



# Local 1277

# News

October, 2016

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Website: [www.atu1277.com](http://www.atu1277.com)

## Our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: 1941-2016

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## OF COURSE, IT'S CLINTON FOR PRESIDENT, BUT "DOWN-BALLOT" RACES ARE VITAL, TOO

By Art Aguilar, President, Local 1277

We're coming down to the wire for this very significant election cycle, brothers and sisters. By the time you read this, there will be less than 10 days before early voting begins in California (October 10). The national, state and local stakes are very high this time, and as union members and families, as well as concerned citizens, you must cast informed votes.

*Of course, for President and Vice-President, it is the Democratic Hillary Clinton-Tim Kaine ticket. There literally is no other choice. Trump and the Republicans are unthinkable, and would be a disaster for our Union, organized labor in general, and our country.*

In fact, this race is so important, that I again urge every ATU Local 1277 brother, sister and retiree to reach out to friends and family members in other states to make sure they turn out to vote for Clinton and against Trump. California, fortunately, is safely for Clinton, but voters in vital "swing (toss up) states" like Ohio, Virginia, Florida, Colorado, Michigan and Pennsylvania may very well decide the presidency. Local 1277 has retirees living across the country, and most of us know people in other states. Please reach out to them as soon as you can—before their early voting begins—to make sure they're registered and ready to vote for Clinton-Kaine.

That said, there are a number of "down ballot" candidates and state and local ballot measures that are very important to both our Union and to good government in general. I want to highlight some of these contests and urge all members and families to support these candidates and measures. Some of these may literally affect us more than the presidency.

Los Angeles County Measure M: This would extend the funding for mass transit throughout the region (including operational funds, which pay our wages!). The original Measure R, passed in 2008, created tens of thousands of union jobs for hard-working men and women in construction, operations and manufacturing (please see Brother Kurowski's more detailed article about the importance of County Measure M in this paper). By extending Measure R, this year's Measure M will ensure billions and billions of dollars for expanding and upgrading mass transit and creating more jobs and preserving the ones already in existence. YES on COUNTY MEASURE M!

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. This immensely powerful entity has great influence on regional mass transit and, thus, on our jobs, careers and futures. In particular, the Board deals with MTA and its members have a lot to say about its operations and priorities—and contracts. *It is vital that Local 1277 and organized labor have a majority of friends on the Board who will look out for our interests and be open to discussing key issues with us.*

With that in mind, your Executive Board strongly recommends **Kathryn Barger and Janice Hahn for election to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.**

*Kathryn Barger (5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District) is endorsed by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, and in the June primary she was the top vote-getter, with nearly 30% of the vote in a very crowded field. Ms. Barger has served long and ably as chief-of-staff to outgoing County Supervisor Mike Antonovich, and she is very well-versed on county mass-transit issues and the absolute need to expand public-transit systems and upgrade current ones. **BARGER FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR!***

*Janice Hahn (4<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District) is also enthusiastically endorsed by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor. Ms. Hahn has a long and distinguished record of public service for the City of Los Angeles (city council) and federal government (member of Congress). She has been a vocal and strong supporter of organized labor and working families throughout her career, and she is the daughter of legendary Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, who was organized labor's strongest ally on the board for 25 years. **HAHN FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR!***

*California State Proposition 53 would require voter approval before the state could issue any public infrastructure bonds worth more than \$2 billion. This is a very damaging, short-sighted proposal because putting such bond issues to a vote would delay much-needed construction projects that would benefit the public and provide thousands of union jobs. Important, necessary projects would become political footballs, subject to expensive and time-consuming campaigns that delay work and drive up costs down the line. **NO ON PROPOSITION 53!***

*California State Proposition 55 will extend the provisions of 2012's Proposition 30, the so-called "Millionaires Tax". The original Proposition 30 imposed a special tax on the state's very rich individuals and families, money that was well-spent on education, healthcare and public safety for all Californians. This year's Proposition 55 extends the "Millionaires Tax" until 2030, ensuring a continuing flow of additional, much-needed funds for these and other important state priorities. **YES ON PROPOSITION 55!***

Please review organized labor's slate of candidates—at all levels—and choices on county and state ballot measures in this edition of your paper. Your votes *matter*, brothers and sisters, here in California and across the country. Vote for your interests here in California, and please urge friends and family members in other states to vote their interests! Thank you.

