



Voices of Labor

The Napa-Solano Central Labor Council Newsletter
Issue X - October 24, 2022

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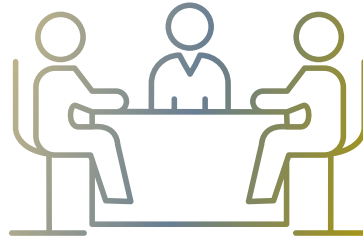
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'Sup, Sibs?

What's up Sibs,

I wrote this letter to be put in the paper in Vallejo where we have a very vocal, very nasty, but very small group who have behaved badly for years. But I think that you can all relate to the message of standing up to the bully and leading with strength and by example. The next few weeks will determine if we can continue to build the strong coalitions that have brought our members respect and support. Please contact Glenn and join his amazing team that is running the field operations. I guarantee you feel a sense of accomplishment and have a bit of fun in the process!

Are you feeling it? That stirring of a movement afoot, a long-awaited change in the atmosphere? I see it. That subtle alteration in the way our citizens are coming together to call for a change in the way we do business, the way we interact with and more importantly, communicate with each other. We are seeing an awakening of our community, people willing to put aside differences for the greater good, willing to stand up to the bully, and demanding, absent viable solutions, that the nay-sayers kindly step aside. It started with five council members banding together and calling out inaction over solutions, leading by example and choosing to invest in Yes over no, by supporting the only way we have of showing the outside world why they too, should invest in our community. They are taking the lead in supporting measure P, to give city staff the resources to provide the basic infrastructure needs to help attract others to invest in our city. And this leadership is paying off! Community members and organizations, who may have been reluctant to step out before, for fear of being attacked, are also coming together to support measure P and becoming part of the not so silent Majority.

It is easy to say no. Saying yes implies inclusion and a sense of responsibility. And while any debate is healthy, how you choose to communicate is the key. Deafening attacks from a small, abusive, minority, only serve to keep others, who are looking to take advantage of the countless opportunities we have to offer, away from our beautiful city. If you are part of this

silent majority who goes to work every day, struggling to raise your families, lacking the time to attend meetings, you can speak volumes by looking to, and voting for, leaders who share your love of the city, and are willing to work together to find a shared value.

So, when you look at the endorsements of those in support of measure P, as well as the candidates for office, that are on the ballot, ask yourself, do they speak for you, do they share your values, do they offer viable solutions, or only the same old negative lip service, always saying no, always saving us from ourselves and our city from progress?

True leaders build consensus, not stand idly by waiting for a like-minded majority to magically appear. Governance is supposed to be the willingness to find and accept compromise and council members Verder-Aliga, Meisner, Diaz, Dew and Brown have shown by example that even those on very different sides of some issues can come together to get things done, and I will proudly join them in investing in YES, on measure P!

I also support Tara-Beasley Stansbury, J.R. Matulac and Chris Platzer for City Council. I feel they have the best abilities to step in and work together to find common ground. But before you vote, also take a look at those who support each candidate, and decide whether they are people or organizations you know and trust, who are able to form coalitions to work together to get things done, who communicate in a respectful manner and are working to move Vallejo forward? That's the team I to join.

-Jon Riley, Retired Fire Captain, Vallejo



Jon Riley

Executive Director
Napa/Solano CLC

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One Vision One Voice
Working People Standing Together

General Election 2022 - Call to Action

We are now in the high tide of the General Election, with the balance of power for workers in reach and at stake in both Solano and Napa Counties.

We are asking for every affiliate of this Labor Council to participate in at least 2 election events- one in October, and one for GOTV in November.

This is about **staffing up and supporting civil servants in both Counties.**

This is about **Project Labor Agreements and supporting the skilled construction workforce.**

This is about **supporting teachers, classified staff, and fighting back against the privatization of public education.**

This is for **supporting our hospitality, grocery, and farmworkers and the services they provide for all of us.**

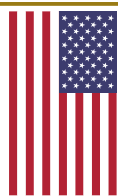
This is for **reviving a sustainable, union manufacturing and industrial sector in these counties.**

This is for **establishing new union footholds in tech and the knowledge economy.**

The stakes are clear- we have the highest public support for unions in decades, unprecedented federal and state funds at the table, and the coalitions to move forward and open a new chapter for our workers and communities. The phone banks and canvassing/literature drops are described and listed in the newsletter, and we look forward to seeing all of you on the frontlines!



