Whoever says elections don’t have consequences is an idiot. The real problem is that some elections are designed to get as few voters to participate as possible. Those are the dangerous ones.

On March 7, your livelihood and that of your union brothers and sisters is at stake in an election no one’s heard of. So, my message here is to ask you to get informed about this election. And then, to vote against Measure S, the job killer.

Measure S is on the March 7 Los Angeles City ballot, which is open only to voters who live in the city of Los Angeles. Many other cities vote March 7 too (check the list on p. 7). But the most important measure anyone will vote on that day is Measure S, and every Building Trades local union member and their family needs to know that S will threaten their jobs.

To make a long story short, a bunch of people in Los Angeles who care more about the view from their homes than jobs for hard-working men and women conspired to place S on the ballot. Originally, their aim was to put it on the November 2016 ballot. Then they realized, “Hey, it’s...”

SEE NO ON S PAGE 3
You may be paying more for your pharmacy benefits than contractually obligated. American Health Care will provide a free Pharmacy Benefit Plan audit and make sure you aren’t overpaying. Using our internally developed clinical and technical logic, we provide unparalleled checks against improper payments and administrative oversights.

**Our Process**

**STEP 1:** AHC will assess your PBM’s compliance with key contract terms. AHC will begin with a complete analysis and a free audit of a full year of pharmacy claims and will assess your PBM’s compliance with key contract terms, guarantees, rebates and pricing.

**STEP 2:** A comprehensive audit report will be issued highlighting:
- PBM overcharges
- Contract compliance gaps
- Discount and rebate guarantee shortfalls
- Drug misclassifications affecting cost

**STEP 3:** A report showing savings opportunities will be presented based upon savings determined through a re-pricing of each individual claim using the proprietary AHC pharmacy network.

**STEP 4:** AHC’s clinical and management team will meet with your team to review findings and determine the next steps.

Recent Client Testimonials:

“We switched from the largest PBM in the country to American Health Care over a year ago. This was the best change we ever made. Implementation was seamless and customer service is exceptional with 24/7 access to live people. Very pleasant people to work with and savings has exceeded estimates at 12% of our prior year cost - highly recommended for a positive change and to save money.”
**FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**NO ON S**
Continued from page 1

an important presidential election year. Turnout will be huge. They’ll vote against us.”

A bigger bunch of voters tends to be more aware of the issues, and more representative of the will of the people. And in fact, California turnout in November was a very high 75 percent. The voters passed a much better measure called JJJ, which will provide affordable housing and labor standards on projects all over the city.

So the anti-job folks did what the rules allow, and they moved their Measure S election to what I call “mystery election day.”

**Election Day Is March 7**

That’s Tuesday, March 7. Local elections in Los Angeles are held in the odd years—the “off” election years. That’s how the city of Bell became a national scandal. Bell became a charter city—allowing it to pay skyrocketing salaries to corrupt bureaucrats—in one of these “forgotten” elections. We in the Building Trades have worked hard to change the laws and force important measures to appear on the ballots where people actually vote.

On March 7, a tiny minority will try to turn back the clock in LA with Measure S. Measure S will make it impossible to build most of the major projects the Building Trades are now working on. Much of the construction downtown, in Hollywood, in west Los Angeles, in south LA, would be banned by Measure S.

Right now, we’re building the Academy Museum at Wilshire and Fairfax. That would have been a Measure S target. The planned $1 billion Reef in south Los Angeles? No, thanks to Measure S. The gleaming Ten Thousand tower in Century City, which the Trades just proudly completed? The cutting-edge Emerson College on Sunset Boulevard, which won the Q Award for quality union construction in 2014? Under Measure S, all those jobs and opportunities would have been lost.

Who is coming into Los Angeles, our home, and stealing our jobs? The answer is, it’s the people who hope to steal this election by assuming that working people and our allies are not paying attention. That they can have another back-room, closed-door election for the few. That they can win, and they can make us lose.

**Don’t Steal Our Jobs**

But they don’t know us. Maybe they don’t know that we are phone banking, precinct walking and reaching out to voters in our neighborhoods.

And on March 7, we will be voting. Los Angeles is our city, and we’re not going to lose in our own front yard. The Building Trades headquarters building on Beverly Boulevard just west of downtown has been here since 1922. Those of you who visit us know that—it’s showing its age. But our older building also proves that we have been here for many decades. We were in Filipinotown before it became “Historic Filipinotown.”

