

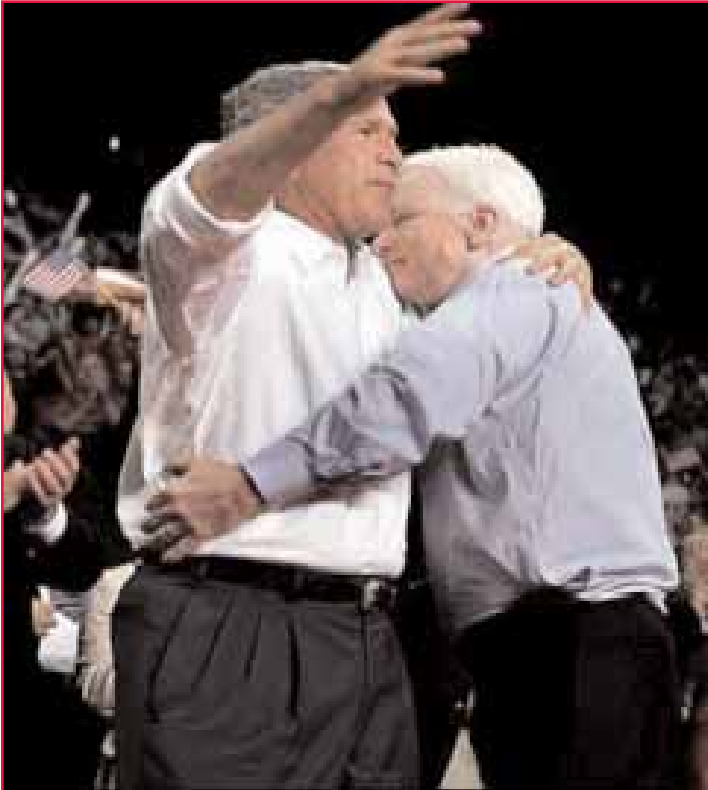


Teamsters Local 853

CONNECTIONS

Volume IX, No. 3

October, 2008



sending jobs overseas,
attacks on union pensions
and healthcare,
foreclosures,
unemployment, recession,
rising cost of gas and food,
endless war in Iraq,
failing banks and airlines,
anti-worker Dept. of Labor...

*If you liked the last 8 years
under George W. Bush...*

McCain's no maverick—
he voted for Bush
policies 90% of the time.
Vote for Obama!



**you'll love
John McSame!**

Your vote for Obama is most important ever

By ROME ALOISE

Welcome to the special Election issue of *Connections*.

As an elected officer of this union for 33 years and Principal Officer for the past 16 years, I have devoted my career to ensuring that our members receive the best possible contracts in their industries. I have seen first-hand how politicians and the party in power can make or break our ability to improve wages, benefits and working conditions.

After eight years of the Bush administration and a Republican-dominated Congress, I have seen our power as a union diminish. This administration has put Wall Street fat cats and the rich first, leaving working people and the poor at the back of the line. Rather than strengthening pensions, supporting national health care, promoting good jobs, and enabling unions to do our jobs, their greed has created policies that only benefit the wealthiest among us.

That is why I ask, in the strongest possible way, that you vote for Barack Obama for President this year.

We are currently watching our financial institutions nearly evaporate. Why? When the Democrats attempted to regulate Wall Street to ensure enforcement of strict regulations, the Republicans would have none of it. They claimed to want the free market to work its magic.

Whether it's magic or voodoo, the result

has been a disaster. Many of our members have suddenly found themselves suffering with foreclosures and the loss of their homes. While Wall Street's bad loans may be getting bailed out, who's bailing out hard-working families who just tried to live the American dream?



IBT General President James Hoffa and Barack Obama

And what about taxes? The Republicans want to preserve the tax cuts they gave to the rich, but instead they actually want to tax your health and welfare contributions. John McCain proposes to tax health benefits that exceed \$8,000 per year. That would impact all of our members. To top it off, the Republicans have opposed

any type of national health care and have no plan to deal with cost increases that are eating us up.

The Republicans have no interest in pension plans. They want workers to fend for themselves, invest their own money, and, I guess, work until they die, because they will never amass enough money to retire with dignity. Looking at the stock market in recent weeks, we should pat ourselves on the back for fending off Bush's plan to privatize Social Security—but that's a proposal that John McCain wants to revive.

Add to this. their constant attacks on our

union's very own existence. Bush has taken the Labor out of the National Labor Relations Board, which has resulted in overturning worker protections that we depended on for 60-odd years.

Obama and the Democrats give us hope that someone in Washington D.C. will have a concern for workers. They certainly don't always do what unions suggest, but they always come to unions to ask what we need.

