U.S. President: Bush vs. Gore

U.S. Senate: Feinstein vs. Campbell **ELECTION GUIDE** & Candidate Survey

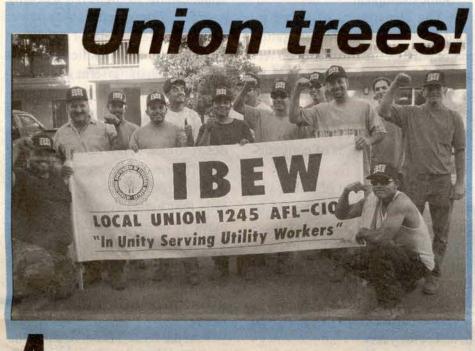
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**Unity Is Strength** 

October 2000

UtilityReporter IBEW LOCAL 1245 + AFL- GIO



splundh tree trimmers performing high voltage line clearance tree trimming for the Modesto Irrigation District (MID) voted on Sept. 7 for representation by IBEW Local 1245.

The vote was 12 to 1.

For the past decade, MID has contracted with Asplundh Tree to perform tree trimming around District power lines. The MID tree trimmers perform essentially the same work as nearby unionized tree trimming crews, but their total compensation package is about 40% lower.

"There are major inequities in the treatment of tree trimmers at MID," said Local 1245 Business Manager Jack McNally. "They have no vacation, no holidays, no medical. We think they deserve better." The tree trimmers first met with union representatives in June at a pizza parlor near their yard. Followup contacts were made by IBEW Local 1245 staff members Dennis Seyfer, Junior Ornelas and Landis Marttila.

# Union seeks hydro protections

ocal 1245's campaign to protect job security for hydro employees has made recent progress on two important fronts.

Over the summer Local 1245 and PG&E agreed that "successor" language in the current labor agreement would be applicable in the event that hydro assets are transferred from PG&E's utility company to some other entity within PG&E Corporation.

Specifically, the union and company clarified that:

• All wages, classifications, and service would carry over to the new

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Local 1245 proposes solution to electricity market crisis

Vol. 49 • No. 10

#### By Eric Wolfe

hey wailed and they moaned and they felt their constituents' pain. But at the end of the day California legislators weren't prepared to shove the electric deregulation genie back into the bottle.

In the closing hours of the 2000 legislative session, legislators faced an energy crisis that included astronomical jumps in wholesale electric prices and repeated threats of rolling blackouts.

So they passed a bill to streamline the process for building new power plants in the state. They approved an electric rate cap for the citizens of San Diego. They called upon the California Public Utilities Commission to broaden its investigation of the state's energy problems, including possible market manipulation. But these were largely symbolic measures, akin to chasing an elephant-sized genie with butterfly nets. Real solutions require a solid explanation of what went wrong in the first place.

Fortunately, that explanation is contained in written testimony filed with the California Public Utilities Commission on September 15 by IBEW Local 1245 and its union allies in the Coalition of California Utility Employees (CUE).

The problem isn't that the electric market doesn't work. The problem, says CUE, is that an electric market can't work.

"Electric generation facilities (power plants) have long lead-times to construct, they are capital-intensive, and there is virtually no way to store their output. That means that millions or billions of dollars must be routinely invested based on forecasts of future supply, demand, and price conditions in order to assure reliable future generation resources," says CUE. "The chances that those forecasts will be accurate is nil."

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### EVENTS

### **OCTOBER 7**

**Stewards Conference** Ukiah, CA

**Stewards Conference** Bakersfield, CA

### **OCTOBER 7**

LAST DAY FOR NEVADANS TO REGISTER TO VOTE

### OCTOBER 10 LAST DAY FOR CALIFORNIANS TO REGISTER TO VOTE

#### **OCTOBER 14**

**Stewards Conference** San Francisco, CA

#### **OCTOBER 21**

**Stewards Conference** Walnut Creek, CA

**Stewards Conference** Redding, CA

#### **OCTOBER 28**

Stewards Conference & Service Awards Reno, NV

#### NOVEMBER 7

VOTE!

NOVEMBER 11 Service Awards Merced, CA

## Power of appointment: it's the issue that matters most

By Jack McNally, Business Manager

They talk about Al Gore's intellect and lack of charm. They talk about George W. Bush's charm and lack of intellect. They talk about which candidate kissed Oprah.

The media will talk a lot about the presidential candidates between now and November 7. But the thing they usually overlook is the thing that matters most to working families:

The president's power of appointment.

The importance of this presidential power isn't always easy to see. But it comes into focus when you look back at our recent history.

According to long-time labor attorneys, most of the people appointed during the Reagan-Bush years to federal agencies that administer labor laws had an anti-union, antiworker bias.

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October 2000

Vol. 49 No. 10 Circulation: 24,700 Some examples:

POINT

OF

VIEW

· The Department of Labor issued new regulations that gutted major parts of the Davis-Bacon Act and the Service Contracts Act. In essence this meant that the federal government was using its enormous purchasing power to put downward pressure on the wages of construction workers.

· The Department of Labor virtually stopped enforcing the Occupational Safety and Health Act, leaving workers without protection.

 The National Labor Relations Board issued a string of anti-worker decisions. Many of these decisions reversed earlier cases that had been in effect for years.

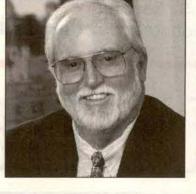
· Theoretically you could take these agencies to court for failing to fulfill their mission, but the federal courts were stacked by Reagan and Bush with judges who sympathized with bosses, not workers. Five of the nine Supreme Court Justices were appointed by Reagan and Bush.

The Clinton-Gore years-1993 to 2000-brought a different attitude toward workers:

• The people appointed to the NLRB and the Department of Labor have been knowledgeable about labor, and have enforced worker protection laws. At the NLRB today, there is a favorable 3-2 majority, and the General Counsel of the Board is a former union lawyer.

 The Clinton Labor Department reversed the Reagan Labor Department attack on Davis-Bacon by issuing new regulations that undid the damage.

· Clinton's appointments have brought better balance to the federal courts, including the appointment of two moderates to the Supreme Court. • Besides using the power of



appintment to benefit working people, Clinton used his veto power to kill a flood of anti-labor legislation flowing out of a hostile Congress during much of his term in office.

Al Gore will continue these policies of giving working people a fair shake. He has openly discussed his desire to enact a law banning the use of permanent replacement workers during strikes. He's pledged to veto bills that harm workers. And he's made it clear that labor agencies should be staffed with people who understand and sympathize with the issues of working people.

George W. Bush is a different story.

 At the NLRB Bush could name a new General Counsel and appoint three new members to the five-member Board, giving it an immediate anti-labor majority.

 Bush would quickly transform the Department of Labor and OSHA back into the management-oriented agencies we saw in the 1980s, when labor had no voice.

· Bush would further tilt the federal courts against working people. At the Supreme Court, where as many as three vacancies could open up, Bush could be expected to appoint judges acceptable to his probusiness buddies, stacking the deck against working people for decades to come.

This is the silent issue: the power of appointment. History has shown us how critical this issue is, even if it is rarely discussed on the talk shows or featured in the candidates' television commercials.

Working people have rights, but these rights lose much of their meaning without proper enforcement of our nation's labor laws.

That's why all working families need Al Gore.



IBEW LOCAL 1245

## **ELECTION GUIDE** NOVEMBER 7, 2000

'The Day Working Families Have Their Say'

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YOU HAVE THE

IBEW LOCAL 1245 ENDORSEMENTS: NEVADA

# **President of the United States**

# THE ISSUES

After all the paid ads and campaign slogans are gone, we'll be left with a President who must actually govern. Only by examining the issues can we get a glimpse of what that government would look like.

### SOCIAL SECURITY

The vast majority of working Americans will rely on Social Security as the foundation of their retirement security.

### FAIR WAGES

Working Americans depend on wages for a substantial portion of their income. A President can use his enormous influence for or against wage fairness, and it will be felt in the wallets of workers.

### PUBLIC EDUCATION

A good system of public education is the gateway to a liveable wage for millions of Americans. Public education is the clearest expression of the American ideal that everyone ought to have an equal opportunity to succeed, no matter what their initial station in life.

### WORKERS' RIGHTS

The right to organize and the right to participate in the political process are two key elements in the strength of a democracy. Yet workers face enormous institutional barriers to organizing, including the systematic firing of workers who try to organize. Moreover, in recent years, antilabor groups have increased their efforts to strip workers of a political voice by proposing "Paycheck Deception" or "Gag the Worker" initiatives in state referenda and in Congress.



George Bush

**George W. Bush** would consider raising the retirement age for receiving Social Security. His proposal for a trillion dollar tax cut would divert money from saving Social Security. Bush plan would take 16-24% of Social Security's payroll tax revenue and divert it to individual accounts. A study by the non-partisan Century Foundation says diverting these funds would require cutting guaranteed Social Security benefits 29% for older workers and 54% for workers under age 31.

George W. Bush, as Texas governor, on three occasions opposed increasing and extending the minimum wage. Bush opposes the Davis-Bacon Act, which protects community-wage standards in the construction industry. Bush has taken no position on equal pay for women.

George W. Bush's six years as governor has left Texas ranking 45th in college entrance scores, 46th in high school completion rates, 48th in literacy, and 50th in teachers' salaries plus benefits. In 1997 Bush tried to raid the teachers' pension fund to pay for a huge tax cut for the wealthy. Bush's plan for educational "reform" is to give people tax breaks to send their kids to private school.

George W. Bush favors "Gag the Workers" legislation that would virtually eliminate unions from participating in the democratic process, while proposing nothing to restrict corporate influence. Bush said on Larry King Live: "There will be no true campaign funding reform unless the labor loophole is closed." He has proposed nothing to restrict corporate political participation. Bush has boasted of his state's anti-union policies and his Department of Economic Development touts Texas's low wages and anti-labor climate.

## Al Gore



Al Gore opposes raising the retirement age for receiving Social Security. Gore would leave guaranteed benefits alone and add new "Retirement Savings Plus" accounts on top of promised benefits to boost retirement security for low- and moderate-income working families. Gore proposes setting aside two-thirds of the projected budget surplus to ensure Social Security and Medicare remain strong into the future.

Al Gore has supported minimum wage increases on three occasions in Congress and consistently as Vice President. Gore supports the Paycheck Fairness Act to help working women close the wage gap. In Congress and as Vice President, Gore fought anti-worker efforts to repeal the Davis-Bacon Act.

Al Gore, with President Clinton, proposed 100,000 new teachers to reduce class sizes nationwide. Clinton-Gore established, for the first time, national educational goals for all schools and students. In Congress, Gore cosponsored the bill to create the Department of Education. Gore, as Vice President, has promoted the building and modernizing of schools nationwide.

Al Gore vigorously opposed California's "Gag the Workers" Prop. 226. Gore has pledged to stiffen penalties for employer interference with the right to organize, and to ban permanent striker replacements. Gore opposed Congressional efforts to pass the TEAM Act, which would legalized phony "company unions." Gore has pledged to fight any effort to weaken workplace safety laws. In Gore's own words: "I was raised on this bedrock principle: the right to organize is a basic American right... It must never be taken away. So let me tell you what I'll do as President: if a piece of anti-worker legislation ever comes near my desk, I'll reach over, ink up that veto pen, and strike it down in a heartbeat."

# **United States Senator**

## Dianne Feinstein



**Dianne Feinstein** supports a strong Patients' Bill of Rights. In 1999, the Senate leadership introduced a managed care bill (S 1344) that excluded more than 100 million Americans and gave health plans the final say on medical treatment decisions. Feinstein voted against this phony Patients' Bill of Rights.

Dianne Feinstein favors strengthening Social Security and Medicare rather than squandering the budget surplus on tax cuts for the rich. During consideration of the Senate's FY 2000 Budget Resolution, Feinstein supported a measure that would have saved the budget surplus to extend the solvency of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

Dianne Feinstein consistently supports workers' rights. Feinstein opposed S 1981, a bill to make it even harder for workers to organize unions. Feinstein voted for an increase in the minimum wage (S 625), and opposed an attempt to weaken Davis-Bacon prevailing wage standards (S 1650). Feinstein opposed "Paycheck Deception" legislation (S 1663), which tried to muzzle workers' political voice. Between 1996-1999 Feinstein supported labor on 89% of the votes.

Dianne Feinstein supports public education and opposes school voucher programs. A Senate proposal in 1999 (Murray Amendment to S. 280) aimed to reduce class size and help local school districts recruit and train 100,000 new teachers. Feinstein supported this proposal. Feinstein in 1998 opposed a bill (HR 2646) that proposed voucher-like subsidies for private education for the rich.

## **Tom Campbell**



Tom Campbell opposes a strong Patients' Bill of Rights. In 1999, the House considered HR 2723, a bill to ensure that treatment decisions are made by doctors, not insurance company administrators, and to ensure the right to see specialists when needed and to get emergency room care when and where needed. Campbell voted No on this genuine Patients' Bill of Rights.