We’ll be here for decades to come. We are from Los Angeles, and we build Los Angeles.

If you are a Los Angeles resident, educate yourself on Measure S and make sure you’re registered to vote. Vote by absentee ballot, or check your polling place and set a time on Tuesday, March 7. A tiny, angry group is not going to kill our jobs.

But the 2017 local election is the last holdout. And when the anti-job forces moved the ballot measure, they used that election date as a weapon.

Their weapon is low turnout. Just when a few voters show up, a lot of bad things can happen. That’s how the city of Bell became a national scandal. Bell became a charter city—allowing it to pay skyrocketing salaries to corrupt bureaucrats—in one of these “forgotten” elections. We in the Building Trades have worked hard to change the laws and force important measures to appear on the ballots where people actually vote.

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Building Trades News is published monthly by the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council.
By Karen Robes Meeks

When Deborah Flint saw local construction workers greet her at the Midfield Satellite Concourse North worksite on Jan. 18, the Los Angeles World Airports CEO couldn’t wait to shake their hands.

“All of you that are here today are a symbol of the important partnership we have to create great jobs, great opportunities and great careers in life as a result of the important mission of Los Angeles World Airports,” Flint said to members of Building Trades local affiliated unions before taking photos and chatting with them individually.

“Hopefully you are loving the work you are doing here at the airport.”

Local hiring is the key component of a Project Labor Agreement forged between LAWA and the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council.

In recognition of the size and complexity of the work at LAX, LAWA entered into a PLA to ensure skilled labor availability and labor stability and to maximize inclusion through a 30 percent local worker participation objective and community workforce development system.

Flint spoke about the importance of Project Labor Agreements, including the one that covers an estimated $14 billion in modernization projects at LAX over the next six years, considered the biggest public works program in the city’s history. “They set the stage for everyone to have mutual understanding and cooperation,” she said. “And time and time again, projects have been built safely, with great cooperation, great participation and no labor disruption.”

Projects under the airport’s PLA include the airport’s Landside Access Modernization Program, a $5.5 billion facility that will include a 2.25-mile automated people mover that will link three airport stations to Metro light rail and other transit options.

With billions of dollars of projects coming...
WASHINGTON, D.C.—Senator Jeff Flake’s badly informed call for the repeal of the federal Davis-Bacon Act is a shining example of a politically tone-deaf maneuver backed by discredited research and misguided special interest groups.

Flake has introduced SA 39, a bill to eliminate Davis-Bacon prevailing wages on federally funded highway and bridges, and on any transportation infrastructure.

And on Feb. 1, a national “Right-to-Work” bill, HR 785, was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by longtime mouthpiece for anti-union construction contractors, Congressman Steve King (R-Iowa). This legislation is designed to lower workers’ wages, shut down unions, and maximize CEO profits.

“Right-to-work” laws thrust the government into the middle of labor-management negotiations. They eliminate “union security” clauses in collective bargaining agreements, which simply require workers who benefit under an agreement to pay their fair share. “Right-to-work” laws even allow an individual worker to avoid paying a dime for the cost of taking up a grievance on their behalf. Yet the union still has a duty to represent the worker.

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“Right-to-work, is wrong,” said Robbie Hunter, President of the State Building Trades Council. “It is wrong for workers and employers, and is simply un-American.”

On a national level, the State Building Trades and local Building Trades Councils urge members to call their U.S. Representative and urge them to vote “No” on HR 785. Senators need to vote “No” on SA 39.

It does not matter if a Representative is Democratic or Republican, Hunter said. “No matter their party affiliation, they need to hear from the voters of their district that we will not tolerate this, not now nor at any point in the future.”

With Sen. Flake’s bill to repeal the federal Davis-Bacon Act, he aims to cut the wages of American construction workers, both union and non-union. Equally absurd is the fact that Senator Flake is calling for a wage cut at the exact moment when some areas of the U.S. construction industry are having a difficult time attracting new workers. Cutting wages will not be the way to attract new workers.

“Senator Flake must be living in an alternative universe,” said Sean McGarvey, President of North America’s Building Trades Unions.

The anti-worker nightmare has begun in the 115th Congress. See p. 15 for a list of Representatives to call.

