

# IMPORTANCE OF MIDTERM ELECTIONS

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL PRESIDENT JAMES P. HOFFA

**O**n Tuesday, Nov. 4, Teamsters everywhere should vote for the candidate or candidates who are best for working families. If you haven't already, start educating yourself on who is running for office and whether your union has endorsed a candidate.

Four years ago, hardworking Americans learned firsthand the consequences of staying home instead of supporting politicians who value their contributions to our nation. Since then, we've increasingly seen the views of billionaire businessmen like the Koch brothers take priority over those of the middle class. At a time when many workers continue to struggle to support their families, we can't afford to sit this election out. So the Teamsters are ramping up our efforts to elect candidates who will listen to the rest of us.

There is no shortage of reasons for Teamsters to care about the midterm elections in November, but here are a few big ones: right-to-work legislation, the minimum wage, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)—an unfair trade deal in the vein of NAFTA.

This year, the Teamsters Union has also started an online Election Action Center at [www.teamster.org/election-center](http://www.teamster.org/election-center).



*James P. Hoffa*

center. On the site, you can find out how to register in your state, as well as access the union's Congressional Voting Scorecard. As Election Day nears, we'll be putting more information and resources on the page.



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# PARKING News

James P. Hoffa, General President | Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer | John Coli, Division Director



## BOSTON PARKING CAMPAIGN ROLLS ALONG

**Nearly 600 Workers Become Teamsters**

Nearly 600 parking workers in the Boston area have become Teamsters, winning industry-leading contracts, job security and a brighter future for the workers and their families. Hundreds more are poised to become Teamsters as the campaign rolls along.

Late last year, hundreds of workers at Central Parking and Standard Parking ratified a first contract by a 97-percent margin, giving the campaign to organize the entire parking industry in Boston a major boost.

The contract was the first Teamster contract for parking workers in the Boston area. It provides workers with a pension and wage increases of up to 11.2 percent over the life of the contract. The contract also provides the following:

- Workers have the right to file a grievance when the company violates workers' rights under the CBA;
- Four-step discipline language; company needs "just cause" and an end to favoritism;
- Seniority rights;
- Part-timers will have the right to fill open full-time positions before an outside hire is made;
- Improved holidays and holiday pay; and
- And many other improvements.

"This contract is great news for me and for all my co-workers at Central and Standard Parking, and we want to thank Local 25 and the International Union for all their help winning this contract with us," said Abdifatah Yaqub, a valet at Central. "This is also good news for parking workers at other companies in the Boston area."

In February 2012, workers at Central Parking voted to join Local 25 in Boston. In October 2013, parking workers at Standard Parking—which later merged with Central—joined Local 25. In November 2012 shuttle bus drivers and bus drivers at Standard became Teamsters. Following these victories, Local 25 has secured "card-check neutrality agreements" with three more companies. The agreements make it easier to organize workers because the company agrees to not unfairly dissuade workers.

The campaign continues to see successes:

- In April, workers at Impark ratified their first contract;
- In June, 83 workers at ProPark ratified their first contract;
- In late August, 130 workers at VPNE ratified their first contract. During negotiations, the union obtained a second card-check/neutrality agreement with VPNE, covering 170 additional members; and
- At LAZ, in June, the Boston City Council unanimously adopted a resolution supporting LAZ employees in their fight to form a union. Organizing is ongoing.

"The parking workers in Boston do a great job serving residents and visitors to the city under challenging conditions," said Sean M. O'Brien, President of Local 25 in Boston. "I want to thank other local parking unions, the International Union and Parking Division Director John Coli for helping us make this campaign successful."

"Boston has been a model campaign, resulting in hundreds of workers having a better life," said John Coli, International Vice President and Director of the Teamsters Parking Division. "We will take what we have learned from Boston and work to organize parking workers across the country."



## EXPANDING THE FIGHT

I hope you enjoy this first newsletter of the Teamsters Parking Division, which was formed early this year to represent the interests of more than 20,000 workers in the parking industry.

The foundation of the new division was established by the excellent work of the Teamsters Parking Council within the Industrial Trades Division.

The formation of the new division comes at a critical time. The parking industry has undergone much change during the past decade, and it continues to change. Major corporations that operate across the country now own parking lots—it's not just smaller, regional companies.