Tom Campbell favors tax cuts for the wealthy over strengthening Social Security and Medicare. During consideration of the House FY 2000 Budget Resolution, Campbell supported an \$800 billion tax cut aimed mainly at the wealthy. The resolution didn't call for a single nickel to strengthen Social Security or Medicare.

Tom Campbell has a mixed record in Congress on workers' rights. He opposed "Paycheck Deception" (HR 2608) and also opposed a bill to make it harder for workers to organize unions (HR 3246). Campbell opposed efforts to delay implementation of ergonomic standards. Campbell supported a House bill to weaken overtime pay protections (HR 2888). Between 1996-1999 Campbell supported labor on 22% of the votes.

Tom Campbell supports voucher programs. In 1999 he voted in favor of a proposal that would have allowed states to use \$100 million in Title I funds for private school vouchers. In 1998 Campbell supported a bill (HR 2646) that proposed voucher-like subsidies for private education for the rich.



## THE ISSUES

Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congressman Tom Campbell have cast many votes on issues of importance to working people. The record speaks for itself.

### PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

A strong Patients' Bill of Rights would ensure that treatment decisions are made by doctors, not insurance company administrators. It also would ensure the right to see specialists when needed, and to get emergency room care when and where needed.

### SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE

The growing budget surplus provided Congress in 1999 with a major choice: use the money to strengthen Social Security and Medicare, or use it to finance huge tax cuts.

### WORKERS' RIGHTS

Working Americans deserve to earn a fair wage and to have a safe work environment. They also should have the right to choose union representation without management interference.

### PUBLIC EDUCATION

A century ago, unions were in the forefront of the battle for public education. Education is the great "equalizer" because it offers even the poorest families an opportunity to improve their lot in life through learning and effort. Vouchers drain tax dollars away from public schools and funnel them to private institutions.

# **ISSUES** What's At Stake for Working Families?

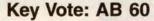
# **Restoring California's overtime pay protections**

n 1997, ex-Gov. Pete Wilson's appointees to the Industrial Welfare Commission ended daily overtime protection for eight million workers, effective Jan. 1, 1998.

Overtime wasn't abolished for some important public policy reason. It was abolished because ex-Gov. Pete Wilson and his corporate allies saw an opportunity to take money away from workers and transform it into corporate profits.

Very big bucks were at stake in this epic confrontation between employers and employees. Elimination of the daily overtime premium reduced California workers' pay by an estimated \$1 billion a year. Many California businesses switched to a 12-hour day.

With the election of Gov. Gray Davis in November of 1998, the battle was taken up again. For working people it was an issue of fundamental fairness. Earning the over-





time premium is the only way many folks can make ends meet.

But money wasn't the only thing at stake. Daily overtime pay protects workers from extremely long shifts that are exhausting and unsafe. It helps working parents who cannot leave their children unsupervised during long shifts and commutes. It spurs job creation because employers facing increased labor costs after eight hours substitute additional hires at straight time wages for longer hours at premium pay.

For Local 1245 members and other workers covered by collective bargaining agreements, the daily overtime law provides important protection against efforts by employers to bargain away overtime premium pay. Without legislative protection, overtime premium pay would be a prime candidate for "take aways" at the bargaining table in this era of utility restructuring.

AB 60 restored premium pay at time-and-a-halfafter eight hours, and double-time after 12 hours in a workday. The bill also provided workers with the power to approve flexible scheduling-such as 4-10s-at their particular workplace.

But not everyone in the legislature supported this vitally important bill. Curious how *your* state Senator and Assembly Member voted? You can find out in the following pages.

## **Combating age discrimination**

Key Vote: SB 26

n the last five years, nearly 15,000 claims of age discrimination have been filed in California, and these claims continue to grow.

Senate Bill 26 sought to strengthen the hand of workers when it comes to proving cases of age discrimination.

Under already existing law, an employee may use one of two legal theories to prove their employer has discriminated against them. They may prove that their employer intentionally discriminated against them ("intentional discrimination") or that their employer's policies and/or practices disproportionately impacted a group of persons ("disparate impact discrimination"). The use of disparate impact analysis may be used to prove race and gender discrimination.

In a 1998 case, Marks v. Loral, the

California Court of Appeals held that disparate impact analysis may *not* be used in age discrimination cases. The court held that an employer may choose to hire or retain employees with lower salaries, even though this may result in choosing younger employees. The Marks decision was binding on all trial courts statewide.

Unfortunately, the Marks case gave employers a green light to replace older, higher paid workers with younger, lower-paid workers.

SB 26 permits the use of disparate impact analysis in age discrimination cases and declares the Legislature's intent that discrimination against older workers can be fought with the same tools and vigor as other forms of discrimination.

Where did your legislator stand on age discrimination?

## **Expanding sick leave rights**

any employers do not permit employees to use sick days to care for sick children or other family members.

Public schools will not care for an ill student. Very few child care providers take care of sick children. Similarly, it is very difficult to find care for the unexpected or occasional illness of a parent or spouse who requires assistance.

This creates a dilemma for many parents in the workplace when their child is ill: they can stay home with the child and risk their job, or leave the sick child at home alone if they cannot find care.

Earlier laws require unpaid leave for extended illnesses of family members, but the minimum leave period is generally two weeks. Parents who confront the more frequent occurrence of short-term illness have been left hanging out to dry.

AB 109 offers families some relief. The bill requires an employer who provides sick leave for employees to permit an employee to use the sick leave to attend to the illness of a child, parent or spouse.

The bill prohibits an employer from discriminating against an employee for using, or attempting to exercise the right to use, sick leave for this purpose. It would provide that an employee aggrieved by a violation is entitled to reinstatement and reimbursement for lost wages and work benefits caused by the acts of the employer.

Gov. Davis signed this longneeded piece of legislation in 1999. How did your state Senator and Assembly Member vote on Family Sick Leave?

Key Vote: AB 109

# **ISSUES** What's At Stake for Working Families?

# Strengthening job safety enforcement

orkplace deaths, injuries and illnesses take a tremendous, tragic and unnecessary toll in California.

AB 1127, sponsored by the California Labor Federation, was an important attempt to reduce workplace risks.

Based on national estimates, Californians annually suffer approximately 780 job-related deaths from injury, 1,584 million nonfatal injuries, 7,200 deaths from occupational disease, and 104,000 occupational illnesses among the civilian workforce. The price tag is estimated at \$21 billion annually in California.

For years California was widely

### Key Vote: AB 1127

recognized as having the best occupational safety and health program in the country. But in the early 1980s, Cal-OSHA went into decline. The program was actually terminated in the late 1980s, and jurisdiction for job safety was turned over to the Federal government. Labor fought back, and in 1988 Proposition 97 restored Cal-OSHA.

But the program still needs improvement.

AB 1127 addressed a number of administrative roadblocks to effective health and safety enforcement.

The bill increased civil and criminal penalties for willful, serious, and repeat violations of occupational safety and health standards. And it provided that willful violation of such standards leading to death or permanent or prolonged injury of an employee may be prosecuted as a misdemeanor or a felony.

Too often workers health and safety are sacrificed in the name of cost-benefit analyses. AB 1127 was an important step in making employers more accountable for the safety of their employees.

Before you vote on Nov. 7, check out pages 8-24 to see how *your* legislators voted on worker safety.

# **Providing help to injured workers**

he Workers' Compensation reform legislation of 1993 was expected to benefit employers, in the form of reduced Workers' Compensation expenses, and workers, in the form of benefit increases. The savings were intended to be divided equally.

But things did not work out fairly. Employers, who were expected to save \$1.5 billion each year, in fact saved over \$10 billion in a recent three-year period. Meanwhile, workershave experienced benefit increases less than \$513 million each year.

A RAND Civil Institute for Civil Justice report, Compensating Permanent Workplace Injuries, concludes that all injured workers experience significant wage loss following a disabling injury and that the current benefits are grossly inadequate. Workers with a partial permanent disability rating under 5% end up losing 30% of their wages, but current benefits replace just 12% of their wage loss.

More than six of ten workers with permanent disability receive a partial disability rating of less than 15%, yet the 1993 reforms left benefits for

### Key Vote: SB 320

these workers unchanged. The maximum weekly benefit for these workers has not changed for over 15 years.

Most states, following a Nixon administration task force recommendation, set their maximum temporary disability benefit at 100% of the state's average weekly wage and index it. California's is currently less than 75% of our average weekly wage and is not indexed.

SB 320 would have provided for:

• Significantly higher permanent disability benefits weighted toward the lower rated disabilities as called for in the recent RAND report.

• Setting maximum benefits at 100% of average weekly wages and indexing the benefit, bringing California in line with the majority of other states.

• An increase in the minimum weekly benefits paid to permanently disabled workers, protecting those workers who are least able to have other resources to call on.

• A much-needed increase in the

maintenance allowance for workers in vocational rehabilitation programs in order to limit the use of PPD benefits to supplement this benefit.

• An increase in the arbitrary vocational rehabilitation cost cap of \$16,000 to improve workers' chances of achieving successful rehabilitation.

• An increase in minimum temporary disability benefits to correct the inequity experienced by seasonally employed workers who can now receive unreasonably low benefits due to the calculation procedures now in law.

• Adjustments in death benefits applicable to widows and widowers to provide them with lifetime income protection and an increase in benefits paid to partial dependents of workers killed on the job.

These changes were long overdue. Unfortunately, the version of the bill that passed the Legislature in 1999 was vetoed by Gov. Davis.

But the votes by your Assembly Member and state Senator show you how they feel about these critical worker protections. The record is printed in these pages. Check it out.



FOR Working People

or

### AGAINST

Working People on These Key Issues?

Use the Maps on Pages 8 and 12 to Identify <u>Your</u> State Senator and Assembly Member. Then Find Their Voting Records and Compare Them To Where the Challengers Claim to Stand on These Same Issues.

# Are candidates' answers credible?

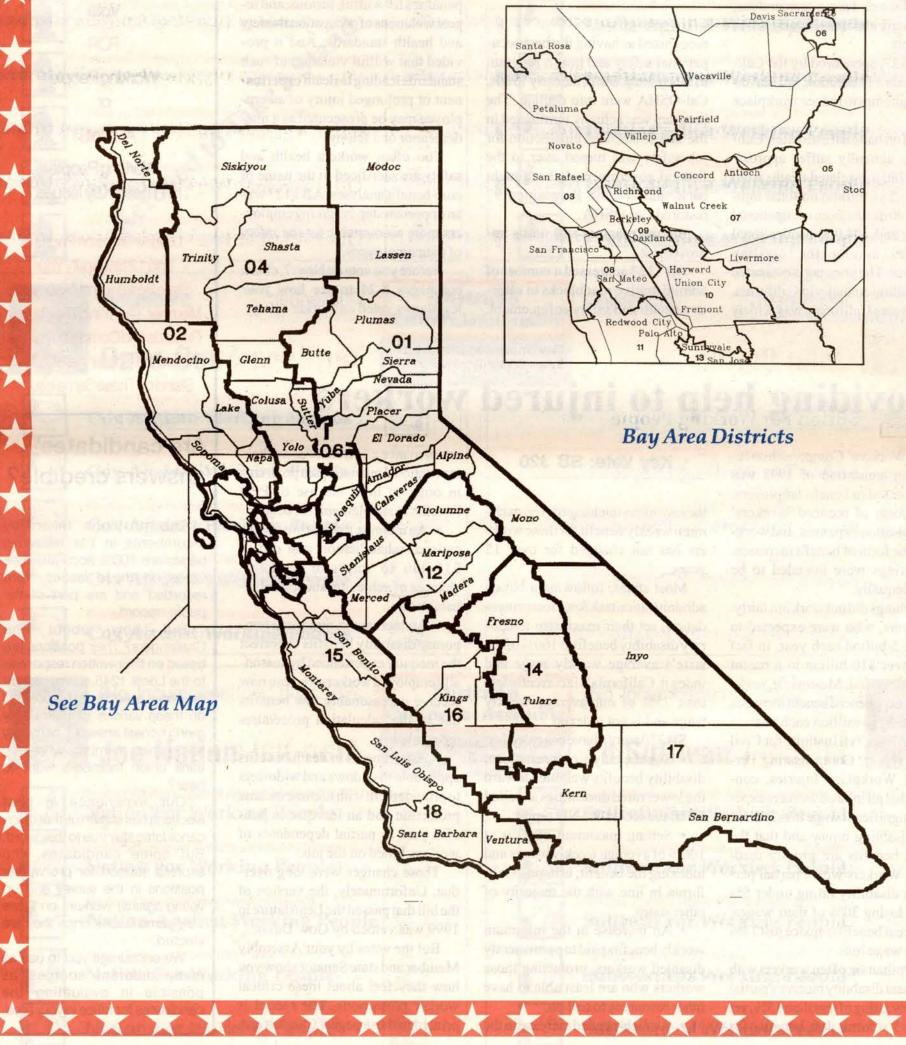
The positions taken by Incumbents in the following pages are 100% accurate: their votes on these issues were recorded and are part of the public record.