In solidarity,
Glenn Loveall
Special Projects Coordinator
Napa-Solano Central Labor Council
glennloveall@gmail.com
707-410-7239



Napa-Solano Central Labor Council

Election 2022

Help elect labor champions!

Prizes will be available to volunteers.



Phonebanking - 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

In-Person

*Mondays & Wednesdays - IBEW Local 180
720 Technology Way, Napa, CA 94558*

Virtual

Monday-Thursday on Zoom
(RSVP for Link)

Canvassing/Literature Drops

In-Person - RSVP for Locations
9 AM, Saturdays

Register to Vote

Online at
registertovote.ca.gov

Napa-Solano CLC Endorsements

- General Election 2022 -

The candidates and ballot measures listed here are
ENDORSED
 by the Napa-Solano Central Labor Council.

Endorsements for Federal and State Office

Mike Thompson	US Congress, Dist. 4
John Garamendi	US Congress, Dist. 8
Cecilia Aguiar-Curry	CA Assembly, Dist. 4
Lori Wilson	CA Assembly, Dist. 11

Endorsements in Napa County

Joelle Gallagher	Napa County Supervisor, Dist.1
Anne Cottrell	Napa County Supervisor, Dist.3
Mark Joseph	American Canyon City Council
David Oro	American Canyon City Council
Liz Alessio	Napa City Council, Dist. 1
Mary Luros	Napa City Council, Dist. 3
Anna Chouteau	St. Helena City Council

Endorsements in Solano County

Wanda Williams	Solano County Supervisor, Dist. 3
Dana Dean	Solano County Board of Ed, Area 3
Teresa Lavell	Solano County Board of Ed, Area 4
Ginger L. Dunne	Solano County Board of Ed, Area 6
Christina Strawbridge	Benicia City Council (at-large, 2 seats)
Lionel Largaespada	Benicia City Council (at-large, 2 seats)
Sheri Zada	Benicia Unified School District, Dist. 1
Mark Maselli	Benicia Unified School District, Dist. 4

Endorsements in Solano County (cont.)

Julian Y. Cuevas	Dixon USD (at-large, 3 seats)
Lloyd L. McCabe	Dixon USD (at-large, 3 seats)
Ian Arnold	Dixon USD (at-large, 3 seats)
Harry T. Price	Fairfield Mayor
K. Patrice Williams	Fairfield City Council, Dist. 1
Doug Carr	Fairfield City Council, Dist. 3
Doriss Panduro	Fairfield City Council, Dist. 5
Alma Hernandez	Suisun City Mayor
Princess Washington	Suisun City Council (at-large, 2 seats)
Jenalee Dawson	Suisun City Council (at-large, 2 seats)
Jack Flynn	Fairfield-Suisun USD, Area 5
David C. Isom	Fairfield-Suisun USD, Area 7
Gregory Ritchie II	Vacaville City Council, Dist. 2
Sarah Chapman	Vacaville City Council, Dist. 4
Jeanette Wylie	Vacaville City Council, Dist. 6
Nancy Dunn	Vacaville USD, Area 1
Santiago Serrato	Vacaville USD, Area 5
Maria T. Figueroa	Travis USD, Area 2
Matthew Bidou	Travis USD, Area 2
Will Wade	Travis USD, Area 2
Diosdado "JR" Matulac	Vallejo City Council, Dist. 2
Chris Platzer	Vallejo City Council, Dist. 4
Tara Beasley-Stansberry	Vallejo City Council, Dist. 5
Glenn Amboy	Vallejo City USD, Area 3
John Fox	Vallejo City USD, Area 5

Endorsed Local Ballot/Bond Measures

Measure P	Vallejo
Measure R	Benicia
Measure K	Benicia
Measure D	Dixon
Measure M	Travis USD
Measure S	Fairfield-Suisun USD
Measure Q	Vacaville USD

The Napa-Solano Central Labor Council (AFL-CIO), representing workers across both Napa and Solano Counties and from all walks of life, has confirmed its endorsements for the General Election this November. The candidates listed below were interviewed by the United Workers for Local Government, which consists of representatives from the Napa-Solano Building Trades Council and Napa-Solano Central Labor Council, as well as workers from across all parts of the local economy, from the public sector to construction, and from manufacturing to teachers, nurses, and the service sector.