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“First off, he is completely oblivious to the political undercurrents relating to blue-collar economic anxiety that propelled Donald Trump into the White House. And secondly, he possesses a warped sense of empathy when he believes that wages of $17.37 and $15.49—which are the current Davis-Bacon prevailing highway construction wages for a Backhoe Operator and Laborer, respectively, in the state of Arizona—are simply too high for taxpayer-funded construction projects.”

At those wage rates, these workers would earn, respectively, roughly $35,000 and $31,000 annually. Not exactly a king’s ransom, especially when both of those incomes are roughly 150 percent of the federal poverty level for a family of four.

And this holds true for the Laborer whose Davis-Bacon wage is $8.50/hour in Texas, or the Painter making $11.94/hour in Florida, or the Concrete Finisher making $15.58 in New Mexico, or the Iron Worker making $14.22/hour in Arkansas.

“When people like Senator Flake suggest that savings of as much as 10 percent on publicly funded construction can be realized through the repeal of prevailing wage laws,” said McGarvey, “then it must follow that construction wages will have to be reduced by as much as 50 percent. The reason for this is that on public construction, 20 percent of labor costs are blue-collar labor costs. So, that Backhoe Operator in Arizona would need to have his or her wages reduced to $8.70 an hour, and the Laborer would have to have his or her wages cut to $7.80 an hour in order to achieve the savings that Senator Flake touts.”

“And this is especially disconcerting for our nation’s military veterans, where recent research has shown that prevailing wage statutes greatly improve economic outcomes for our nation’s military veterans, and that attacks on prevailing wage, such as what is being proposed by Senator Flake, disproportionally hurt the hundreds of thousands of post-9/11 veterans who are returning to the workforce, including the tens of thousands who have transitioned into careers in the construction industry thanks to our Helmets to Hardhats program.”

Senator Flake’s posture on this issue is that of another slick politician who traverses the talk-show circuit spouting policy proposals that are the political equivalent of another slick politician who traverses the talk-show circuit spouting policy proposals that

**ANTHONY CONGRESS THREATENS TRADES JOBS**

Call Representatives to Vote No on ‘Right to Work’ and Repeal of Prevailing Wage

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ELECTION CALENDAR: WINTER/SPRING 2017
March 7 Is Election Day for Los Angeles and Many Cities

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
FEBRUARY 28
Burbank
MARCH 7

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEASURE H: SALES TAX FOR HOMELESS SERVICES AND PREVENTION
VOTE YES
Measure H would levy a quarter cent sales tax for 10 years in order to fund mental health services, substance abuse treatment, health care, education, job training, rental subsidies, emergency and affordable housing, transportation, outreach, prevention and supportive services for homeless children, families, foster youth, veterans, battered women, seniors, the disabled and other homeless adults.

LOS ANGELES CITY: PRIMARY, COUNCIL DISTRICTS 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15
Building Trades endorse:
Councilman Gilbert Cedillo, District 1
Councilman Bob Blumenfield, District 3
Councilman Paul Koretz, District 5
7th District: No current endorsement

LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT: TRUSTEE SEATS 2, 4 AND 6
Building Trades endorse:
Ernest Moreno, District 4
District 2 and District 6: No current endorsement

Los Angeles City Measure S:
Construction ban
VOTE NO
Measure S is a recipe for recession in Los Angeles. It will ban most building projects for two years and possibly longer. It will cost 12,000 jobs a year, 7,000 of them in construction. It will take $640 million in wages from workers each year. It will cost the local economy $2 billion a year.

Los Angeles City Measure M, N and P: No current position

Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education: Districts 2, 4 and 6
Building Trades endorse:
Monica Garcia, District 2
Steve Zimmer, District 4
District 6: No current endorsement

Los Angeles City runoff
Los Angeles City runoff
Inglewood runoff

April 4
APRIL 11
Burbank
Cerritos
Monrovia
Vernon

APRIL 18
Compton
Pasadena
Arcadia Unified School District
Board of Education

May 16
Los Angeles City Runoff
Redondo Beach Runoff

June 6
Compton Runoff
City of Industry

June 13
Inglewood Runoff

34th Congressional District (replacing US Rep. Xavier Becerra)
Azusa
Bell
Bellflower
Beverly Hills
Claremont
Covina

endorsement
Councilman Curren Price, District 9
Councilman Mike Bonin, District 11
Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, District 13
Councilman Joe Buscaino, District 15
Mayor: Eric Garcetti
City Attorney: Mike Feuer
Los Angeles City Measure S: Would kill 7,000 Building Trades jobs a year. Vote No.
Los Angeles City Measures M, N and P: No current position

Building Trades endorse:
Councilman Curren Price, District 9
Councilman Bob Blumenfield, District 3
Councilman Paul Koretz, District 5

The Building Trades endorse, above, Monica Garcia and Steve Zimmer for LA Unified School District Board of Education.