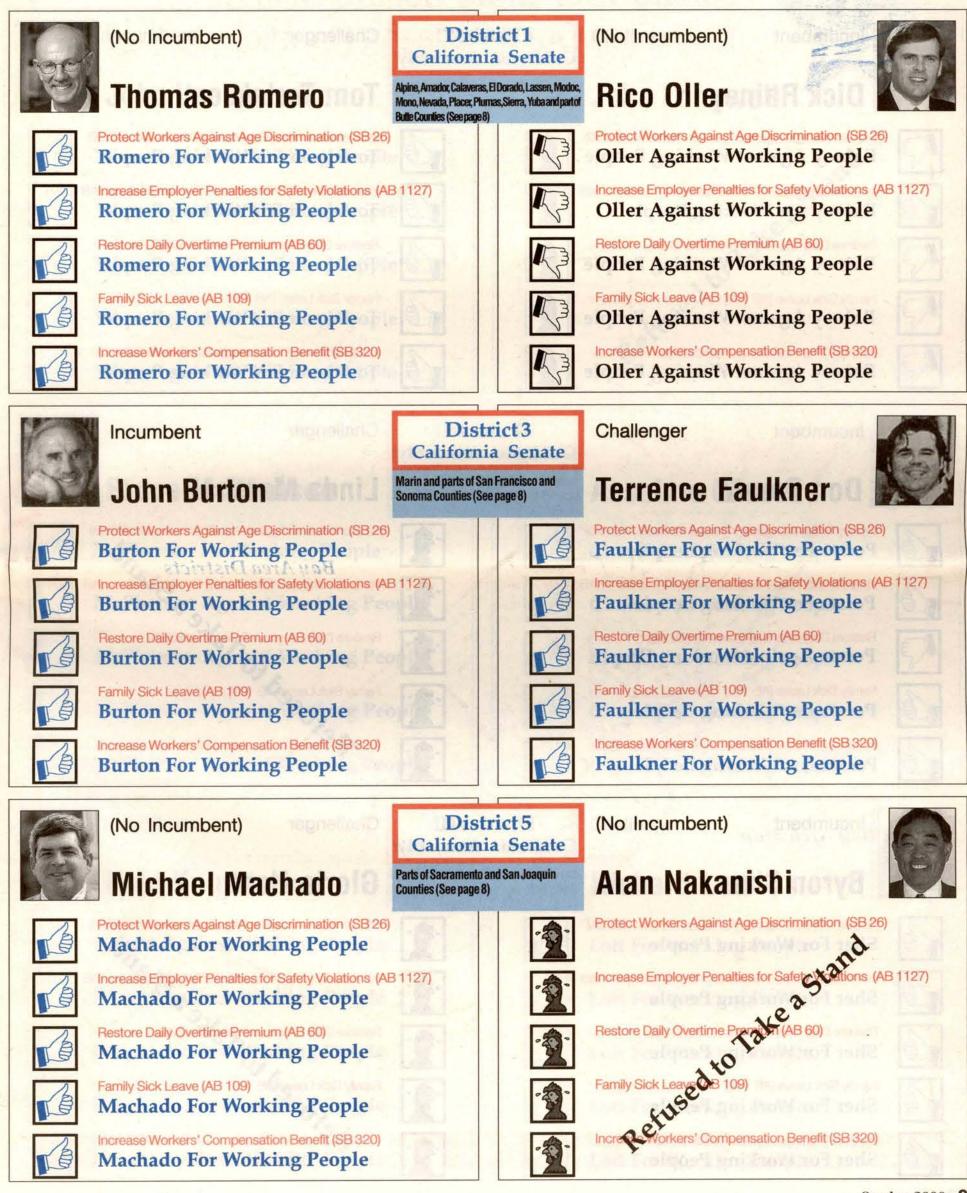
But how about the Challengers? Their positions are based on their written responses to the Local 1245 survey, where they were asked to take a position on these various bills. Are they giving honest answers, or merely telling union members what they think union members want to hear?

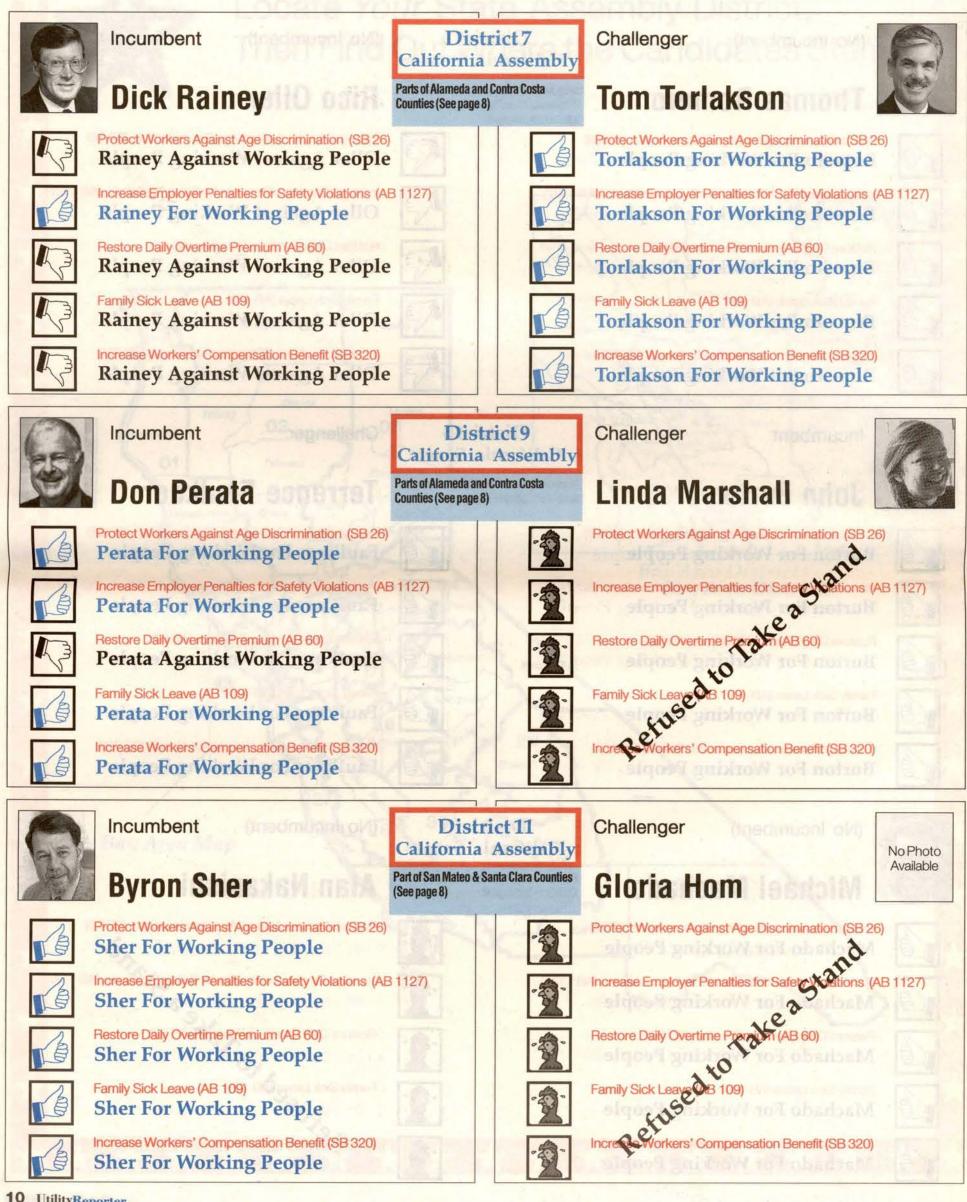
Our experience in past elections has shown us that many candidates stay true to their word. But some candidates who express support for pro-worker positions in the survey end up voting *against* workers on these very same issues once they are elected.

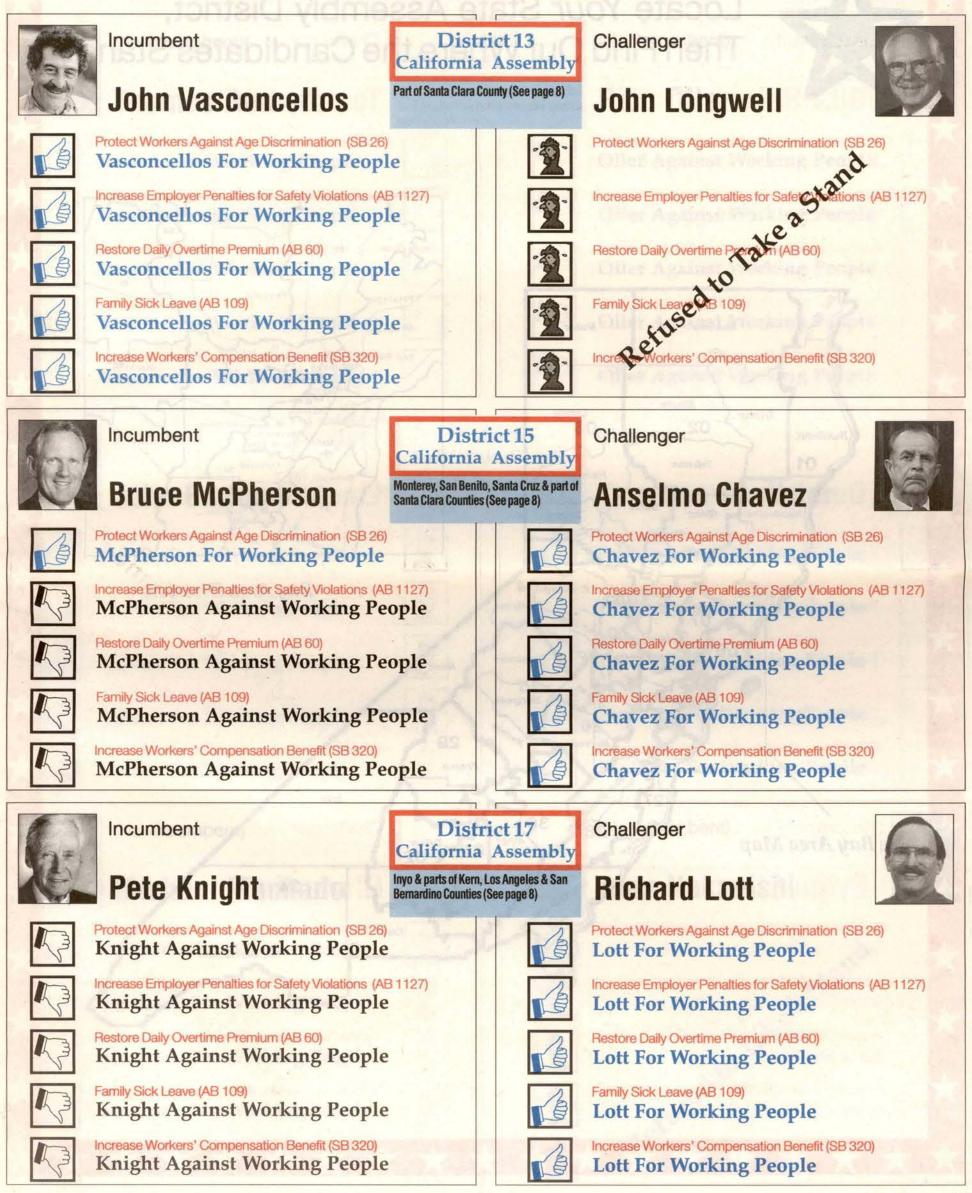
We encourage you to use as many different sources as possible in evaluating the candidates for office in your area.