The Division will focus on all areas of the parking industry—large, medium and small companies. These are jobs that cannot be outsourced. However, we also understand that automation within the industry is posing great challenges.

We will work to achieve master contract-style language that addresses automation to ensure that our members get the necessary training so that they do not get displaced. We will work hard to organize parking workers to build Teamster Power.

In recent months, we have had great success organizing parking workers in Boston. The goal in Boston was to organize the entire industry—a market-wide campaign. Organizing parking workers is important because parking is a beachhead to other industries that the Teamsters can organize, such as shuttle bus drivers and taxi drivers.

I look forward to working with you, our members, to improve the lives of parking workers across the country.

Thank you.



## LOCAL 727 WINS BACK PAY AWARD



### 'Justice Was Served' in Fight Against Capital Parking

Nearly 30 parking workers who belong to Local 727 in Chicago received more than \$40,000 in back pay following the union's fight against Capital Parking.

In 2013, the company failed to pay vacation, sick and personal time to 27 union members at three Capital Parking locations. Local 727 filed a grievance and prepared to take the case to arbitration, but the union reached a settlement with the company in April.

"The union stood its ground and our members remained patient, and in the end, justice was served," said John Coli Jr., President of Local 727.

Some members received more than \$3,000 for 200 hours of paid time off. Teamsters Local 727 represents more than 3,500 parking and valet members across the Chicago area.

### A Helping Hand

If you're ever in a bind while parking at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Local 727 member Eddie Baker wants you to know he is there to help.

"I like helping people, it's the best part of my job," said Baker, a nine-year Standard Parking employee. "I love interacting with customers. Whether they need a jump, they locked their keys in their car, whatever happens, I console them and make them feel alright. It's satisfying to help people through their stressful times."

Baker, a valet and customer service associate, was recently named Standard Parking O'Hare's 2013 Employee of the Year. The company recognized his efforts earlier this year, and he received a plaque, a lapel pin, a gift card and three paid days off for his outstanding work.

"I was so surprised," Baker said. "I was speechless, I couldn't do anything but smile."

Baker was named employee of the month for December 2013, making him eligible for the annual award. According to the company newsletter, "Eddie had a near perfect number of votes [for the employee of the year award] which is a testament to his refined character and personality."

The 2012 Standard Parking O'Hare Employee of the Year was Local 727 member Vera Poole.

"It is wonderful to see our members rewarded for their hard work and dedication," Coli said.

## ELECTION DAY MOTIVATES TEAMSTERS



### GETTING OUT THE VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4

The November mid-term elections are right around the corner, and the Teamsters are gearing up to help elect candidates to Congress and in state capitals that put workers' interests ahead of those of big business.

Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa and General Secretary-Treasurer Ken Hall are visiting states across the country in an effort to get members out to vote. And they will use the 2010 election cycle as an example of what can happen to workers when they don't show up at the polls.

"Four years ago, hardworking Americans learned firsthand the consequences of staying home instead of supporting politicians who value their contributions to our nation," Hoffa said. "Since then, we've increasingly seen the views of billionaire businessmen like the Koch brothers take priority over those of the middle class. At a time when many workers continue to struggle to support their families, we can't afford to sit this election out. So the Teamsters are ramping up our efforts to elect candidates who will listen to the rest of us."

Teamster leaders and members across the country are already preparing to make sure every Teamster knows the issues, who stands with them and what is at stake in this election. And the level of activity will continue to escalate right up until the election.

Hundreds of Teamster members will be visiting their fellow members at their worksites to discuss the election and the issues. The Teamsters Union has the most aggressive worksite communication programs in organized labor, with voter registration taking on a more important role.

There are many reasons for Teamsters to be motivated to vote this November. They may not be the issues that

### STAY CONNECTED

Visit [teamster.org/election-center](http://teamster.org/election-center), the union's new online tool, for the Teamsters Congressional Voting Scorecard and other features. For more information about DRIVE, the union's political action committee, visit [teamster.org/content/about-drive](http://teamster.org/content/about-drive).

get highlighted on the evening news, but they are matters that could affect workers' wallets when it comes to pay and job security. Issues like right to work, the minimum wage, worker misclassification and the Trans-Pacific Partnership will all come before the next Congress.

On Election Day, 36 states will hold gubernatorial elections. In the United States Senate, 33 seats are being contested. Wherever there is an important election for working families, the Teamsters Union will be there.

## Weekly News for Working Families



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