The Building Trades endorse for LA City Council, Mitch O’Farrell.

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Los Angeles City Measures M, N and P: No current position

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION: DISTRICTS 2, 4 AND 6
Building Trades endorse:
Monica Garcia, District 2
Steve Zimmer, District 4
District 6: No current endorsement

South Gate
West Hollywood
Arcadia Unified School District
Special Election
APRIL 4

Manhattan Beach
Monterey Park
Norwalk
Palos Verdes Estates
Paramount
Pasadena
Pasadena Unified School District
Redondo Beach: Vote No on Measure C
Redondo Beach Unified School District
San Dimas
San Fernando
San Gabriel
Signal Hill
South El Monte

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The Building Trades endorse for LA City Council, Paul Koretz.

The Building Trades endorse for LA City Council, Curren Price.

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- Modernizing or Building New Training Facilities
- Purchasing Specialized Equipment

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**BY ROBERT BUSCEMI**

With the project ahead of schedule, Jan. 12 was the right date for the AFL-CIO Building Investment Trust to throw a worker appreciation lunch for 125 skilled Trades hands at the emerging all-union C3 office building in Culver City. C3 is being funded by the BIT with pension money from Building Trades affiliate unions, on the condition that all labor be union.

By its June 2017 completion date, the enterprise will have generated 1.25 million work hours for the Trades. After completion, maintenance on the grounds will be done all union as well.

That finish date was in fact moved for—

**SEE C3 PAGE 10**
ward from an original target of August, since crews are operating ahead of schedule on the seven-story high-tech structure with its 280,000 square feet of customiz-able workspace.

Ron Miller, Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council Executive Secretary, said that that kind of legendary Trades efficiency enhances a client’s bottom line. “The fact that this building is ahead of schedule is due to your efforts, your superior training and your dedication to your craft,” Miller told the workers. “Success stories like this help me sell the idea of top craftsmanship and labor relations for the AFL-CIO BIT. It helps investors make money. So thank you very much for that, and keep up the good work.”

Lynn Fieldman, vice president of construction and labor relations for the AFL-CIO BIT, said the area will benefit. “I just want to say thanks to all the workers from the Trades for your hard work on this project,” Cooper said. “I’m happy we can supply lots of work for you, but also to know that what you’re creating will supply lots of jobs here in the future. So thank you on behalf of Culver City.”

Ground Broke Last June
The project broke ground June 22, 2016, at 5800 Bristol Parkway, on three acres just east of the Westfield Culver City shopping mall. It includes a 1,000-car garage connected to the office building by two pedestrian bridges.

Culver City Vice Mayor Jeffrey Cooper said the area will benefit. “I just want to say thanks to all the workers from the Trades for your hard work on this project,” Cooper said. “I’m happy we can supply lots of work for you, but also to know that what you’re creating will supply lots of jobs here in the future. So thank you on behalf of Culver City.”

IDBS Real Estate Group senior vice president Dave Saeta said he couldn’t be happier with the crews’ efforts. “I’m pleased to report that the rumors that this project is ahead of schedule—and also below budget—are actually true,” Saeta said. “And that is no small accomplishment. The very best craftsmen are union craftsmen, and my hat is off to all of you for all the great work that you do on this project.”

“Thank you on behalf of Culver City,” says the city’s vice mayor, Jeffrey Cooper.

“Always 100 percent union.”

C3 features two pedestrian bridges between offices and a parking structure.

Jill Russell, West Coast managing di-
rector for PNC Realty Investors, said the Trades excel at modern design. “You are building the structure of the future, with the newest, most energy-efficient infra-
structure. We respect the work you do and admire the unique skills and knowledge that you possess.”