# COUNTY AND STATE FEDERATIONS OF LABOR ENDORSEMENTS FOR THE NOVEMBER 8 GENERAL ELECTION

*Editor's note: Your Executive Board urges every ATU Local 1277 active member and retiree, and family, to vote for labor-endorsed candidates and ballot initiatives. This is your best assurance that office holders will be sympathetic to our agenda, and that state and local propositions reflect our goals. Please refer to the list below before you vote on November 8 or mail in your ballot earlier.*

**Finally, a last reminder: The Presidential election across the country is tightening up. While Hillary Clinton will carry California, a number of other key states are still up for grabs. Please reach out to friends, family members and Local 1277 retirees in other states and ask them to vote for Ms. Clinton and labor-endorsed candidates. It's THAT important! Thank you.**

## ***PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: HILLARY CLINTON***

***UNITED STATES SENATE: KAMALA HARRIS***

### **LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR**

Supervisorial District 4: Janice Hahn

Supervisorial District 5: Kathryn Barger

### **LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROPOSITION M: YES!**

#### **United States Congress**

District 25: Bryan Caforio  
**District 26: Julia Brownley**  
 District 27: Judy Chu  
**District 28: Adam Schiff**  
 District 29: Tony Cardenas  
**District 30: Brad Sherman**  
 District 31: Pete Aguilar  
**District 32: Grace Napolitano**  
 District 33: Ted Lieu  
**District 34: Xavier Becerra**  
 District 35: Norma Torres  
**District 36: Raul Ruiz**  
 District 37: Karen Bass  
**District 38: Linda Sanchez**  
 District 39: Brett Murdock  
**District 40: Lucille Roybal-Allard**  
 District 41: Mark Takano  
**District 42: Tim Sheridan**  
 District 43: Maxine Waters  
**District 44: Isadore Hall, III**  
 District 45: No recommendation  
**District 46: Joe Dunn**  
 District 47: Alan Lowenthal

#### **California State Assembly**

District 36: Darren Parker  
**District 37: Monique Linon**  
 District 38: No recommendation  
**District 39: No recommendation**  
 District 40: Abigail Medina  
**District 41: Chris Holden**  
 District 42: Greg Rodriguez  
**District 43: Ardy Kassakhian**  
 District 44: Jacqui Irwin  
**District 45: No recommendation**  
 District 46: Adrin Nazarian

**District 47: No recommendation**  
 District 48: Bryan Urias  
**District 49: Ed Chau**  
 District 50: No recommendation  
**District 51: Jimmy Gomez**  
 District 52: Freddie Rodriguez  
**District 53: Miguel Santiago**  
 District 54: Sebastian Ridley-Thomas  
**District 55: Greg Fritchie**  
 District 56: Eduardo Garcia  
**District 57: Ian Calderon**  
 District 58: Cristina Garcia  
**District 59: Reggie Jones-Sawyer**  
 District 60: Eric Linder  
**District 61: Jose Medina**  
 District 62: Autumn Burke  
**District 63: Anthony Rendon**  
 District 64: Mike Gipson  
**District 65: Sharon Quirk-Silver**  
 District 66: Al Muratsuchi  
**District 67: No recommendation**  
 District 68: No recommendation  
**District 69: No recommendation**  
 District 70: Patrick O'Donnell

#### **California State Senate**

District 21: Johnathon Ervin  
**District 23: Mark Westwood**  
 District 25: Anthony Portantino  
**District 27: Henry Stern**  
 District 29: Sukhee Kang  
**District 31: Richard Roth**  
 District 33: Ricardo Lara  
**District 35: Steven Bradford**

#### **State Propositions**

Proposition 51: Yes  
**Proposition 52: Yes**  
Proposition 53: No  
**Proposition 54: No**  
Proposition 55: Yes  
 Proposition 56: Yes  
**Proposition 57: Yes**  
 Proposition 58: Yes  
**Proposition 59: Yes**  
 Proposition 60: No recommendation  
**Proposition 61: No recommendation**  
 Proposition 62: Yes  
**Proposition 63: No recommendation**  
 Proposition 64: No recommendation  
**Proposition 65: No recommendation**  
 Proposition 66: No  
**Proposition 67: Yes**

#### **Los Angeles City**

Proposition HHH: Yes  
**Proposition JJJ: Yes**

#### **Los Angeles County**

Measure A: Yes

#### **Long Beach**

Measure MA: Yes  
**Measure MM: Yes**

## ONE OF YOUR MOST VALUABLE ASSETS!

# ALL LOCAL 1277 MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW THEIR “WEINGARTEN RIGHTS”

*By Jeff Shafer, Treasurer, Local 1277*

Brothers and sisters, I want to remind you how and when to use your “Weingarten Rights”. This is one of the most valuable rights you have, and it is very important that *all* members of ATU Local 1277—especially our new ones—know and understand these rights and how to use them, if need be.

