helps safeguard the health and safety of our members and their families, and the riding public.

It's *impossible* to argue with this extension and the reasoning behind it!

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

## Keeping a lookout at MTA

### **Never Underestimate the Importance of Observing Warrant, Campaign, or Subcontracting Work**

By Jeff Schafer - Financial-Recording Secretary

From time to time, our members are asked to go and observe either some warranty work or a subcontractor who is providing a service to MTA. Sometimes, members are asked simply to keep an eye on a vendor who is introducing a new product to the industry and would like to try it out on the bus or at one of our facilities.

When requested to observe, oversee, or bird-dog a vendor, it is important that you do so for a couple of reasons. *One is to safeguard the Authority property, and the other is to safeguard your fellow MTA-unit members.* Sometimes, contractors are just left unattended; this un-attention could have far-reaching effects.

For example, things like tools or supplies can simply disappear. Or, some damage may result to the Authority's property—and that could lead to one of our members being wrongly accused of causing it. If no other witness is present during this time, the blame may fall on a fellow member.

### **The ATU-MTA CBA Provision**

Here is the relevant provision in our current contract with MTA (Article 11, Section C—General Contracting—Sub-section 6):

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*"Any and all maintenance and repair work when a warranty is in effect. If the work is done at an Authority facility, an ATU-represented employee will be assigned to work with the employees of the subcontractor; in such case, the ATU-represented will receive his/her regular rate of pay or the W.E.M. rate of pay, whichever is higher.*

*"If the work is not to be done at an Authority facility, an ATU-represented employee need not be assigned to work with the subcontractor's employee."*

## **2009 Side Letter of Agreement**

This further interprets and confirms the right of an ATU Local 1277 member to observe warranty or subcontracting work.

### **Bus Warranty**

*"For warranties on bus, at least one ATU-Represented employee will be assigned to work with the employees of the subcontractor for each warranty component listed in Side Letter 2006-005, excluding the warranty on the complete bus.*

*"However, if multiple employees of the subcontractor are working on the same component on multiple buses, at least one ATU-represented employee will be assigned. This provision applies to components under warranty repair on a location basis. For components not listed in the Side Letter, W.E.M.s will have the first call on the above warranty work."*

### **Rail Warranty**

*"Rail cars are accepted on a conditional basis prior to commencement of the warranty period. Beginning 9-27-2012, new rail warranties have a nine (9) month limit after conditional vehicle acceptance before the commencement of the warranty period.*

*During the period of conditional acceptance, and prior to commencement of the warranty period, LACMTA will assign one ATU-represented employee to work with the employees of the subcontractor.*

*"After full acceptance (or the nine-month period referenced above, whichever occurs first) of the rail car, and during the warranty period, LACMTA will assign at least one ATU represented employee to work with the employees of the subcontractor for each component under warranty repair at each location."*

*If a W.E.M. (Warranty Equipment Mechanic on the Bus side) or a R.W.E.S. (Rail Warranty Equipment Specialist on the Rail Side) are unavailable, and MTA management has requested that a Floor Mechanic or Maintenance Specialist do W.E.M./R.W.E.S. work, they must be paid the corresponding wage rate and they must observe the vendor at all times.*

*This applies to each component that is being worked on. For example, if a vendor works on doors, a W.E.M./R.W.E.S. must be present to monitor that vendor's work. If two vendors are on property working on different components—for example, one working on doors and another working on turbo replacement—then two W.E.M./R.W.E.S. must be monitoring each vendor. This is so not only to protect MTA's property, but to protect a fellow union member from being wrongly accused of damage or neglect of the Authority's property.*

So, brothers and sisters, please take these job assignments, if and when they are offered or assigned. What may at first seem like a waste of your time is most certainly *not* one; your time and attention could very save lives and jobs!

## **Twenty More Local 1277 Members Contribute to Vital ATU-COPE Fund**

Twenty members of our Union have generously contributed to the important ATU/COPE Fund. As you know, our International Union amasses this war chest in order to support our political friends and causes and fight the enemies of working people and families. We are proud to present Union pins and jackets to those members who have realized how vital the ATU/COPE Fund is for expanding labor's influence in Congress and advancing our agenda.

**Jose C Aguirre; Arnoldo DelToro; Gwindolyn Tillman; Oscar Velasco; Fredrick Dickinson; Kenneth McGee; Vernell Williams; Patrick Michaels; Lars Villumsen; Jolonda Montgomery; Eliazar Lozano; Manuel Cabrera; Eduardo Acosta Canchola; Christopher Knudson; James Funder; Oscar O DeLeon; William Ele; Sidney Carr; Dwight Harris, and Jeff Vuong.**

To earn a jacket, one must contribute \$12.50/month, for a total of \$150.00/year. Congratulations to those members for their public-spirited and timely action. The ATU/COPE Fund is very important. Please contribute whatever you can to it. Thank you.

**Here are the upcoming Local 1277 membership meetings for May and June. 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.**

<b>Tuesday, May 3:</b>	Los Angeles area members:
<b>Tuesday, June 7:</b>	L.A. Building Trades Council, 1626 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles. Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Evening Session 5:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, May 4:</b>	Metrolink Unit members:
<b>Wednesday, June 8:</b>	Local 1277 Office, 1744 North Main Street. Morning Session 8:30 a.m. Evening Session 5:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, May 4:</b>	Riverside area members:
<b>Wednesday, June 8:</b>	IELC Building, 1074 E. La Cadena Dr., Riverside Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 3:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday, May 5:</b>	SunLine area members:
<b>Thursday, June 9:</b>	Hilton Palm Springs, 400 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 4:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday, May 5:</b>	Long Beach area members:
<b>Thursday, June 9:</b>	LBFA Local 372, 2201 Cherry Avenue, Signal Hill CA 90755 Morning: 10:00 a.m. Afternoon: 3:00 p.m. Evening: 6:00 p.m.