Obama has committed to signing the Employee Free Choice Act, which will enable us to rebuild the labor movement and make sure your companies don't have to compete against non-union, lower-paying employers. Obama has also committed to government support of pension plans and national health care.

This election is simply too important for you and your family to sit on the sidelines. In addition to the presidential election, please take care to vote for union-endorsed candidates for state and local offices, because these positions have a direct impact on many of our contracts.

To date, we have registered hundreds of our members and their families to vote in this election. But registration is only the first step—you **actually have to vote!** Once you do, call your friends and family and make sure they voted. Do your part to secure a better life for all working people.



Election action steps

Register to vote: The deadline is **Monday, October 20.**

If you've moved since the last time you voted, you must re-register. Here's how to get a voter registration form:

- Ask your business agent.
- Most public offices (library, DMV, post office) have forms.
- Call 1-800-345-VOTE to request a form be mailed to you.
- Register on-line at: www.sos.ca.gov.

Request a vote-by-mail (absentee) ballot: If you have any doubt that you cannot get to the polls on time, request a "vote-by-mail" ballot in writing **by Monday, October 27.**

Get involved in your community: Union members can make the difference in key races. Contact your local Central Labor Council to find the perfect volunteer job for you—phone banking, precinct walking, stuffing envelopes, looking up numbers.

Vote: Election day is **Tuesday, November 4.** (Vote-by-mail ballots will arrive on or about October 5 and must be returned in time to be received by the elections official by election day or may be handed in at a polling place by 8:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, Nov. 4.**



Teamsters Local 853

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Members: Send address changes and comments to the above address or e-mail us: connections@teamsters853.org

Debra Chaplan, Editor

Local 853 Endorsements

U.S. Congress

District Candidate & Party

- 6 * Lynn Woolsey (D)
- 7 * George Miller (D)
- 8 * Nancy Pelosi (D)
- 9 * Barbara Lee (D)
- 10 * Ellen Tauscher (D)
- 11 * Jerry McNerney (D)
- 12 * Jackie Speier (D)
- 13 * Fortney "Pete" Stark (D)
- 14 * Anna Eshoo (D)
- 15 * Mike Honda (D)
- 16 * Zoe Lofgren (D)
- 17 * Sam Farr (D)

California State Senate

District Candidate & Party

- 3 Mark Leno (D)
- 7 Mark DeSaulnier (D)
- 9 Loni Hancock (D)
- 11 * Joe Simitian (D)
- 13 * Elaine Alquist (D)

Calif. State Assembly

District Candidate & Party

- 1 Wes Chesbro (D)
- 6 * Jared Huffman (D)
- 7 * Noreen Evans (D)
- 11 Tom Torlakson (D)
- 12 * Fiona Ma (D)
- 13 Tom Ammiano (D)
- 14 Nancy Skinner (D)
- 15 Joan Buchanan (D)
- 16 * Sandre Swanson (D)
- 18 * Mary Hayashi (D)
- 19 Jerry Hill (D)
- 20 * Alberto Torrico (D)
- 21 * Ira Ruskin (D)
- 22 Paul Fong (D)
- 23 * Joe Coto (D)
- 24 * James Beall, Jr. (D)
- 25 Bill Monning (D)
- 28 * Anna Caballero (D)