## Locate Your State Senate District, Then Find Out Where the Candidates Stand







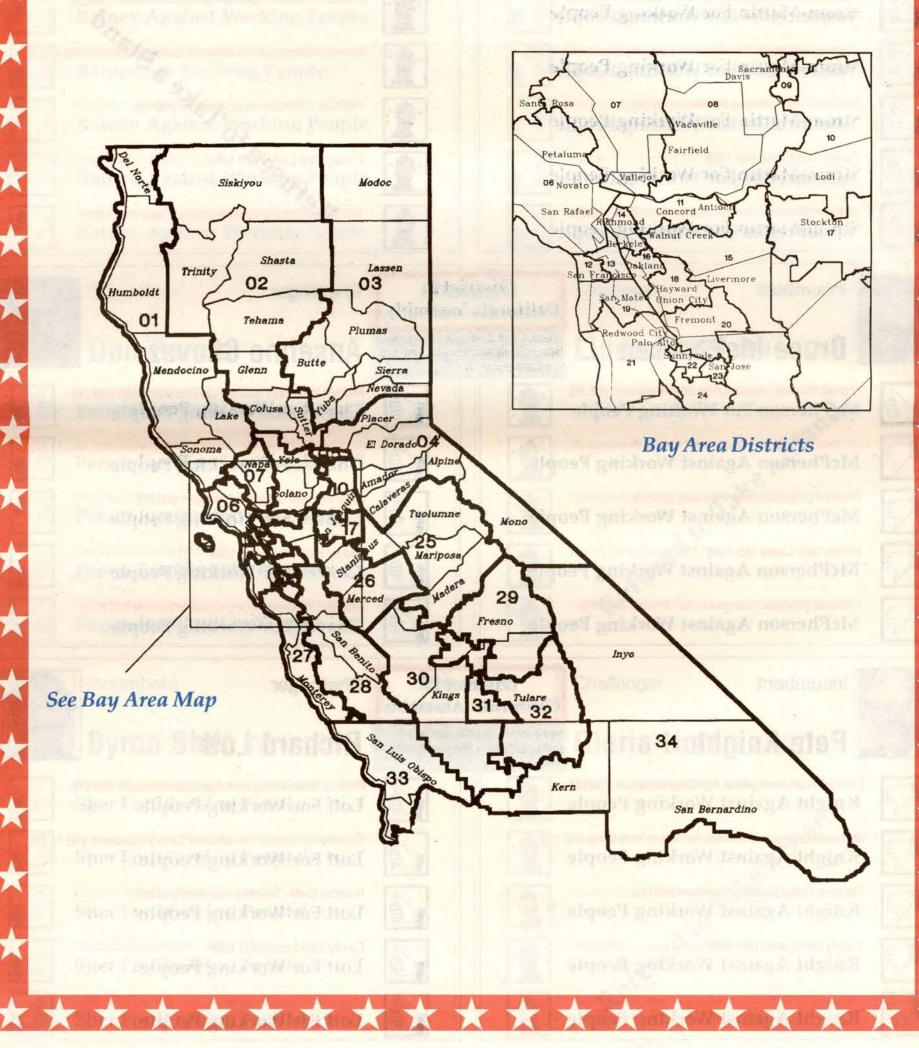


October 2000 11

## Locate Your State Assembly District, Then Find Out Where the Candidates Stand

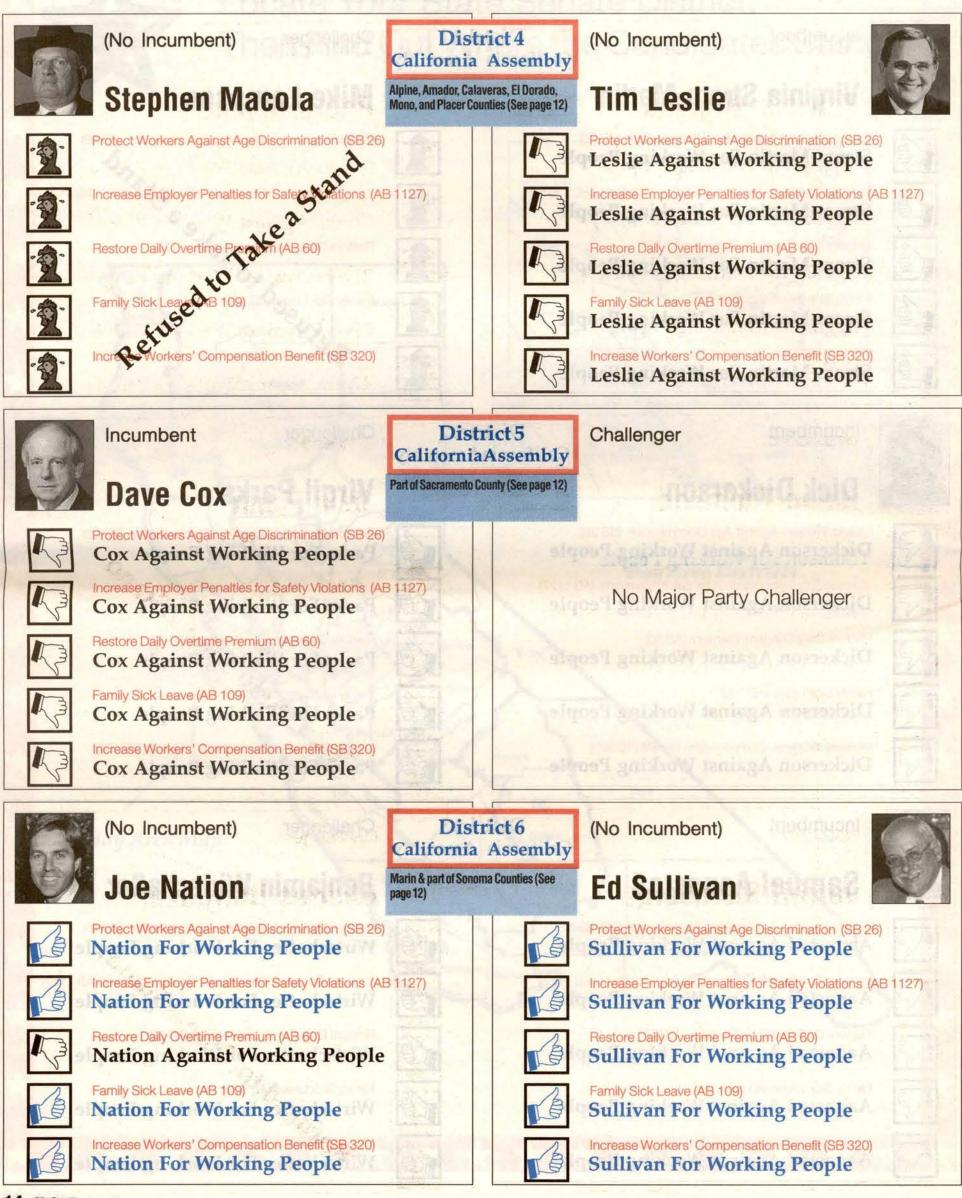
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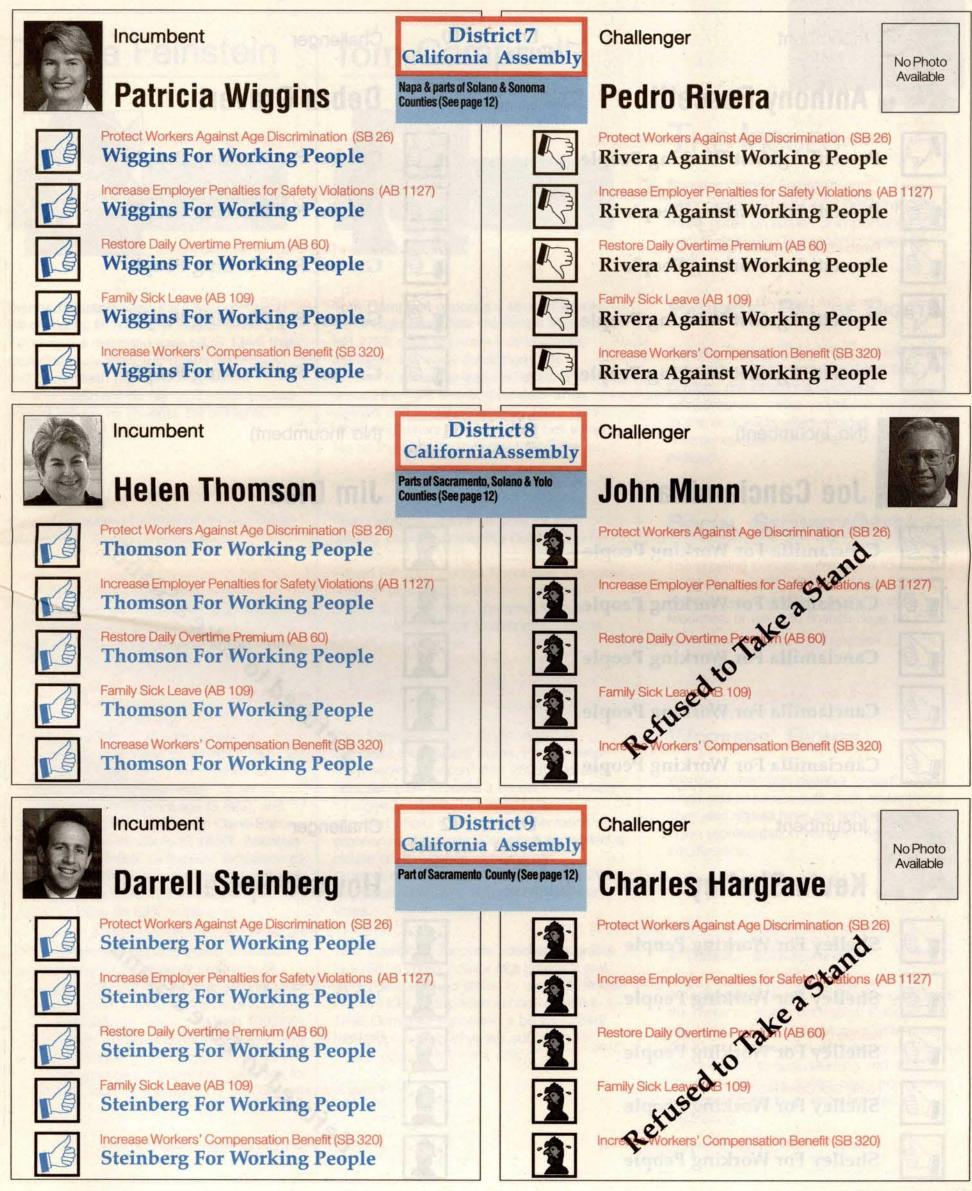
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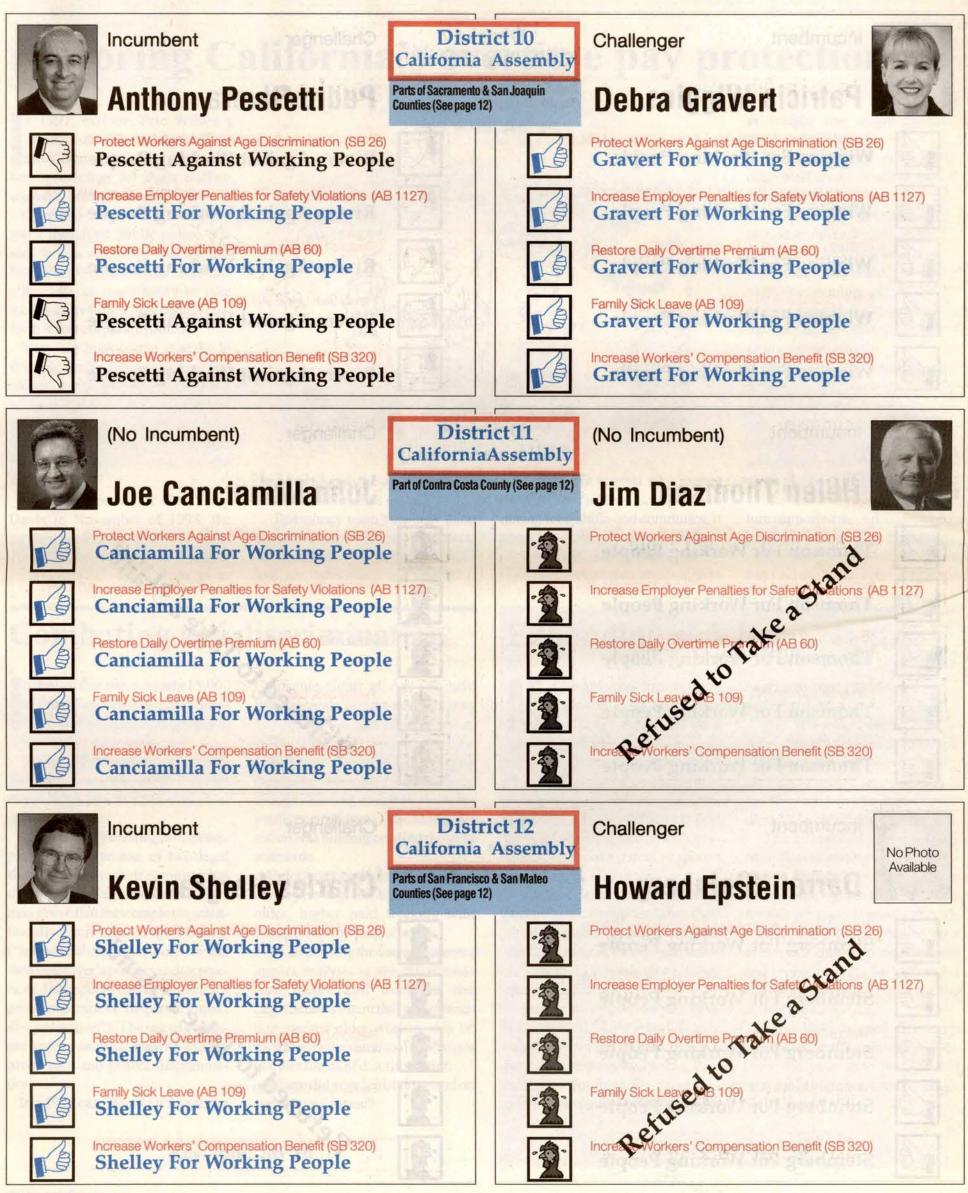