Specifically, for our new members, some of you may never have worked in a union shop before. You may be unfamiliar with the advantages your union provides: representation; benefits; security, and many of the other essentials that relate to your job, families and future.

New hires/union members must complete your *Probationary Period* (a provision of all our CBA/MOU’s), which is defined as a period during which the company evaluates you as a new employee in order to determine your ability to follow instruction, policies and company/ agency practice.

*It is important to note that even though you may be on probation, this does not mean that you can’t ask for union representation to be present if you feel your job is in jeopardy. It simply means that during this probationary period, you must follow all company/agency policies in order to avoid the risk of failing your probation. During this time, a brother or sister can still file a grievance to correct, for example, a payroll error (if it has gone uncorrected through a verbal request).*

Once you pass probation, you can take comfort in knowing that you will benefit from well over 100 combined years of union experience on the part of your Executive Board members whenever you may need it.

### **YOUR “WEINGARTEN RIGHTS”**

Once you have successfully completed your probationary period, it is vitally important that you remember that you now have “Weingarten Rights”. Simply put, this hard-fought provision

absolutely guarantees your right to union representation whenever you are called into a meeting by management in order to discuss your employment status.

These rights are particularly important and valuable if, as a result of that discussion with management, you believe you could be disciplined, discharged, or have your personal working conditions affected. However, remember that when you choose to exercise your “Weingarten Rights”, you must request representation and inform management that you choose not to participate in such a meeting without union representation!

***If you are ever in doubt, brothers and sisters, about what a meeting with management might be about, or might lead to, be sure to exercise your “Weingarten Rights”! Don’t be taken in by management assurances that “we’re just talking”. When in doubt, be on the safe side and use your “Weingarten Rights”.***

For most of our long-time Local 1277 members, this may come as common knowledge, but perhaps for our newer members, who may be unfamiliar with a union and the benefits of union representation, *this information could literally save your job!* If circumstances dictate, never forget to exercise your “Weingarten Rights”, especially if you feel you are going into a meeting that might affect your job, or lead to disciplinary action!

It may not be a bad idea to clip this article and carry it with you for reference, if ever need be. If you have any questions about your vital “Weingarten Rights”, ask your Shop Steward or feel free to call me at the Union Office 323/222-1277, ext. 107.

*Your “Weingarten Rights” are worth their weight in gold! Never forget them, or be talked out of using them!*

## **Former L.A. Supervisor Ed Edelman Passes Away**

Last month, former Los Angeles County Supervisor, Ed Edelman, passed away. Mr. Edelman served his constituents and the county at large ably and diligently. From our Union’s perspective, Supervisor Edelman was a long-time member of the MTA Board, and he also was a labor-management arbitrator.

Some of our members may recall that during the 2003 strike against the Authority, Supervisor Edelman suggested a way to resolve the only outstanding—and vitally important—issue still left on the table: Healthcare. He suggested a way to resolve the issue was through “non-binding/binding interest arbitration”.

Both the unions and MTA agreed that a 2/3 vote of the MTA Board *or* of Local 1277’s membership could *reject* the arbitration award. Neither side rejected the award, and it went into effect, ending the more-than-one-month strike. Supervisor Edelman’s insightful idea broke the logjam and gave Local 1277’s MTA-Unit members comprehensive medical coverage.

## POTENTIALLY HISTORIC MASS-TRANSIT EXPANSION

# COUNTY MEASURE M IS A MUST-WIN FOR OUR UNION AND FOR THE FUTURE

By Doug Kurowski, Board Member-at-Large

On Election Day, November 8—and earlier, if you vote by mail—ATU Local 1277 active members, retirees and families will face extremely important decisions: Hillary Clinton for President, of course, *Democratic* candidates for the U.S. Senate and congress, key elections for the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (please see President Aguilar's column in this paper), and a number of state and local ballot propositions.

