

# WORKERS HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE FOR STRONGER AMERICA

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL PRESIDENT JAMES P. HOFFA



With the 2016 election for president, senators and representatives growing closer, working families must focus on finding a viable path forward that empowers them to have a voice in government. By doing so, they can help shape pro-worker and pro-family policies that reward their hard work with fair wages and benefits.

The November election will determine the future for these candidates for office. But more importantly, it will determine the policy direction of this country on issues that affect not only today's workers, but generations to come.

No two issues are more important to Teamsters today than pension security and fair trade.

We must elect candidates who will stand up for working

men and women by protecting their retirement security. Those who earned their pensions and played by the rules must get the secure retirement they invested in for decades. It's just a matter of fairness.

On trade, we must stop the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a proposed 12-nation Pacific Rim trade deal that could end up shipping hundreds of thousands of jobs overseas while also lowering the salaries of many who continue to work stateside. For years, the Teamsters have taken aim at the TPP because it jeopardizes the future of too many hardworking Americans.

This nation has increasingly lost its way when it comes to taking care of its own. Income inequality is up and the voting rights of minorities and the poor have been challenged. That needs to stop. But it only will if the people themselves stand up in November and demand to be a greater part of the process.

Workers will decide if that happens.



Teamsters Bakery & Laundry News

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# BAKERY & LAUNDRY News

James P. Hoffa, General President | Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer | Dave Dudas, Conference Director



## VOTE IN THE TEAMSTER ELECTION

- ✓ Your Right
- ✓ Your Responsibility

There is no shortage of forces trying to stamp out the labor movement. For years, we have seen overzealous politicians and legislatures attempt to roll back labor rights that have taken a century for workers to earn. Rank-and-file Teamsters have the opportunity to send a message and tell these anti-labor think tanks, media outlets and politicians that they still care about the labor movement.

In October, Teamster members will receive a ballot for the 2016 International Election. It is the right and the responsibility of every Teamster to vote in these upcoming elections for International General President, General Secretary-Treasurer, At-Large Vice Presidents, Regional Vice Presidents and Trustees.

By voting, Teamsters show how involved the membership is; they show Teamsters pay attention to the issues affecting them; they show that the labor movement is vibrant and alive.

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**RISING ABOVE**  
*Le Boulanger Drivers Stand Strong to Join Local 853*

A close-knit group of drivers in northern California recently came together over a hard-fought organizing campaign to improve working conditions at San Francisco-based bakery Le Boulanger.

After years of poor treatment and disrespect from management, workers at the family-owned bread company decided to take matters into their own hands, reaching out to Local 853 in Oakland, Calif., to strategize a campaign that could win them the respect and working conditions they deserved.

For Le Boulanger driver Ignacio Villalobos, a former brewery driver who had been represented by Local 853 during his time working for Budweiser and Miller, the decision to organize with the Teamsters was a no brainer. In order to regain representation, however, he would first have to educate his co-workers on the importance of union protection.

"A lot of guys didn't know what a union was or the value of a union contract—some didn't even know what a pension was or what it meant to have seniority and a grievance procedure," Villalobos said.

As Villalobos educated his fellow drivers on the benefits of having a union, the company did all they could to scare workers through intimidation—even bringing in a union buster to try and disrupt the organizing effort. "It was a tense time all the way up

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## A BRIGHT FUTURE

Members in the bakery and laundry industries have seen a changing landscape filled with adversity the past few years.

We all know the impact privatization and consolidation has had on our membership and the industry as a whole, but we must rise above this adversity.

It is important that we remain focused on protecting our members by adjusting to the changing market.



Through organizing and growing our union density, we will continue to gain strength at the bargaining table. And, through our dedication at the bargaining table, we will continue to build on past agreements, build power and further our commitment to winning strong contracts.

By building our union density and building on past successes at the bargaining table, we will overcome the nonunion competition and threat of consolidation. Together, we are leading this division into the future—a future that will be bright if we work together and stand as one.

