

# 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 Brewery & Soft Drink News

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# BREWERY & SOFT DRINK News

James P. Hoffa, General President | Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer | David Laughton, 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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## Local 727 Pepsi Membership Ratifies Four-Year Contract

*Members Secure Back Wages, Improved Health Care Benefits*

More than 600 Pepsi employees represented by Local 727 voted by a 3-to-2 margin to ratify a new four-year contract, which includes retroactive wage increases, merged language, improved health care and more stringent job protections.

The Teamster members work out of four Pepsi facilities in Chicago, Elk Grove Village and Kankakee.

"This is the strongest contract this Pepsi membership has ever had, and it merges together four agreements to unite the group under one contract," said John T. Coli, International Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer of Local 727.

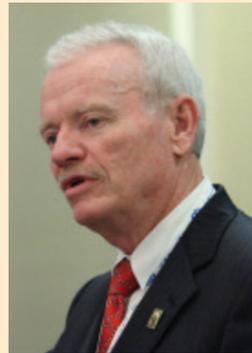
The mail ballot count was held July 5 at the local union's meeting hall in Park Ridge, and the Local 727 Bargaining Committee and other Pepsi members were present. The final vote tally was 171-117 in favor of the contract.

Because the contract was ratified before July 15, employees will move to the company's Standard Flex Benefits Program by

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## CONVENTION DELEGATES JOIN IN FIGHTING SODA TAX

During the recent International Convention I was proud to see the support our members received from across the union against soda taxes, which continue to be introduced in legislatures. Our Brewery and Soft Drink members were able to articulate how the soda tax will affect jobs, a description that motivated delegates to vote in support of the soda tax resolution.



We need everyone to be on guard against these so-called taxes that are written to sound as if they will finance education programs for children when, in fact, that end product never happens. We should view these soda taxes for what they are: a way for politicians to hurt working families.

The Conference and Local 391 have been fighting hard against the planned closure of the award-winning Miller/Coors brewery in Eden, N.C. that will destroy hundreds of good Teamster jobs. The plan to close Eden, announced days before merger talks between Anheuser Busch/InBev and SABMiller were disclosed to the public, will not only devastate the local community but will reduce production capacity in the U.S. and, we believe, drive up prices for consumers. North Carolina's Attorney General is actively investigating the potential anticompetitive effects of the closure. Since we first heard about the threat of closure we immediately engaged state legislators and federal antitrust enforcers to highlight our concerns with the decision, which is now causing extreme hardship for many Teamster families. MillerCoors has not moved equipment out of the brewery, and it is unclear what will happen with the plant once it closes. We are working with the local union in order to find alternative positions for our members.

## Local 727 Pepsi Membership

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Jan. 1, 2017. The new health insurance program can result in annual per employee savings of up to \$1,500 with identical or improved coverage levels.

"Even though contract negotiations are done, our work is not," Coli said. "We will keep asking for members' input as we move forward and continue fighting to improve working conditions."

Voting was conducted via mail in order to maximize the number of members participating, and the union wanted to give members ample time to review the contract offer and return their ballots. "We have a new contract, but we still need everyone to remain involved and engaged," Coli said. "Learn your contract, file grievances, stay united. Work with your stewards and union reps to make sure the company is held accountable for its actions. This is your union. We will fight for you, and will always be here for you no matter what."

## 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.



## Teamsters Take Action Against Soda Tax

Locals from Across Country Vow to Fight

Teamsters from Philadelphia and nationwide resolved at the union's 29th International Convention to join together in opposition to soda taxes that hurt good jobs in the beverage industry. As noted in the resolution passed by the delegates, the soda tax proponents have expanded their rationale for the tax while ignoring the negative impact it would have on Teamster members who produce, warehouse and deliver the products.

"These taxes are harmful to workers, small grocers and the poor," said Dan Grace, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 830 in Philadelphia. "The tax that the city council passed in Philadelphia will go to fund the city's pet projects at the expense of our workers and economy. We are continuing the fight against this unfair, regressive tax in court. Our fight is not over."

In early June, Teamsters from the Philadelphia, New York and New Jersey area, members of SEIU, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division, community allies and store owners rallied outside Philadelphia's City Hall to protest the proposed soda tax. While Coca-Cola, Pepsi and Canada Dry trucks and Teamster 18-wheelers circled city hall, rank-and-file Teamsters held signs saying, "No More Taxes."

"This soda tax is a regressive tax that will hurt our industry," said Bill Hamilton, International Vice President and President of Local 107, at the rally. "The issue has never been about health and we will all end up paying for this tax with jobs."

### Tax Will Impact Jobs

Convention delegates passed a soda tax resolution that stated, in part, "delegates here assembled commit to protect the jobs of our working families by demanding that any soda tax proposal include measures to address the potential adverse impact upon our members, and that if the proponents refuse to address the unfair impact upon our members, we are duty bound to oppose and defeat the proposal."

Delegates from across the country vowed to fight any soda tax proposals that would come up in their legislatures. Marty Frates, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 70 in Oakland, Calif., said, "The soda tax is a rip-off." Ed Weber, President of Local 812 in New York, agreed, saying, "This tax will devastate the industry, and a lot of Teamster jobs will be lost."