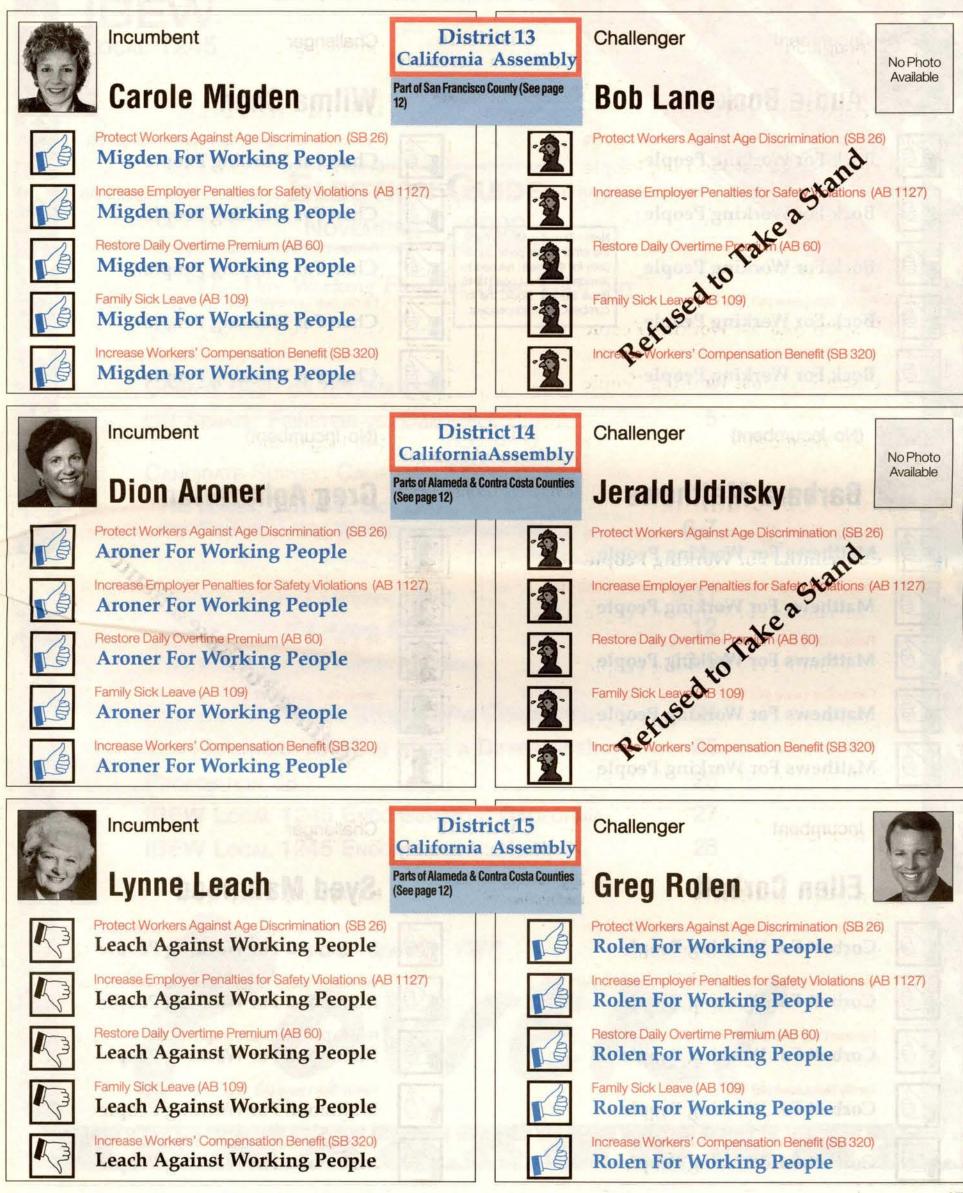


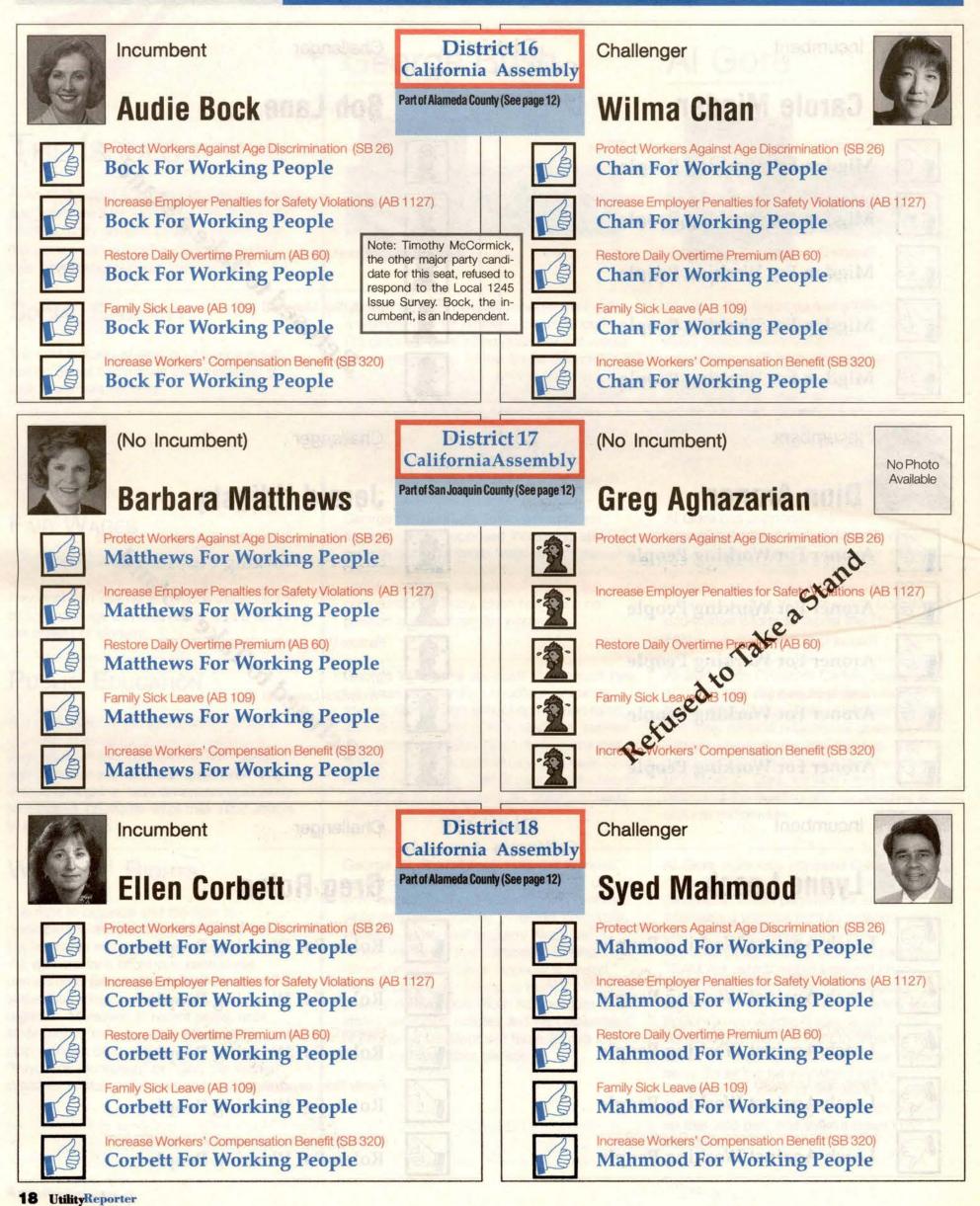
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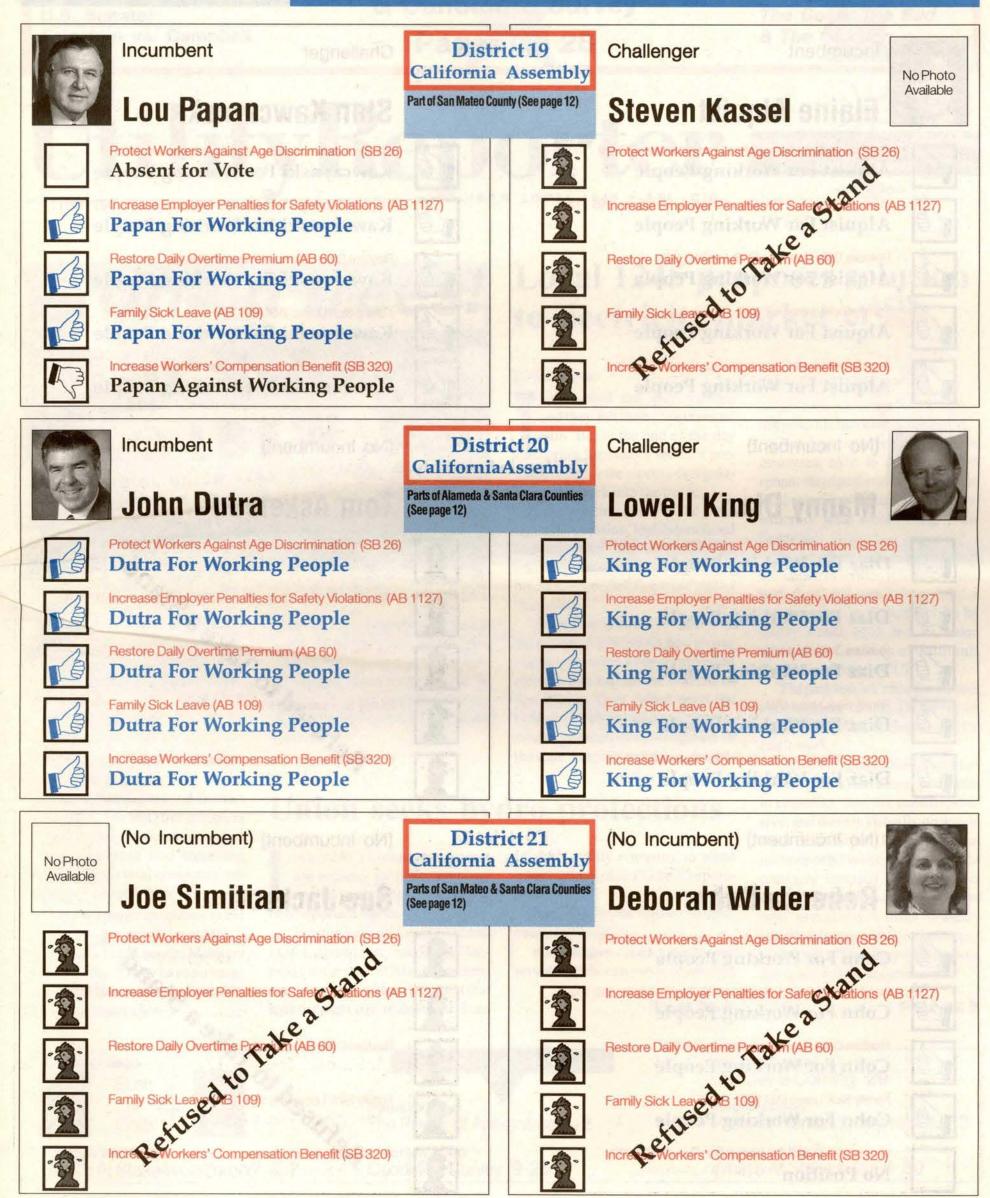