Following in-depth interviews and the consistent use of extensive, substantive questionnaires, these candidates were evaluated based on their understanding and support of workers' issues. We would also like to thank all the candidates that showed the respect for working families by coming before our affiliates to discuss their vision for the future. Additionally, a series of bond and ballot measures were evaluated based on their impact on workers and our broader communities. After the completion of the interviews, representatives of the various unions deliberated and voted upon the candidates and local measures identified as the most supportive of workers.

Going forward, we are excited to work to elect pro-worker candidates across both Solano and Napa Counties. We will be talking with workers and members of the broader public as we fight to establish governing majorities who are ready to pursue growth that uplifts and empowers all workers and their communities alike.



Worker Victories - United Farm Workers, NUHW Healthcare Showdown

The labor movement has witnessed two great workers' victories in recent weeks. Both of these episodes illustrate the power of working people standing together to bring about a change for workers and their communities alike against massive opposition.

Earlier this Summer and Fall, the legendary United Farm Workers (UFW), the union that achieved historic victories with the leadership of Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta and the newest member of the California Labor Federation (AFL-CIO), staged a great march to the State Capitol. The aim of this march was to compel Governor Newsom to sign AB 2183, a bill that had passed the State Legislature that would enable farmworkers to vote to unionize via mail-in ballots and in circumstances free from employer intimidation. On repeated occasions, alongside intense opposition from the agricultural industry, the Governor refused to sign the bill.

Following the march to the Capitol, which representatives of this Labor Council attended alongside some of its affiliates, and a series of email and letter campaigns from union members across the state, the Governor announced that he would sign the bill. The labor movement stood united, alongside the heroic efforts of the UFW and the many members, including some of you who are active in this Council, to press the Governor to do the right thing. The farmworkers risked their lives to keep us fed during COVID, and we stood in support of them.

Amidst COVID and our worsening national mental healthcare crisis, the workers of the National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW) stood up to demand better for workers and patients alike. The understaffing of mental health workers is inequitable, creating poor conditions for the workers while badly delaying mental health services for patients in both routine and emergency matters. The only option was to take on Kaiser Permanente and force a change.

The workers of NUHW commenced to strike for 10 weeks across the Bay Area. Along the way, the workers stood firm with their demands and made their message known on the strikelines. This Council and many of its affiliates stood in solidarity with the workers, as did a number of elected officials and candidates for office. In this long and intense showdown with a major healthcare corporation, these workers did not relent. As of this past week, Kaiser has agreed to the large majority of the union's demands, and this conflict has led to a victory for workers and for expanded access to mental health services.

The implications here are as massive as they are transformative- when workers rise up in solidarity, together with fellow workers from all walks of life and with community allies, even the most powerful institutions of our society can be moved. The world as we know it today would look impossible to workers living before the labor movement of the early 20th Century, and we will fight to realize the formerly impossible here in our time.



In solidarity,
Glenn Loveall
 Special Projects Coordinator
 Napa-Solano Central Labor Council
 (AFL-CIO)



Coalitions - Labor-Community Power on the Rise

The Labor movement is moving forward with worker-community alliances across both Solano and Napa Counties. We have had recent victories, changing public policy while setting the conditions for pro-worker growth that is beneficial to the broader community.

In both Napa and Solano Counties, the Labor Council has formed Community Benefits Coalitions - alliances between unions, environmental groups, housing advocates, and other community stakeholders to achieve pro-worker, inclusive, and sustainable growth. In Napa, this effort is under the Napa Working Families Coalition. Through extensive efforts to plan policy, lobby elected officials and commission members, and provide public comments and statements, this Coalition has succeeded in establishing new language for the City of Napa's General Plan. The General Plan guides and shapes how economic development and planning will work over the coming decades. Workers, environmentalists, and housing advocates stood together and prevailed. Through our efforts, language to enhance labor standards, access to childcare, housing, and environmental protection have all been advanced.

On the Solano side, a Community Benefits Coalition is now in operation and working to target General Plans and local ordinances to influence the nature of growth County-wide. The next vital steps for this coalition will involve influencing other General Plans and public policy as well as advocating for incoming infrastructure funds from the Federal and State-level.

Fundamentally, this coalitions are about bringing together superior alliances to shape policy and bring in investment to create a form of growth that expands union jobs while benefiting the broader communities in a sustainable and inclusive manner. We encourage all affiliates to participate in this exciting effort to re-shape the future of growth in the two Counties.