“The BIT takes union pension funds and turns them into union construction jobs, while creating impressive returns. Pen-
sions fuel union projects, creating union jobs and a stream of revenue back into future pensions, while also training tomor-
or’s labor force through world-class apprenticeships. As AFL-CIO ITC senior vice president Randy Kinder put it, “The BIT is fueled by union members like you. We invest your pension money into projects around the country that put your brothers and sis-
ers to work, and also get a great return, to make sure you get a great retirement.”

Taking Pride in Building Right
Business representative for Painters and Allied Trades DC 36 Ernesto Toscano said that Trades workers take deep satisfaction in being the best. “Things are built right when everything is built union,” Toscano
“We take pride in that. Our apprentices learn things right from the very beginning. These workers build with pride, because they know what they’re doing.”

Business agent for UA Local 78 Plumbers Scott Pearson said that keeping one step ahead of technological advances is crucial. “Plumbing has changed so much throughout my career, and even in the last ten years,” Pearson said. “So a job like this is challenging, but they’re highly skilled guys, and they can conquer anything that’s put in front of them.”

UA Local 250 Steamfitters business representative Gus Torres agreed. “I’m impressed with the quality, and I understand they’re ahead of schedule,” Torres said. “But that’s what you get when you hire union labor. It starts with our apprenticeship program. They learn all the new technology that comes out.”

IUPAT Glaziers Local 636 business agent Sammy Alvarez said he was glad to hear that Trades crews were exceeding expectations and beating deadlines. “A building like this is a reflection of the skilled Trades out here,” Alvarez said. “To be three months ahead of schedule means tenants can get in quicker. The crafts I represent are drywall, glass, floor and paint, but in talking to the superintendents and general contractor, they welcome all the skilled Trades, because the job becomes so much easier for them. It goes up faster, cleaner and more efficiently.”

BIT has existed since 1988, investing more than $6 billion in over 200 real estate transactions, earning an average annual return of 8 percent and generating 7 million union construction hours and thousands of permanent jobs.

David Saeta of IDS Real Estate Group.

Lee Koedyker, foreman, UA Local 398 Plumbers & Fitters.

First-year Local 709 Sprinkler Fitter apprentice Richard Rollice prepares to cut a piece of pipe with a cut-off saw.

“Today I have five guys in this building and two in the garage. I’ve been with Local 709 for 20 years. Fire sprinklers save lives. That’s our motto. So I love what I do. I take pride in what I do. My son’s a Sprinkler Fitter too. We do a lot in LA County and across the nation. And union is the way to go. There’s a big difference between union and non-union. We get a pension and benefits, and we do the job right.”

Clyde Jeffries, 54
UA Local 709 Sprinkler Fitters Foreman

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UA Local 709 Sprinkler Fitters Foreman

“Today I have five guys in this building and two in the garage. I’ve been with Local 709 for 20 years. Fire sprinklers save lives. That’s our motto. So I love what I do. I take pride in what I do. My son’s a Sprinkler Fitter too. We do a lot in LA County and across the nation. And union is the way to go. There’s a big difference between union and non-union. We get a pension and benefits, and we do the job right.”

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ing down the pipeline and the local worker participation goal, the need for a skilled and trained workforce is critical, said Daniel Sloan, director of labor relations and general manager of Parsons Constructors Inc.

“One thing that’s become important as LAWA looks forward to its multi-billion dollar access modernization program is to make sure we have the construction craft workforce to meet the demand that will be created, not only from this multi-billion dollar construction program at LAWA but the region’s other big projects, like the new NFL stadium in Inglewood,” Sloan said.

“We’re going to have a huge demand for construction craft workers.”

Enter the HireLAX Program, which connects residents to an apprenticeship-readiness program offered by various agencies and using a Building Trades-approved curriculum.

Parsons Constructors Inc. is the airport’s PLA administrator. “We’re extremely proud of the positive impact the PLA at LAX is having for the local labor force,” Sloan said. “HireLAX provides an opportunity for residents from the communities surrounding LAX to participate in the construction of the airport’s capital improvement program, in turn maximizing local economic benefits and generating numerous positive community impacts.”

Parsons matches program graduates with contractors and local Building Trades unions.

“Then we have the wonderful result we saw here today—successful community members who have started their construction careers as union apprentices,” Sloan said.