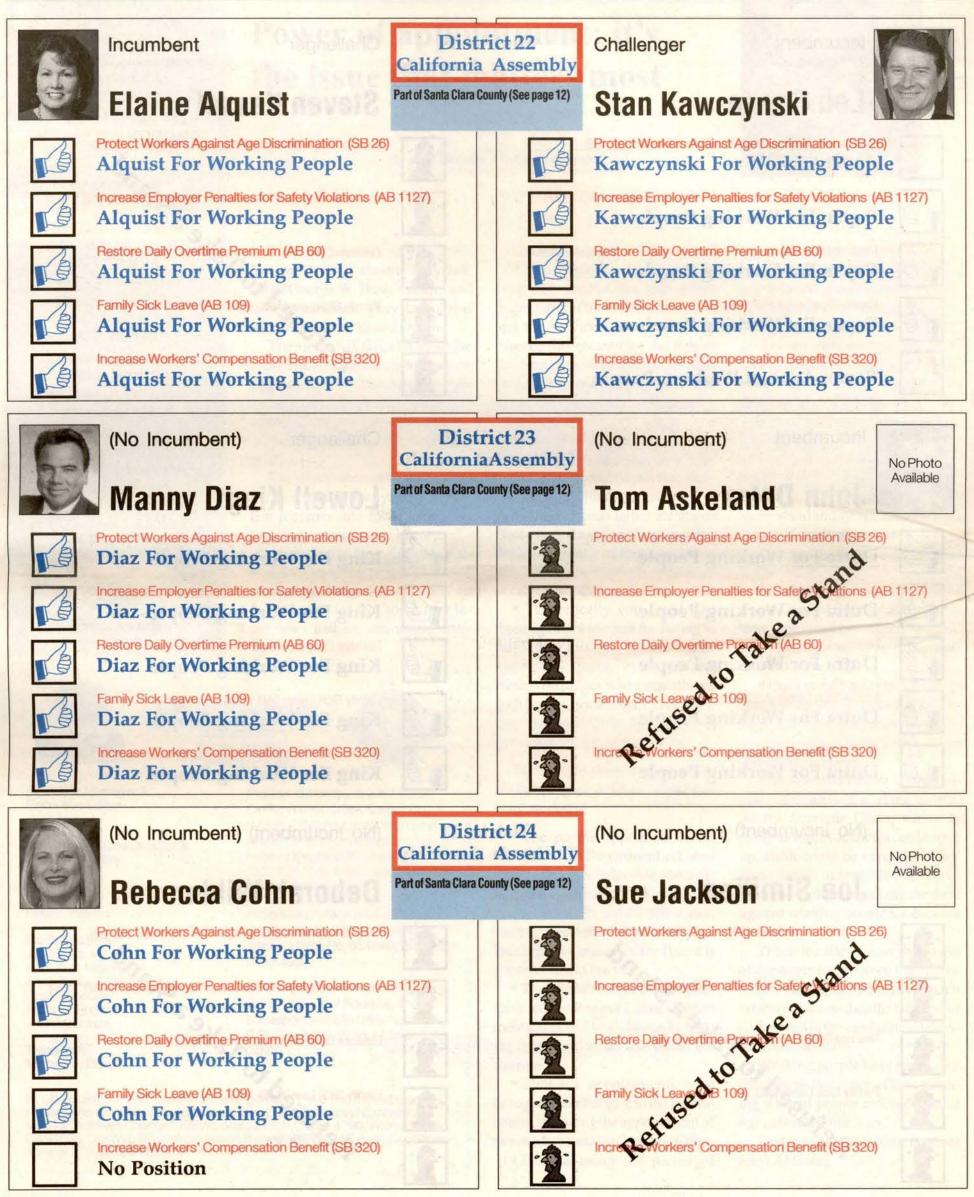


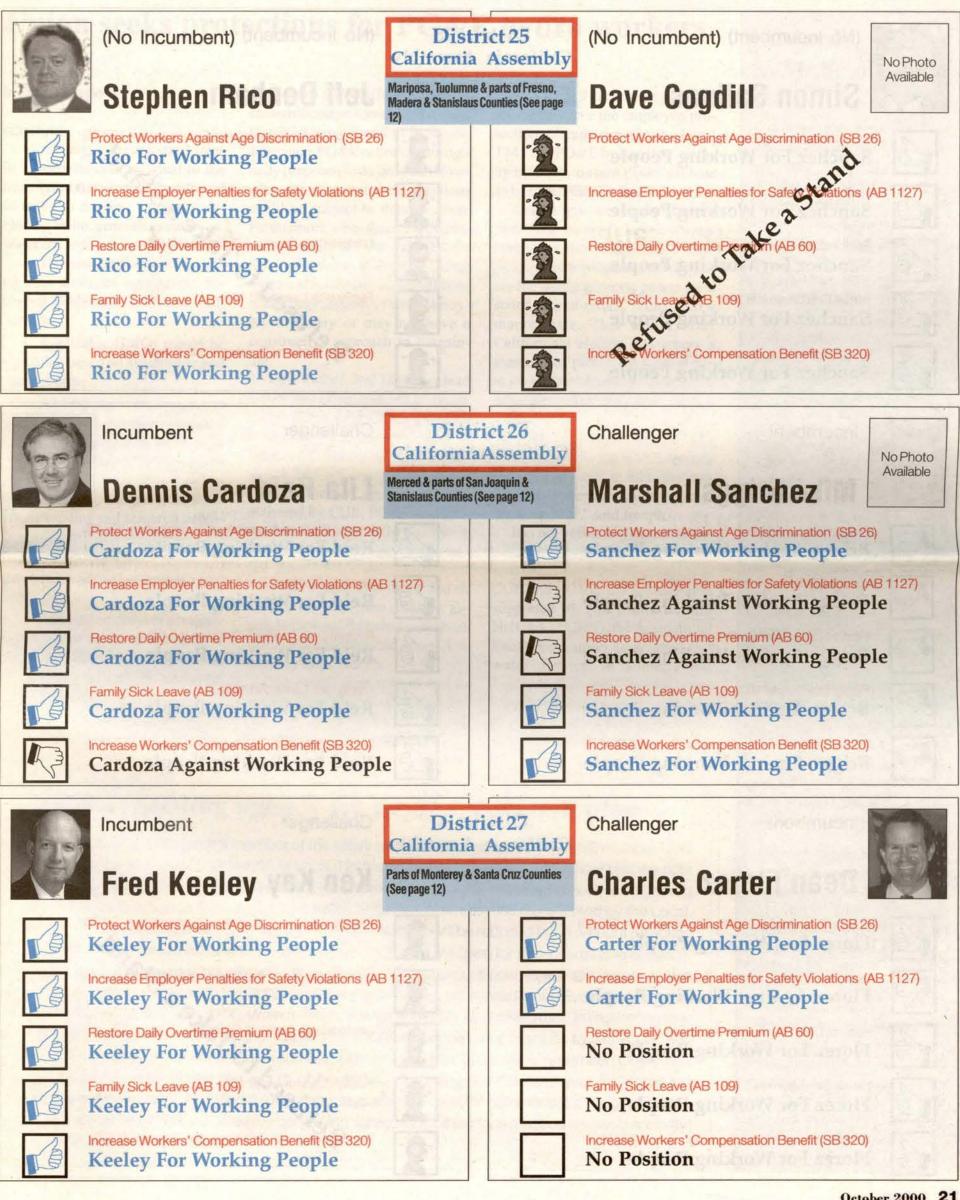






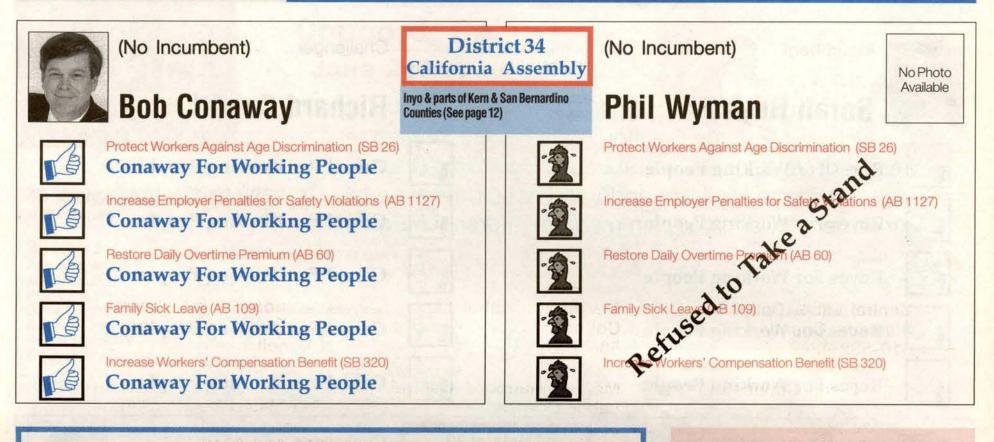












### Methodology: where the chickens come from

IBEW Local 1245 undertook the Candidate Survey to give our members an opportunity to see how candidates for the California Assembly and California Senate stand on issues important to working people. We want to provide you a way to evaluate the candidates based on

objective evidence. Such evidence is available in the form of voting records. The five issues we selected were all voted on during the current (1999-2000) ses-

sion of the California Legislature. The survey shows how the incumbents actually voted on the issues. On issues where incumbents voted for working people, they were awarded a "thumbs up." Where the incumbent voted against working people, they were given a "thumbs down." If an incumbent abstained on any of these five votes (all bills were backed by labor), it was effectively a "no" vote, so the incumbent was given a "thumbs down." If the incumbent was absent during the vote, he or she is listed as "Absent During Vote."

Non-incumbent candidates (challengers and candidates in districts where there is no incumbent running) were sent a survey asking them to declare whether they were generally for or against these same selected bills. We also sent a summary of the bills' general content. All surveyed candidates received a follow-up letter reminding them of the deadline for returning the survey. If a non-incumbent refused to respond to our survey, they were awarded a "chicken." This seems an appropriate symbol for candidates who don't have the courage to say where they stand. If a non-

> incumbent candidate responded to the survey, but chose not to take
> a position on a particular issue, their position on that issue was listed as "No Position."

No surveys were sent to members of the Legislature who are now running for a seat in the other chamber. Their positions were derived

from their voting record in the chamber they currently serve in.

Two years ago we found that the challengers in some races indicated a greater degree of support for working people than they actually exhibited once they got into office. We cannot attest to a candidates' truthfulness in this survey; we can only report what they say.

We have made every effort to include in our Election Guide all major party candidates for the legislature within Local 1245's geographical jurisdiction, as well as one independent member of the Assembly (Audie Bock). If a candidate failed to participate, it was by his or her own choice. Space did not permit us to survey candidates from minor parties.

Local 1245's endorsements of California candidates for Assembly, Senate, and the US House of Representatives can be found on page 27. We hope these surveys are helpful in providing you with objective information to assist you in evaluating the candidates.

### A Case of Truth Avoidance

How truthful were candidates for Congress when they respond to the Local 1245 survey?

I decided to check up on a few of them after the September issue of Utility Reporter was published. One case stood out as a particularly obnoxious example of truth-avoidance.

Congressional candidate Ken Payne (District 5 - Sacramento County) indicated a proworker position on all five issues contained in the Congressional Candidate Survey (see September issue of Utility Reporter).

I then sent Mr. Payne a personal e-mail, asking his position on two of the issues in the survey: the Ergonomics Standard and the Patient Bill of Rights. In both cases, Mr. Payne took the anti-worker position. A complete flip-flop.

Apparently Mr. Payne is not a man who can be taken at his word. That's something for voters in the Sacramento area to bear in mind when voting for their Congressional representative on Nov. 7.

You can conduct your own credibility test on the candidates for Assembly and Senate using this issue of Utility Reporter. Some of these candidates have web sites that accept e-mail. Check out their positions in the Utility Reporter, then send them an e-mail message asking them to take a stand on some of these same issues. Be sure to reference the bill number so there is no question about what is being asked.

Let me know if you get any interesting responses. Write to me at:

Eric Wolfe, Communications Director IBEW 1245 PO Box 4790 Walnut Creek, CA 94596

# Action How You Can Make a Difference!

Union members make the difference. The voice of working families was heard in the March 7 Primary Election because union members stepped forward and got involved. Your local Central Labor Council can show you how to phonebank or walk precincts for labor-endorsed candidates this fall. It's easy to do, you meet great people, and you can made a difference! Sign up now.

Central Labor Council of Alameda County 510-532-4242

Butte-Glenn Counties Central Labor Council 530-343-9474

Contra Costa County Central Labor Council 925-228-0161

Five Counties Central Labor Council (Redding Area) 530-241-0319

Fresno & Madera Counties Central Labor Council 559-275-1151

Humboldt & Del Norte Counties Central Labor Council 707-443-7371

Kern, Inyo & Mono Counties Central Labor Council 661-324-6451 Marysville Central Labor Council 530-743-7321

Merced-Mariposa Central Labor Council 559-271-1288

Monterey & Santa Cruz Counties Central Labor Council (831) 633-1869

Napa & Solano Counties Central Labor Council 707-557-5036

North Bay Counties Central Labor Council 707-545-6970

Sacramento Central Labor Council 916-927-9772

San Francisco Labor Council 415-440-8502 San Joaquin & Calaveras Counties Central Labor Council 209-948-5526

San Mateo County Central Labor Council 650-572-8848

South Bay Central Labor Council 408-266-3790

Stanislaus & Tuolumne Counties Central Labor Council 209-523-8079

Tri-Counties Central Labor Council (San Luis Obispo/Ventura areas) 805-641-3712

Will you invest three hours of your time this fall to defend your livelihood against legislative attack? It will be one of the most important investments you make this year.

> Interested in looking further into volunteer opportunities? Visit the California Labor Federation's website at:

> > www.labor2000.calaborfed.org

# WHY WE MUST DEFEAT PROP 38 THE "DRAPER VOUCHER INITIATIVE"



Proposition 38 on the November 7 ballot asks voters if the state should give a \$4000 "voucher" to each student who attends a non-public school. "A big detour in the wrong direction." — California Governor Gray Davis

# What's wrong with Prop 38?

# Abandons Neighborhood Schools

Not one penny of the billions spent on the Draper Voucher Initiative will be used to make our children's schools better.