*Denotes Incumbent

Alameda County Labor Council Endorsements

Alameda County

- Superior CourtDennis Hayashi • Philip Daly
- AC Transit: At largeJoyce Roy
 - District 1Joe Wallace
 - District 2Greg Harper
- BART Ward 5Linda Jeffery-Sailor
- East Bay ParksDoug Siden
- Eden Health DistrictDr. Vin Sahwney
- Ohlone College: Area 2Teresa Cox
 - Area 6Greg Bonaccorsi
- Peralta College: Area 1Bill Withrow
 - Area 2Marlon McWilson
 - Area 6Cy Gulassa
- Washington HealthPat Danielson
- Measure VV (AC Transit)YES
- Measure WW (East Bay Parks)YES
- Alameda City CouncilDoug DeHaan
- Albany MayorRobert Lieber
- Berkeley MayorTom Bates
- Berkeley City Council:
 - District 4Jesse Arreguin • Terry Doran
 - District 6Sue Wengraf • Max Anderson
 -Darryl Moore • Laurie Capitelli
- Berkeley School BoardBeatriz Leyva-Cutler
- Measure KK (Limit bus rapid transit)NO
- Measure FF (Library bond)YES
- Measure GG (Fire Safety parcel tax)YES
- Castro Valley SanitaryDaniel Akagi
 -Tim McGowan • Dennis Waespi
- Dublin MayorTim Sbranti
- Fremont City CouncilTrisha Tahmasbi
 -Bob Wiecekowski
- Measure MM (Hotel tax)YES
- Fremont Schools ..Bryan Gebhardt • Ivy Wu • Lily Mei
- Hayward Schools
 - 2-year seatJames Farley
 -Lawrence Fitzpatrick • Sheila Sims
 - 4-year seatRick Bartholomew
 -Maribel Heredia • Dianne McDermott
- Hayward Area Rec & Park Dist.....Dennis Waespi
- Oakland
 - City Council At-LargeRebecca Kaplan
 -Kerry Hamill
 - Measure N (Jack's Tax)NO
 - Measure NN (More Police parcel tax)NR
 - Measure OO (funding during budget crisis)NO
 - Pleasanton MayorJennifer Hosterman
 - Measure PP (Housing cap)NO
 - Measure QQ (Open space)YES
 - San Leandro Schools: At-Large ..Morgan Mack-Rose
 - District 1Hermy Almonte • Rick Richards
 - Measure RR (Utility tax)YES
 - Measure SS (911 services).....YES
 - Measure TT (Police)YES
 - Union City: Measure UU (Public Safety tax) ..YES

California Ballot Propositions

- 1A Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st CenturyYES
- 2 Treatment of Farm AnimalsNO
- 3 Children's Hospital Bond Act.....YES
- 4 Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy.....NR
- 5 Nonviolent Offenders. Sentencing, Parole, Rehabilitation ..NR
- 6 Criminal Penalties and Laws. Public Safety FundingNR
- 7 Renewable EnergyNO
- 8 Limit on MarriageNO
- 9 Criminal Justice System. Victims' Rights. ParoleNR
- 10 Bonds. Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable EnergyNO
- 11 RedistrictingNO
- 12 Veteran's Bond Act of 2008YES

*NR denotes No Recommendation

Endorsements are determined based on a series of worker-oriented issues. If more than one candidate is listed, this means that both candidates passed the labor test. You'll have to make your decision based on other issues.



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Local 853 – organizing and building a stronger union

South Bay (Santa Clara) Labor Council Endorsements

- Santa Clara County**
 School Board
 Area 1 **Grace H. Mah**
 Area 4 **Joseph S. Di Salvo**
 Area 5 **Anna E. Song**
 Superior Court Judge—Office 8 **Diane Ritchie**
 Supervisor District 2 **George Shirakawa**
 **Richard Hobbs**
 Supervisor District 3 **David Cortese**
 Measures A, B, E, F, J, K, L, M, N, P, S— **YES**
East Side Union High School District **Lan Nguyen**
Hollister City Council, Dist. 5 **David A. Huboi**
Milpitas: Mayor **Bob Livengood**
 City Council **Pete McHugh**
Morgan Hill: Mayor **Steve Tate**
 City Council **Larry Carr**
Mountain View City Council **Alicia Crank**
San Jose City Council
 District 2 **Ash Kalra**
 District 8 **Rose Herrera**
Santa Clara City Clerk **Rod Diridon, Jr.**
 City Council, Seat 4 **Kevin Moore**
 Seat 6 **Jamie Lee Matthews**
 Seat 7 **Chuck Blair**
West Valley-Mission CCD, Area 3 **Adrienne Craig Grey**

San Mateo County Labor Council Endorsements

- San Mateo County**
 Board of Education, Area 4 **Rod Hsaio**
 Area 7 **Memo Morantes**
County Measures:
 Measure Q (8% Biz License tax on commercial parking) .. **NR**
 Measure R (2.5% Biz License tax vehicle rentals) **NO**
Brisbane Measure T (Biz license tax) **NR**
Daly City City Council
 **David Canepa • Judith Christensen • Sal Torrez**
East Palo Alto City Council
 **A. Peter Evans • Douglas Fort**
 **Bernardo “Hureta” Gonzalez • Goro Mitchell**
Menlo Park City Council
 **Andrew “Andy” Cohen • Kelly Fergusson**
Pacifica City Council **Mary Ann Hihart • Cal Hinton**
Redwood City: Measure W (Land Use) **NO**
Sequoia Health Care District **Kathleen Kane**
 **Malcolm MacNaughton**
South San Francisco USD **Ronald Burgess • Judy Bush**
School District Measures:
 Measure Y Bayshore School District parcel tax **YES**
 Measure U Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary School
 District parcel tax **YES**
 Measure X Millbrae School District bonds **NR**
 Measure S San Carlos School District parcel tax **YES**