Flint was especially happy to see women on the job site.

“When we look at transportation and how they’re underrepresented, it’s really special when I can see firsthand the women that are involved in creating and redefining LAX as the best, most modern world-class airport,” she said.

One of the women Flint met with was Inglewood resident Monica Brogdon, a first-year apprentice with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 11.

Brogdon wanted to transition out of being a small business owner and enter a Trade that would help her become a contractor.

“I knew it was one of the most challeng-
ing fields, and in order to be an Electrician, you have to have an understanding of all of the Trades because you start from the base up,” she said. Including all is a top priority for LAWA, Sloan said.

“It’s making sure we not only have the craft manpower to meet the high demand, but also a local workforce that is reflective of the diversity of the community,” he said. “It’s a key priority for how we hire at LAX.”

The economic impact to the area surrounding the airport will be tremendous, said Mitchell Ponce, business agent for Iron Workers Local 433.

“A lot of people here don’t have opportunities and what Building Trades and Iron Workers do is offer those opportunities to come into our apprenticeship program and have a career in the Building Trades with us,” he said.

Inglewood resident Antonio Vidales, 23, a first-year apprentice with Local 433, entered the Trade because he wanted more opportunities than what his former job as a catering supervisor could offer.

“I did my research to see where I could expand and construction was it,” he said. “The best part is not being far from work. I hate traffic.”

Los Angeles resident Joel Castro, 32, a first-year apprentice with the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Local 1247 Resilient Floor, entered the Trades after losing two retail jobs to companies that went out of business.

“I had to re-evaluate myself and think about what’s going to really benefit me in the long run, and retail wasn’t going to do that,” said Castro, one of 10 siblings. “If I have to start all over, it will be in something with more security.”

Jeffrey Lasher, COO of M.S. Rouse, a longtime commercial flooring company, said he’s been impressed by Castro’s work.

“He’s done nothing but good things in the four months he’s worked for us,” Lasher said.

Local hiring is something his company has been doing for 30 years, Lasher said.

“It’s our mission to reach out to people in the local area, to give them a hand up and make a better living,” he said.

Castro said he enjoys the work he is doing.

“I see this opportunity as a golden ticket because it gives me something to come to work for, something to look forward to,” he said. “Every day, I come to work and give 110 percent. It’s only going to better myself and my life.”

Jeffrey Lasher, COO of M.S. Rouse, a commercial flooring company, says he’s impressed by apprentice Castro’s work.
As we begin 2017, preparing to continue the long and never-ending quest to maintain and improve the financial well-being and quality of life for California’s Building Trades workers and their families, it is an appropriate time to reflect on our history of struggles and accomplishments.

Let’s remember the terrible conditions workers were forced to endure until the relatively recent past, and how the rise of unions in the 1930s helped pull our nation out of the Great Depression, and then to unprecedented economic prosperity in the decades following World War II. Millions of American workers brought this progress about with tenacious and unflagging unity. Looking back at the way things were before unions enables us to see clearly the great dangers we continue to face if we ever lose our resolve and our unity. History proves that many in the wealthy ruling class, if left to their own devices, will happily sacrifice the quality of life, economic well-being, the health and safety, and the very lives of working people if it pads their profit margins.

Before unions, wages were so poor that workers considered themselves lucky if they could afford an occasional decent meal for their families. The rest of the time they lived on scraps. There were no minimum wage laws, so employers paid as little as they could. In fact, some operators paid workers not in cash but in company scrip, redeemable only at the company store. “Work for nothing or starve.” That was the choice.

**Appalling Conditions**

Likewise, there were no limits on the hours a worker could be forced to endure. There was no law mandating an eight-hour day or 40-hour week. So workers contributed virtually every waking moment of their day, 16 hours or more, seven days a week, with- out meal or rest breaks or overtime pay. Conditions were appalling. Workers were commonly sickened, injured and even killed by their workplaces. There were no laws mandating health and safety standards. Dangerous conditions and hazards were the norm.

There were no restrictions on child labor. Children were expected to work alongside their parents as part of the deal for a job; in mines, fields, mills and everywhere else their labor could reap extra profits for the owners.

**Workers Force changes**

There was no thought of providing health care for workers. When workers got sick, there was no sick pay or medical care. If someone became too sick to work, they were simply discarded. There was no job and no paycheck; no way to stay alive.