# Provides No Accountability

Restricts state or local regulation of voucher schools. Allows fly-by-night operators to open voucher schools and hire teachers without any teaching credentials, training or experience educating children.

# Allows Discrimination

Voucher schools -- not parents -- decide whose children will be accepted. They will be able to reject students based on their gender, ability to pay, or academic and physical abilities.

# VOTE NO ON PROP 38... another expensive experiment our children can't afford.

### No On Vouchers 2000 Committee • www.NoVouchers2000.com

Provided by your union and the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. Visit our website for more info: www.calaborfed.org.

### **IBEW Local 1245 Endorsements: State of California**

49. Gloria Romero

51. Jerome Horton

52. Carl Washington 53. George Nakano

54. Allen Lowenthal

55. Jenny Oropeza

57. Edward Chavez

58. Thomas Calderon

59. Meline Dolores Hall

61. Gloria Negrete McLeod

56. Sally Havice

60. Jeff Duhamel

62. John Longville

66. No Endorsement

68. Tina Louise Laine

70. Merritt Lori McKeon

72. Gangadharappa Nanjundappa

Кеу

Union Takes No Position on

Union Finds No Candidate

Union Finds Both Candidate

63. Scott Stotz 64. Jose Medina

65. Ray Quinto

69. Lou Correa

71. Bea Foster

73. Robert Wilberg

75. No Endorsement

76. Christine Kehoe

78. Howard Wayne

80. Joey Acuna, Jr.

77. Todd Keegan

79. Juan Vargas

Open:

Candidates

No Endorsement:

Worthy of Support

**Dual Endorsement:** 

Worthy of Support

**Ballot Proposition** 

No Recommendation

(Ballot Propositions):

Union Takes No Position on

74. John Herrera

67. Tom Harman

50. Marco Antonio Firebaugh

OF INDUSTRIAL

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITIONS

Provides farm, home, and mobilehome

Permits state legislators to participate

in the Public Employees' Retirement

Campaign Contributions & Expendi-

Repeals certain amendments made by

Prop. 208 to the Political Reform Act of

1974, and reenacts provisions that im-

pose similar, but increased dollar

amount limits on campaign contribu-

tions for elective state office, candidate

loans, and voluntary campaign spend-

purchase assistance for veterans.

**PROPOSITION 32: YES** 

PROPOSITION 33: YES

**PROPOSITION 34: YES** 

**PROPOSITION 35:** 

**PROPOSITION 36:** 

NO RECOMMENDATION

NO RECOMMENDATION

**PROPOSITION 37: NO** 

**PROPOSITION 38: NO** 

**Drug Treatment Diversion Program** 

Fees, Taxes. Voter Requirements.

Redefines as taxes certain compulsory

fees enacted by state or local govern-

School Vouchers. State-Funded Pri-

Authorizes annual state payments of at

least \$4,000 per pupil for qualified pri-

vate and religious schools. Restricts

regulation of private schools. Exempts

private schools from designated Uni-

Authorizes bonds for construction, re-

construction, rehabilitation or replace-

ment of school facilities if approved by

55% vote for projects evaluated by

schools, community college districts,

county education offices for safety, class

size, and information technology needs.

October 2000 27

form Building Code requirements.

**PROPOSITION 39: YES** 

School Facilities.

vate and Religious Education

Public Works Projects

Legislature: Retirement

System.

tures

ing.

ment.

Veteran's Bond Act of 2000

### **U.S. PRESIDENT**

Al Gore

### **U.S. SENATOR**

**Dianne Feinstein** 

### **U.S.** CONGRESS

#### District

1. Mike Thompson

- Stan Morgan Bob Kent 2.
- 3.
- Mark Norberg 4. Robert Matsui 5.
- Lynn Woolsey 6.

7. George Miller

- Nancy Pelosi Barbara Lee 8.
- 9.
- 10. Ellen Tauscher
- Tom Santos 11. 12. Tom Lantos
- 13. Pete Stark
- 14. Anna Eshoo
- 15. Mike Honda
- 16. Zoe Lofgren
- 17. Sam Farr
- 18. Gary Condit
- 19. Dan Rosenberg 20. No Endorsement
- 21. Pete Martinez Jr.
- 22. Lois Capps
- 23. Michael Case
- 24. Brad Sherman
- 25. No Endorsement
- 26. Howard Berman
- 27. Adam Schiff
- 28. Janice Nelson 29. Henry Waxman
- 30. Xavier Becerra
- 31. Hilda Solis
- 32. Julian Dixon
- 33. Lucille Roybal-Allard
- 34. Grace Flores Napolitano
- 35. Maxine Waters
- 36. Jane Harman
- 37. Juanita Millender-McDonald 38. Gerrie Schipske
- 39. Gil Kanel
- 40. No Endorsement
- 41. Rodolfo Favila
- 42. Joe Baca
- 43. No Endorsement
- 44. Ron Oden
- 45. Ted Crisell
- 46. Loretta Sanchez
- 47. No Endorsement
- 48. No Endorsement
- 49. Susan Davis
- 50. Bob Filner 51. No Endorsement
- 52. Craig Barkacs

### CALIFORNIA SENATE

#### District

- Thomas Romero 1.
- John Burton 3.
- Michael Machado 5.
- Tom Torlakson 7.
- 9. Don Perata

- 11. Byron Sher
- 13. John Vasconcellos
- 15. Open
- 17. No Endorsement
- 19. Daniel Gonzales 21. Jack Scott
- 23. Sheila James Kuehl
- 25. Edward Vincent
- 27. Betty Karnette
- 29. Richard Melendez
- 31. Mike Rayburn
- 33. Jack Roberts
- 35. Steve Ray
- 37. Sedalia Sanders
- 39. Dede Alpert

### CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY

### District

- Virginia Strom-Martin 1.
- Virgil Parks 2.
- Benjamin Wirtschafter 3.
- 4. Open
- 5. No Endorsement
- 6. Joe Nation
- Patricia Wiggins 7.
- Helen Thomson 8.
- **Darrell Steinberg** 9.
- 10. (Dual Endorsement) Debra Gravert Anthony Pescetti
- 11. Joe Canciamilla
- 12. Kevin Shelley
- 13. Carole Migden
- 14. Dion Aroner
- 15. Greg Rolen
- 16. (Dual Endorsement) Audie Bock Wilma Chan
- 17. Barbara Matthews
- 18. Ellen Corbett
- 19. Lou Papan
- 20. John Dutra
- 21. Open 22. Elaine White Alquist
- 23. Manny Diaz

26. Dennis Cardoza

24. Rebecca Cohn 25. Stephen Rico

27. Fred Keeley

30. Dean Florez

31. Sarah Reyes

32. Virginia Gurrola

33. (Dual Endorsement)

Abel Maldonado

35. Hannah-Beth Jackson

34. Robert Conaway

36. No Endorsement

37. Rosalind McGrath

38. Jon Lauritzen

39. Tony Cardenas

40. Bob Hertzberg

43. Dario Frommer

45. Jackie Goldberg

48. Roderick Wright

41. Fran Pavley

42. Paul Koretz

44. Carol Liu

46. Gil Cedillo

47. Herb Wesson

Laurence Houlgate

29. Lita Reid

28. Simon Salinas

### **IBEW Local 1245 Endorsements: State of Nevada**

### NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY

### District

5.

6.

FINDUSTRIAL

Al Gore

Ed Berstein

1. Shelley Berkley

G. Nancy Becker

F. Myron Leavitt

Central: Ed Beaman 2. Ray Shaffer

Charles Hawk

Terrie Stanfill

Michael Schneider

Dina Titus

3. Valerie Wiener

Joe Neal

District

District

District

4. 5.

6.

7.

8.

**U.S. PRESIDENT** 

U.S. SENATOR

**U.S.** CONGRESS

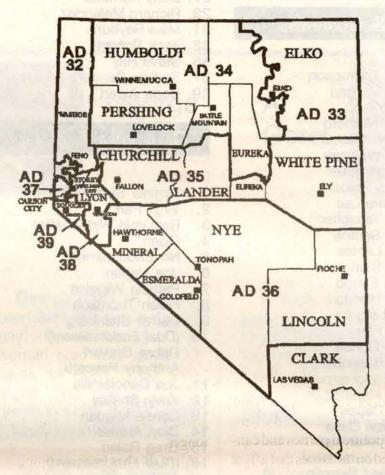
NEVADA SUPREME COURT

NEVADA STATE SENATE

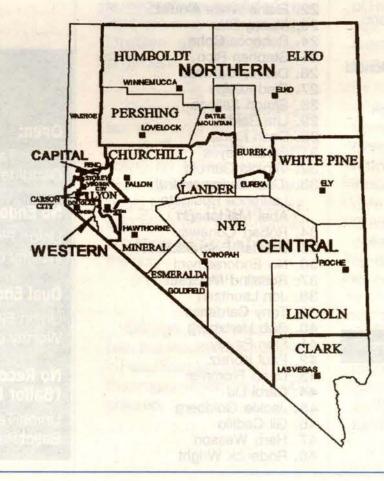
3-Washoe: No Endorsement

- 1. Tom Collins No Endorsement 2.
- 3. John Lee
- **Bob Beers** 4.
  - Kristen Hansen
  - Wendell Williams Morse Arberry Jr.
- 7. **Barbara Buckley** 8.
- 9. Chris Giunchigliani 10. David Goldwater
- 11. Doug Bache
- 12. Genie Ohrenschall
- 13. Byron Goynes 14. Ellen Koivisto
- 15. Kathy McClain 16. John Oceguera
- 17. Bob Price
- 18. Mark Manendo
- 19. Jerry Claborn
- 20. Thomas Welsh 21. Larry Bettis
- 22. Gene Segerblom
- 23. Richard Perkins
- 24. Vivian Freeman
- 25. Dawn Gibbons
- 26. Dave Lacerda
- 27. Sheila Leslie
- 28. Vonne Chowning 29. No Endorsement
- 30. Debbie Smith
- 31. Bernie Anderson
- 32. Kendall Stagg 33. No Endorsement
- 34. No Endorsement
- 35. Marcia de Braga
- 36. Roy Neighbors
- 37. No Endorsement
- 38. Joe Dini 39. Willie Edwards
- 40. Bonnie Parnell
- 41. David Parks

## **Nevada Assembly Districts**



### Nevada Senate Districts





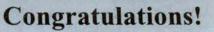


### Make a Date...

The Local 1245 Retiree Club invites you to join us for companionship, discussion and projects. Current meeting locations are:

**East Bay Chapter:** meets 2nd Thursday each month, 10 a.m., at Local 1245 headquarters, 3063 Citrus Circle, Walnut Creek, CA.

San Jose Chapter: meets 1st Thursday each month, 10 a.m., at Local 332, 1870 Stone Ave., San Jose.



The Local 1245 Retirees Club congratulates these recently-retired members of the union. We invite you to participate in–or start!–a Retirees Club chapter in your area.

> Sandra Baldry, 15 years Nicasio, CA

Sandra Harris, 17 years Vacaville, CA

Rosalie Hayles, 20 years Lodi, CA

Ralph Henley, 32 years Woodland, CA

Dennis Huffstutter, 33 years Santa Rosa, CA

> Irene Ideda, 23 years Monte Sereno, Ca

Michael Kay, 34 years Oakdale, CA

Kenneth Krause, 31 years Chico, CA

Jeannette Landucci, 26 years Stockton, CA

Joseph Laureno, 38 years Rohnert Park, CA

# Our day is coming. Make it count.

RETIREE

### By Orv Owen

ur day is coming-our day to determine who will represent our views at the city, county, state and federal legislative bodies. And frankly, it cannot come too soon for this senior citizen.

The political rhetoric and the "buzz words" of the current campaigns reek with hypocrisy and insincerity, in my view. I, along with millions of other seniors, still believe that "leopards do not change their spots" and politicians cannot run or hide from their records.

I like to feel that for the past 54 years I voted for candidates who, with their voices and their actions, supported working people, their families and senior citizens. It is not rocket science to understand where the current political parties and candidates stand on the issues that affect workers and their families, their parents and grandparents.

CORNER

One of the most critical issues facing today's politicians is saving Medicare, the federal health insurance program for the elderly and eligible disabled.

Medicare has provided access to quality health care for 35 years. Today, Medicare is part of the basic fabric of American society. Certainly, no one wants to return to the way things were before Medicare, when 70% of people over age 65 had no health insurance of any kind.

Since Medicare was enacted, poverty among the elderly has fallen to about 10%. Ninety-nine percent of America's seniors have health insurance coverage under Medicare, and seniors are healthier and living longer.