***Of all the measures on your ballot, none is more important than Los Angeles County Measure M! However you vote on anything else on your ballot, brothers and sisters, please, PLEASE be sure to vote YES for Measure M!***

Measure M extends the sales-tax revenue stream that voters approved in 2008 (Measure R). This welcome and necessary infusion of money led to significant upgrading and expansion of the county-wide mass-transit system. Passage of 2008's Measure R created many new, *union* jobs and also provided *operating funds, the money to pay our wages.*

This year's Measure M extends that half-cent sales tax well into the future, with *no sunset (termination) clause.* Measure M more than "doubles down" on the promise and revenue stream of Measure R: ***It provides more money—another \$860 million/year.***

This enhanced revenue stream will enable financing that allows the acceleration of many badly needed mass-transit projects, creating even more jobs and ensuring a flow of the operating funds that are so important to every Local 1277 member and family. ***In fact, if voters step up and vote for the new measure, Los Angeles County will embark on a transit expansion program that is unrivaled in the U.S.***

### A Two-Thirds Approval Vote is Needed

It is extremely important, brothers and sisters, to remember that County Measure M needs a **two-thirds** approval vote to pass. This means that you, as strong union members, concerned citizens and dedicated mass-transit professionals have to make sure that **all your eligible family members, friends and neighbors are aware of the importance of this measure and will vote YES on it!**

The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor is strongly behind the effort to pass Measure M, and is pouring in significant financial and "people" resources for telephoning and get-out-the-vote activities. Additionally, a broad spectrum of neighborhood, civic, progressive and even some business interests are working to pass Measure M with the necessary two-thirds approval vote.

Among other positive and needed things, passage of Measure M will ensure the more than *quadrupling* of the connectivity of the rail system. Before 2008's Measure R, passengers could transfer from one line to another at seven stations in the system, *but passage of today's Measure M would build projects that increase the number of transfer points to 32, enabling mass-transit-dependent people to more conveniently get from one corner of the county to another.*

But there's more in the promise of Measure M: Its funding will invest in new bicycle and pedestrian connections. *Therefore, not only would there be increased rail-to-rail connectivity, along with bus-to-rail connectivity, but there will also be first-last-mile bike and pedestrian connectivity.*

**All this adds up to a totally transformational, cutting-edge transportation system throughout Los Angeles County, instead of the often-frustrating model we have now. And, two additional bonuses with the passage of Measure M: Less congestion on our freeways and streets and, over time, less-polluted, cleaner air for all of us to breathe!**

It all adds up to a real "no-brainer", brothers and sisters: **Vote YES on County Measure M!** It is sound public policy, a progressive and rational way to spend public funds, a guarantor of our jobs and futures, and a creator of even more good unionized construction and mass-transit-service jobs. **YES on Measure M on November 8 or earlier, if you vote by mail.**

### A Special Note and Request

The lifeblood of organized labor's campaign efforts is union-member volunteers. Over the years, our brothers and sisters have telephoned voters, helped get out the vote, distributed campaign/issue literature and walked door to door to inform voters.

This year, as we have been explaining, the stakes are *much* higher: the Presidency, a U.S. Senate seat, and many ballot issues—*none as important to us as Measure M.* I ask all interested Local 1277 brothers and sisters, retirees and family members, *to get involved in the election process.* Lend your time, effort and commitment to electing pro-working people candidates and passing pro-working family ballot initiatives.

To volunteer for campaign activities, please call me at the Union office (323/222-1277, ext. 105). *We really need you to help make a difference this year!* Join us in helping make the union movement that serves you stronger and more politically influential. Thank you.

***Here are the upcoming Local 1277 membership meetings for October and November. Please make every attempt to attend the meeting for your unit. It's your Union, and we need your participation at our meetings!***

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b> <i>All Members Get Credit for October.</i>	L.A. Building Trades Council, 1626 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles.
<b>Tuesday, November 1:</b>		<b>Morning Session:</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Evening Session:</b> 5:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b> <i>All Members Get Credit for October.</i>	1074 E. La Cadena Drive, Riverside.
<b>Wednesday, November 2:</b>		<b>Morning Session:</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Afternoon Session:</b> 1:00 p.m. <b>Evening Session:</b> 6:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b> <i>All Members Get Credit for October.</i>	Cathedral City Branch Library, 33520 Date Palm Drive, Cathedral City.
<b>Thursday, November 3:</b>		<b>Morning Session:</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Afternoon Session:</b> 4:00 p.m.
		Machinists Hall, 319 W. Broadway, Long Beach.
		<b>Morning Session:</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Afternoon Session:</b> 3:00 p.m.