Bakery and Laundry Teamsters know all about hard work and dedication. They also understand that their workdays are often exhaustive, chaotic and long. No matter what, though, they know that a good union contract and federal laws always ensure that they get paid for the hours they work.

Thank you for your continued support.

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until the vote, but we were determined,” Villalobos said.

For Joint Council 7 Organizer Frank Harms, Villalobos proved to be a valuable resource in keeping his co-workers united throughout the effort to unionize.

“Ignacio was instrumental throughout the campaign. He helped galvanize his co-workers,” Harms said. “These drivers are a committed, tight-knit group. They stuck together and they stood strong to win representation.”

In the end, the vote to join the Teamsters was overwhelming. Today, Local 853 is close to reaching an agreement that will bring drivers the respect and security they have long been waiting for at Le Boulanger.

“Throughout the campaign the workers stood united, demanding respect and consideration from management,” said Lou Valletta, Business Agent at Local 853. “I want to thank everyone who helped make this win possible and all the support from Joint Council 7.”

“We’re thrilled that these workers prevailed, and we are here to represent them to the fullest,” said Rome Aloise, President of Joint Council 7 and Local 853. “They stood strong and united to win representation. I am proud of their dedication and solidarity.”

While the drivers are looking forward to stability under a union-backed contract, Villalobos said they can already feel the difference now that they are Teamsters.

“We can see the difference already—the company doesn’t talk down to us like they did before,” he said.



## FLORIDA LAUNDRY WORKERS LOAD UP!

### Local 385 Members Secure Strong New Contract

Summer is a busy time in the Orlando area. As crowds flock to Disney-themed resorts and theme parks, thousands of Teamsters are hard at work to make the magic happen. Despite peak season and swarms of sweaty tourists, this summer more than 300 laundry and housekeeping workers at the well-known Swan and Dolphin hotels found the time to build power at the bargaining table.

In August, after weeks of negotiations, a new agreement was reached by Local 385 with significant improvements for Teamsters at both hotels—an agreement so good that the 300-plus unit voted unanimously in favor for ratification. Today, they are covered under a new four-year contract that will provide stronger protections on the job.

“This contract is a testament to the strength and solidarity of Teamster members, especially in a right-to-work state like Florida,” said Donna-Lynne Dalton, Recording Secretary and Business Agent for Local 385. “In addition to the stronger protections and improvements to wages and benefits, the new contract will also provide double service payments for shoe shine and garment pressing, added hourly premiums for delivery drivers, more paid time off and an average increase of \$2 per hour to start and maximum rates.”

The Local 385 members will also benefit from a provision that allows for the hire of full-time workers to fill in for vacancies and overflow work.

Local 385 staff is working hard to look after the growing workforce in the Orlando-area.

“Orlando’s tourism industry continues to grow at a rapid pace. As the ever-growing theme parks and resorts continue to expand, the ever-growing Teamster workforce will continue to gain bargaining power as Local 385 continues to grow in number and strength,” Dalton said.

The Teamsters Union is one of five international unions within the Service Trades Council, which covers over 38,000 of Walt Disney World’s 62,000-person workforce.

**“This contract is a testament to the strength and solidarity of Teamster members, especially in a right-to-work state like Florida.”**

— DONNA-LYNNE DALTON, RECORDING SECRETARY AND BUSINESS AGENT FOR LOCAL 385

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**Your Right** **Your Responsibility**



The only thing voting will cost is the time it takes to learn about the issues and the ink it takes to mark the ballot. Not voting, however, costs much more. It sends a message to employers, politicians and the public that as voters, Teamster members don’t value democracy.

Voter turnout is critical to building a healthy democracy. A union is not a corporation. Members are more than shareholders who are valued by their holdings. Rank-and-file Teamsters have an unprecedented say in the future of the union that many other international union members don’t have. Each Teamster has an equal voice in these elections and every vote counts.