In fact there was no safety net of any kind. There were no pensions, no social security, unemployment insurance or workers’ compensation.

None of this changed until the Great Depression arrived, and workers forced the changes by organizing and forming unions, acting in unity to elect public officials who listened to their voices.

The election of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1932, and the launching of the New Deal policies in the years that followed by his administration, inaugurated the period of the greatest improvement for quality of life for the greatest number of workers. It is no coincidence that this was the time of great union ascendancy, giving workers an effective political voice.

What followed were the first child labor laws, the minimum wage, the Social Security Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act to ensure living wages and hours for workers. Unions got the federal Davis-Bacon Act and state laws passed to assure area prevailing wages for construction workers on public works projects. That was followed by the Occupational Safety and Health Act, to ensure workplaces didn’t threaten the lives and health of the people working there. Workers’ compensation and unemployment insurance laws followed.

This was also a time of massive, unprecedented investment in public works projects, allowing workers to make a living wage building the Hoover Dam, the Golden Gate Bridge and other projects that continue to serve us well almost a century later.

Here in California in recent years, we have accomplished even more, making workers and their families even more secure, and workplaces and communities safer and less hazardous.

This progress can be sustained only by a never-ending quest by determined working people, who are united in their mission never again to allow the wealthy ruling class to condemn us to lives of poverty and misery. We must never allow this unity and determination to weaken. Our children and grandchildren are counting on us.
screw American workers. In this case, the cost to taxpayers does not go down, it just gets taken out of the pockets of construction workers and put into the bank accounts of the contractors and developers. “The question that needs to be asked,” said McGarvey, “is why Senator Flake is not asking the contractors, or the architects, or the engineers, or even the company that supplied the Port-O-Johns to cut their pay in order to save taxpayer dollars? Why is it only the workers who are being targeted?”

It is also worth noting the special interest groups that have pushed for the introduction of Senator Flake’s Davis-Bacon repeal bill, as well as Senator Flake’s previous policy proposals when it comes to immigration reform.

In addition to seeking the elimination of Davis-Bacon Act community wage and benefit standards, contractor groups like the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) are also at the forefront of efforts, and have previously been assisted by Senator Flake, to secure a drastic increase in the number of H2b foreign guest workers allowed to work annually in the U.S.

“Sanctioning the destruction of community wage and benefit standards for construction workers while simultaneously advocating for an increase in the number of foreign guest workers allowed into the U.S. is being blindingly oblivious to the working-class anger that permeates throughout America today, and it sends a chilling and unmistakable message that American workers have, once again, been conned by the political establishment,” McGarvey said. “Their economic interests shall, indeed, remain subservient to the interests of well-connected contributors, special interests and crony capitalism.”

CALL YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Urge a ‘No’ vote on HR 785. Keep this list—you will need it for the next two years.

**CALL CONGRESS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

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Adam Schiff – 30th District Burbank – 818-450-2900

Tony Cardenas – 29th District Panorama City – 818-781-7407

Brad Sherman – 30th District Sherman Oaks – 818-501-0200

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Jeff Denham – 10th District Modesto – 209-579-5498

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Nancy Pelosi – 12th District San Francisco – 415-556-4662

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Jim Costa – 16th District Fresno – 559-495-1620

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TRADES ORGANIZE TO FIGHT MEASURE S

On March 7, the future of our economic recovery is at stake

Unions align with historic coalition to fight the moratorium on development

“IF WE CAN’T BUILD IN LA, WE LOSE A MAJOR TOOL TO BRING LOS ANGELES RESIDENTS INTO GOOD-PAYING CAREERS,” SAYS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS HANNAN, LEFT, AT A RALLY TO OPPOSE MEASURE S ON THE LA CITY BALLOT.

Joined by a diverse coalition, the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building Trades have made a decisive push to counter a campaign of misinformation and inform voters about the anticipated impact of Measure S. Measure S will appear on the March 7 Los Angeles City ballot, in an off-year election where turnout is historically low. Interests behind “S” have purchased prime billboard space throughout the city, but organizers behind the campaign to defeat it are rallying members to staff phone banks and spread the word.

The mood and mobilization are similar to what the Building Trades and allies did in 2012, when the anti-union Prop. 32 threatened union members. That measure went down in defeat.

