

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.



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James P. Hoffa, General President | Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer | Bubba Davis, Division 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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Legislation Helps Ready-Mix Drivers in California

Law Requires Drivers to Get Paid Prevailing Wages for Public Projects

All California ready-mix drivers delivering concrete to any public works job funded by state or local funds will now be paid prevailing wages under a Teamster-sponsored bill signed into law.

California Gov. Jerry Brown signed the Teamster-sponsored bill (AB 219) on October 10, 2015, despite fierce opposition from contractors, ready-mix bosses and other special interests. The law took effect July 1, 2016.

"We are pleased that the governor chose to recognize the important role that these drivers play in the execution of publicly funded projects in California," said Rome Aloise, International Vice President and Joint Council 7 President. "Those drivers will be compensated in an equal manner and on a level playing field. No longer will companies be able to charge the same price for concrete and pad their profits by way of paying drivers lower wages."

"This is an important law because the longtime abuse of the

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TRAINING: CRITICAL TO SUCCESS

Our locals on both coasts have experienced significant good news in the concrete industry. Concrete driver members of New York's Local 282, as reported in this newsletter, recently ratified a new agreement and mixer drivers' wages in the San Francisco area will benefit from a Teamster-sponsored piece of legislation. Both of these victories show the importance of being part of the strongest union in America.



Our division works to keep our training programs in general construction and the pipeline industry up to date. Because of the vitality of our programs they are often filled to capacity. The training center in Joliet, Ill., recently won a National Safety Council award for its Defensive Driving Course taught by Mike Borjas. Borjas and the Joliet facility, the Illinois Teamsters/Employers Apprenticeship and Training Fund, have been honored in previous years for the good work they do. Keeping up with the latest safety rules and technical training is central to our members' continued work in the construction industry.

If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling in a training course, please contact your local union for information.

Legislation Helps Ready-Mix Drivers

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'material supplier' exemption will end," said Marion (Bubba) Davis, Director of the Teamsters Building Material and Construction Trade Division. "No longer will mixer drivers be treated as second-class citizens."

The Teamsters fought hard to pass this bill so that all mixer drivers, union or nonunion, would be paid what they really deserve. Lots of bosses, contractors and politicians fought back, saying the drivers weren't worth it.

Teamster locals are now reaching out to nonunion ready-mix drivers, handing out a leaflet explaining the new law and posing questions to nonunion drivers, including this one: "Now, ask yourself: If I can get top pay for public works jobs, why shouldn't I get it for ALL jobs?"

The leaflet urges nonunion drivers to learn more about the union: "Teamster mixer drivers in California enjoy some of the best contracts in the United States," the leaflet says. "Our wages are superior; our pension is the largest and strongest multi-employer defined benefit plan in the country; many of us have lifetime medical and a 401(k); we have vacation, sick pay, maternity/paternity leave, funeral leave and much more. Teamster mixer drivers stand together for the benefit of all workers. Won't you join us?"

VOTE In The Teamster Election

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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.



CONCRETE DRIVERS WIN NEW CONTRACT

Four-Year Contract Between Local 282 and Concrete Producers
Protects Middle-Class Jobs

New York City's concrete truck drivers ratified a new contract with the New York City Concrete Producers Coalition at a union meeting recently. The contract provides raises, maintains welfare and pension provisions, and improves job protections for sick and injured drivers. New York's concrete truck drivers are members of Local 282.

"Our members stood together and won a contract that ensures that the concrete industry will remain a middle-class career," said Thomas Gesualdi, President of Local 282. "We are all grateful to our brother and sister Teamsters, and the entire labor movement, for standing with us."

"At a time when the middle class is shrinking and income inequality is growing, labor unions are showing that workers can still thrive in this country if they organize and mobilize," Gesualdi said.

The four-year agreement covers about 500 concrete truck drivers at the coalition's 11 companies. Negotiations began on June 1.

"Congratulations to Local 282 on the job well done with the new contract," said Marion (Bubba) Davis, Director of the Teamsters Building Material and Construction Trade Division. "New York City has a strong labor force and we are proud to be part of it."

Local 282 members deliver concrete to construction projects around the city, big and small, including the 2nd Avenue Subway and Hudson Yards. Local 282 is a member of the New York City Building and Construction Trades Council and also represents other building materials and dump truck drivers.

PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION TRAINING OFFERED

The Teamsters National Pipeline Construction Training Fund offers a variety of courses that will assist members in working in the growing gas and oil pipeline construction industry. Please see this website to keep track of the current courses: www.teamsterspipeline.com

PIPELINE STEWARD AND BUSINESS AGENT/OFFICERS CONFERENCE

If you are a steward in the pipeline industry or a business agent or local union officer with pipeline members, consider attending the 5th Annual Conference to be held March 12-16, 2017, at Disney's Yacht and Beach Club Resort. Please contact your local union for more information or visit teamster.org.