In solidarity,
Glenn Loveall
Special Projects Coordinator
Napa-Solano Central Labor Council
(AFL-CIO)

Member Spotlight: Jorge Romero, Cement Masons Local 400

My name is Jorge A. Romero.

One day a family member was talking about the union he was a part of - it was a very interesting conversation. I asked how can I sign up and he told me the address. The next day I met the B.A for the Cement Masons' Local 400, Ben Espinoza. Ben explained to me the process to become an apprentice. Ghilotti Construction Company was kind enough to sponsor me into the Cement Masons' apprenticeship program. I was a lead man, a foreman, and instructor at our apprenticeship program before I became an organizer. When Ben retired, I was appointed a Business Agent. I was then voted in as a Business Agent per our membership. I will continue to help our members with their needs.



Jorge Romero - Business Agent, CM #400

Jorge has been highly active in service to the Labor Council and the broader labor movement. From participating in the political program to elect labor champions to joining in solidarity actions to aid fellow unions, Jorge has been on the frontlines to help build a stronger labor movement for everyone. Within the Napa Working Families Coalition, Jorge has been critical in helping represent the trades at the vital intersection of labor and community interests as we work to shape a pro-worker, sustainable, and inclusive vision for economic growth. Out in the community, Jorge has volunteered extensively to improve parks and community services, including laboring to help create and establish local disc golf courses in Vallejo, making our local cities better places to live, work, and play. The Cement Masons are well represented by Jorge's efforts in the labor movement and the community, all while being an instructor in their apprenticeship program and helping to lead the rank-and-file members.

Cates: Measure P is Good for Vallejo and Good for Business

As a 20 year resident, I believe in Vallejo and its people. Vallejo is a beautiful town with beautiful people and so much opportunity. Our potential can be realized when we collectively invest in Vallejo and fund our future. A Yes vote on P will do just that.

Let's be clear – Vallejo's streets and potholes are not going to fix themselves. Our other challenging problems; crime, homelessness, dumping, lack of opportunities for our youth, are not going to fix themselves. Magical thinking and delays will not get these challenges solved now. Without Measure P, our challenges will only get more severe and more expensive to address. Magical thinking will not get these challenges resolved.

Nevertheless, just like all Anti-Tax Conservatives, the Measure P opponents “just say no” and offer no viable solutions. They suggest impossible, non viable “solutions” such as cutting staff salaries by 30%—which cannot be done because of collective bargaining and worker protections. Opponents continue to say “live within our means” and we already know what that really means to our bottom line—not enough revenue to address the growing needs of our community.

The anti-Measure P faction is a small group of vocal people whose opposition is really driven by their opinions regarding council spending decisions and not the hard, cold realities of council's day to day choices of what to fund in a world of scarce resources. Mostly, these Measure P opponents have no real solutions and the effect of voting NO on P would be to defund Vallejo's future and deny residents a better Vallejo.

However, we have an opportunity to move in another, progressive direction and fund Vallejo's future. Measure P will pay for better roads, help the homeless, and address crime, gangs, public dumping and blight and create opportunities for our youth. This is a direction I believe most residents want for Vallejo.

I fully support accountability and transparency in government spending and we need to do both, raise revenue and ensure the funds are spent wisely. Therefore, to answer critics' issues of accountability with council spending decisions, Measure P funds will be watched over by an Independent Citizens Committee, and will be audited to make sure funds are spent on our priorities.

Finally, a point of fact that many people don't know is that most of the sales tax we already pay—more than 6.375% of the current 8.375%—goes to the State and County, Vallejo only gets 2%. All Measure P funds will benefit us Vallejoans, and can't be touched by county, state or the federal government.

Why should residents support Measure P?

It's good for Vallejo and it's good business.

When we join together and pass this modest sales tax, less than 1 penny on the dollar and when we all vote YES on Measure P, we Vallejoans have the power to invest in funding our future in order to improve our city for all residents. Measure P is a very concrete way we as a community can show investors, future residents and potential businesses that collectively we are willing to invest in our community. The passage of Measure P will signal this by creating needed resources to provide the basic infrastructure to improve our quality of life and help attract others to invest in our city.

We all see with our own eyes when we drive through Vallejo, the growing needs—homelessness, failing streets, trash—and the Yes on Measure P supporters know our residents care about our community. Our residents know our profound needs cannot be addressed without more revenue so let's continue to support Vallejo by funding our future. Vote Yes on Measure P.

David D Cates



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