“We’ve done this before and we can do it again,” said Ron Miller, Council Executive Secretary. “You can’t vote one of the pillars of our economy—construction—out of business.”

The deceptive two-year Measure S moratorium on development may stretch to 10 years. It would put 12,000 people out of work each year, 7,000 of them in construction.

“YOU CAN’T VOTE THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY OUT OF BUSINESS.”

—RON MILLER

“WE’VE DONE THIS BEFORE AND WE CAN DO IT AGAIN,” SAID RON MILLER, COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. “YOU CAN’T VOTE ONE OF THE PILLARS OF OUR ECONOMY—CONSTRUCTION—OUT OF BUSINESS.”

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Trades stressed the importance of economic recovery and put a face to the 12,000 jobs Angelenos stand to lose each year if the measure is not defeated.

Council Representative Chris Hannan said he was proud of the Council’s diverse and growing membership, including outreach to people from high-unemployment areas, formerly incarcerated individuals and those emancipated from foster care—those who “find themselves with no support and no future.”

In the last 10 years, he said, the Building Trades “has been a pioneer, bringing jobs to the poorest areas of Los Angeles, and its most challenged residents. We provide and support a future.”

If Measure S passes, he said, it will hurt local residents the most. “Because of our efforts, LA residents are well represented on LA projects, more than they’ve ever been before. If we can’t build in LA, we lose a major tool to bring Los Angeles residents into good-paying careers.”

These 7,000 jobs are 7,000 people, he said. “They’re mothers and fathers providing for their families, they’re single parents, they’re LAUSD grads, they’re sometimes the first person in their family in generations that has had a chance to earn a decent wage, to have a career with good pay, benefits and retirement.”

Glenn Santa Cruz, Business Manager for Local 250, said the ban would particularly impact downtown, as well as commercial and school work.

“And it will affect future work, especially with the possibility of maybe getting the Olympics here, so there’s quite a bit of concern about this measure,” Santa Cruz said. “And I just don’t think it’s the right time to introduce this type of legislation, with the amount of people out of work and trying to get the economy back.”

Charles Slay, 52, a second-year apprentice with IBEW Local 11, told his own story to keep it local.

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can be huge. So the percentage of projects
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For Trades members, it is those big proj-
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apprentice opportunities open.

Delfino de la Cruz, of Laborers Local 300, has been helping get the word out to
more than 8,000 members.

“We let them know it’s very important to
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I think a lot of members were confused. So
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means for us.’”

LA CITY RESIDENTS:
VOTE AGAINST
THE CONSTRUCTION BAN
VOTE NO
ON MEASURE S,
MARCH 7

Gus Torres, business representative for
Local 250, has also been addressing the
issue at regular union meetings, as well as
one-on-one with members.

“We try to express to them that this needs
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Some members, like Local 105 first-year
apprentice John Blanco, 27, take the mes-
sage directly to their friends and neighbors.

“I have a neighbor who’s a roofer and
I’ve urged him to get in on the campaign as
well. He’s a father, and I let him know he’d
also lose out on a job, even though he’s not
union,” Blanco said.

At a press conference in January, Los An-
geles Mayor Eric Garcetti joined dozens of
leaders to voice his opposition.

“We’ve fought hard to recover from the
recession, to see jobs coming back. We have
members of the Building Trades who were
losing their homes, who were living in cars,
who were unemployed. Now, they’re able to
support their families. Now they’re able to
build housing. Now they’re able to do those
things that allow them to have a middle-
class life,” Garcetti said.

The conference was held at Casa Heiwa,
a landmark multicultural affordable housing
complex in Little Tokyo—exactly the kind
that would be banned under Measure S.

“If Measure S passes, rents will rise even
more quickly than they are today, and our
strategy to move people from the streets into
housing will be stopped,” Garcetti said.

Rusty Hicks, Executive Secretary-Treas-
urer of the Los Angeles County Federation
of Labor, put job loss in the context of a
broader decline.

“Measure S won’t just destroy jobs and
raise rents, it won’t just ban good develop-
ment. It will also give us more bad devel-
opment. More crowding into maxed-out
neighborhoods, more of the creeping densi-
ty that clogs our streets, instead of the smart
growth that creates jobs and helps fight cli-
mate change,” he said.

“Everyone is ultimately going to suffer.”

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