All of this has been accomplished

beneficiaries. Medicare has preserved our right to choose our doctors and hospitals, has paid its bills on time, and, in recent years, has out-performed the private insurance industry in keeping costs down. Less than 2% of Medicare's bud-

while Medicare provided access to

first-class health care services for all

get goes to administering the program, while private insurers' administrative costs range from 8 to 15%. Candidates who support privatizing Medicare and Social Security are not on the side of workers and their families and their parents and grandparents.

We were not born suspicious of politicians-their votes and actions made us this way! Now our day is coming. That day is Nov. 7. Let's make it count!

Keep the faith!

## **Key issues: Social Security & Medicare**

arry Lindsey, a key economic adviser to Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush, noted in a May 15 interview that he wouldn't play the stock market with his personal funds. As Lindsey put it: "I hate losing money."

That same day, his boss advocated taking part of the money every working American pays into Social Security to earn guaranteed benefits and putting it into private accounts dependent upon the stock market.

Social Security isn't the only vital program that would be jeopardized by Bush's misguided policy proposals. The solvency of Medicare relies on responsible handling of the nation's current budget surpluses. Bush's proposed \$1 trillion tax cut would squander this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to strengthen the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds.

Bush's plan to privatize Social



George Bush Al Gore

## Who will protect Social Security and Medicare

Security would divert between 16 and 24% of Social Security's payroll tax revenue into privatized, individual accounts. Diverting funds would require cuts in guaranteed Social Security benefits–29% for older workers and 54% for workers 30 and younger–according to a study released in June by the non-partisan Century Foundation.

The study notes that even under the best market conditions, returns on the individual accounts would fall far short of making up the reduction in guaranteed benefits. In fact, "the reductions in Social Security benefits for future retirees are so substantial that they raise questions about the viability of protecting benefits for current retirees, older workers, disabled workers and survivors," the report says.

Gore, by contrast, would leave current benefits alone, and add a new "Retirement Savings Plus" account on top of promised benefits to boost retirement for low and moderate income families.

Gore favors setting aside twotirds of the projected budget surplus to ensure Social Security and Medicare remain strong for generations to come.

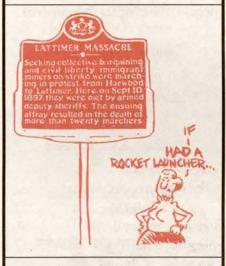




### 'Big Mary' Septak

In the late summer of 1897, several mines around Hazelton, Penn., were closed by strikes as the northeastern Pennsylvania anthracite region seethed with rebellion. On Sept. 10, strikers marching to mines still working were stopped by armed deputies in Lattimer. Without provocation, the deputies fired into the crowd, killing 19 miners and seriously wounding another 36.

Despite the tragic loss of life, despite the presence of the National Guard following the massacre, the strike continued. And it was the women of the immigrant mining communities who kept the struggle going. They successfully shut down mines not yet affected by the strike. They were led by "Big Mary" Septak, operator of a miners' boardinghouse in Lattimer. Mary lost nine of her 10 children to disease; before they died, her little sons worked in the collieries picking slate. She believed in the strike.



Beginning on Sept. 15, "Big Mary" Septak led as many as 200 women in a series of raids on collieries and washeries which forced the men to stop working. Big Mary openly defied the National Guard. She told a mounted captain: "If we had guns, you'd pay the devil." National Guard officers complained, "The women are worse to handle than the men." The Wilkes-Barre Record despised the "Polish Amazons" for their "ill-advised and unwomanly demonstrations." But to the immigrant women, the fight for survival was more important than middle-class notions of femininity. And it paid off. The women's militancy produced concessions from the mine owners.



WOMEN AT WORK

THE ISSUES	George Bush	Al Gore
EQUAL PAY	<b>George Bush</b> , so far, has been silent on the issue of equal pay, despite the fact that women earn only about 73 cents for every dollar men make. This pay inequality results in a loss of \$200 billion in family income each year.	Al Gore, as part of the 2000 budget, supported \$14 million for efforts to promote pay equity for women. Al Gore supports the Paycheck Fairness Act to help working women close the pay gap.
HEALTH CARE	George Bush refused to support a request for \$40 million in state funds for breast cancer exams. Bush supported weak Pateint's Bill of Rights, giving HMOs final say on what is medically necessary and no right for women to choose their Ob/Gyn as their primary physician.	Al Gore fought for Medicare to cover mammograms, and supports adding prescription benefits. Gore cosponsored breast cancer legislation. Gore fought for strong Patient's Bill of Rights that included right to sue HMOs and the right for women to choose their Ob/ Gyn as their primary physician.
Taxes	George Bush proposed a tax plan so risky that even House Republicans avoided voting on it. The plan would drain budget surpluses and could force cuts in Medicare, education and child nutrition programs to give tax breaks to the rich.	Al Gore helped expand the Earned Income Tax Credit. Gore proposes a tax plan that helps working families, including expanding the child care and Earned income Tax Credits, expanding health care coverage through targeted tax credits, and giving a deduction for college tuition.
HEAD START	<b>George Bush</b> supports a plan that would cut \$2.9 billion in Head Start funding and deny the program to almost 400,000 children.	Al Gore worked to increase Head Start funding by 68%, increasing enrollment by 200,000 children. Proposed a \$600 million increase in funding.

# Federal ergonomics standard headed for major showdown

fter 10 years of effort by workers, the Republican leadership in Congress and President Clinton are headed for a showdown over a new ergonomics standard to protect workers on the job.

A rider to kill implementation of the new standard is attached to a House Appropriations bill for Labor and Health spending. President Clinton has promised to veto any measure with this rider.

In an effort to eliminate the nation's No. 1 workplace health hazard-musculoskeletal injuries caused by poorly designed workplaces, repetitive motions and other ergonomic hazards on the job-the AFL-CIO has launched television ads in targeted congressional districts calling on lawmakers to oppose efforts tokill the ergonomics standard.

Workers and their unions have been mobilizing to establish a workplace ergonomics standard to reduce or prevent the musculoskeletal disorders-such as carpal tunnel syndrome, tendinitis and back injuriesthat hit some 1.8 million workers a year. More than 600,000 workers a year are forced to take time off from the job because of injuries related to workplace ergonomic hazards.

But during the same decade, big business groups and their allies in Congress have staged an all-out battle to prevent OSHA from developing and issuing an ergonomics standard.

While OSHA began public hearings this spring on its proposed standard, Republican congressional leaders-in mostly party-line votes on the fiscal year 2001 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill-were able to include a ban that prohibits OSHA from moving ahead on the much-needed worker safety measure.

President Clinton has vowed to veto the bill if it gets to his desk.

### Medical plan Open Enrollment at PG&E

Local 1245 members at Pacific Gas and Electric Co. will have employee Open Enrollment for Medical plans Oct. 30-Nov. 10. Retiree Open Enrollment is Oct. 16-27. All changes will be effective Jan. 1, 2001. The Open Enrollment package, which will be mailed the week of Oct. 23, will have important details about health coverage and medical plan changes for the year 2001.



By the Local 1245 Safety Committee

FETY MATTER



## Share your experience

nyone in the workforce knows that working safely is important. Workers represented by a union have safety rules, safety committees, and guidelines to follow in order to get our work done safely and without injury.

However, today's economy has many employers, contractors and subcontractors who have non-union workers. Many of these workers do not know anything about safety or safety rules and regulations.

On occasion, union workers like ourselves will encounter non-union workers on a jobsite. If you see anyone performing a task that looks dangerous, and you think could pose a threat to the worker or others, you should take action.

Explain the possible dangers as you see them, and what the consequences could be if the worker continues to work in an unsafe fashion or in an unsafe area.

Sometimes we may be tempted to feel that people deserve what they get. But safety is not something to be small-minded or mean-spirited about. Offer fellow workers the benefit of your experience.

Yes, we have Cal-OSHA and OSHA, but these agencies can't be everywhere at once.

So lend a hand. No one benefits when someone is injured on the job.

## Born to be (safely) wild

hose of us who ride motorcycles know the enjoyment and freedom of being on the open road.

More and more people are taking to motorcycles each year. Today's bikes offer unprecedented comfort, power and speed.

Increased speed can also bring increased risk.

Helmets, required by law in California, afford some protection to the head. But tee shirts and tank tops aren't going to help the rest of your body when you're skidding along asphalt at 60 mph.

The best protection is to drive safely. Taking a motorcycle class is a good way to learn about your bike and how to operate it safely.

The most important rule always is to watch out for the other guy. The laws of physics dictate that you're going to lose if you collide with something with four wheels.

Current members of the Local 1245 Safety Committee are: Stoney Burke, Alameda Power & Telecommunications; Keith Hopp, Pacific Gas & Electric; Ralph Muraca, City of Santa Clara; Mark Rose, Davey Tree; Al White, Pacific Gas & Electric; Rod Wright, Modesto Irrigation District; and Assistant Business Manager Art Murray.

## Local 1245 proposes solution to electricity market crisis

#### From Page 1

In other words, matching supply to demand may be easily accomplished with many commodities, but it is fiendishly difficult with electricity-and failure to do so carries a very high price for society. The mismatch between supply and demand leads inevitably to boom and bust cycles in both price and reliability of electricity generation.

Such business cycles will occur in virtually any market. When artichokes fall into short supply, prices skyrocket-and most people will stop eating artichokes for a while.

The problem is that people are not going to stop using electricity, anymore than your body is going to stop using blood. When supplies are short, that electricity is going to be very expensive.

#### **Market Perpetuates Problem**

The Wall Street Journal and other business interests have argued that the solution is simply to let the market respond: high prices will stimulate investors to build more power plants.

But CUE, represented by attorney Marc Joseph of the firm Adams Broadwell Joseph and Cardozo, argues that leaving these decisions to the market will only perpetuate the problem, not solve it. As more power plants are built and put on line, supply will eventually exceed demand. Oversupply and the resulting low prices will then lead suppliers to shut down plants.

Capital will be foolishly wasted, plant owners will suffer financial losses, and trained, experienced workers will be sent packing.

But the biggest victim of these "boom and bust" cycles in electricity will be the public as a whole. Volatile electric prices will discourage new investment in the state by businesses that require electricity, and the displacement of skilled workers will threaten the reliability that the public expects.

The fundamental problem, CUE argues, isn't really the independent power producer who manipulates the system to boost prices. "The fundamental problem is inherent in the market itself."

If the market is ill-equipped to meet society's need for reliable power at stable prices, how can reliability and stability be achieved?

#### **Restoring What Was Abandoned**

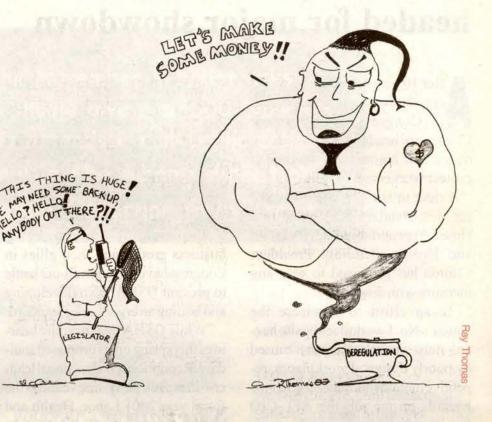
CUE argues that "some of what was abandoned by restructuring must be restored."

First, demand-side management (or conservation) must be brought back into the equation. "Conservation programs before deregulation were a big success," CUE says. These programs provided thousands of megawatts of cost-effective conservation. Without those programs, today's shortages would be "incalculably greater."

Second, California needs to make sure that someone is driving the bus. In the current market system, no one is responsible for forecasting both overall supply and overall demand. The Independent System Operator is focussed primarily on hour-by-hour reliability and "has not attempted to deal with statewide resource supply/demand issues in any significant way." When tackling short-term supply problems, someone needs to be responsible for evaluating how various solutions will effect reliability over the long-term.

Third, someone with an "obligation to serve" must be responsible for assessing generation, transmis-

The genie is out of the bottle. Everyone knows that stuffing genies back in bottles isn't easy. But it does little good to simply wring our hands or give out bandaids to those injured in the genie's rampage.



sion and demand-side management in an integrated fashion so that they have the capability of fulfilling that obligation. This function used to be performed, subject to public review, by Investor-Owned Utilities like PG&E. They did it before, they could do it again.

#### **Proof Regulation Works**

The free-market diehards, of course, will howl at the suggestion that California return to this sort of regulation. Especially the free-market diehards who are making a killing in the current market.

But CUE points to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power as vivid proof that California would be better off with a return to regulation. The LADWP has retained control of its own electric generation assets, and continues to plan on a long-term basis for its future needs, subject to public review.

As a result, LADPW has insulated itself from the wildly inflated prices now plaguing the open market. LADPW has also avoided the severe problem now plaguing PG&E and Southern California Edison, who are being squeezed between the frozen rates they charge retail customers and the wildly inflated wholesale rates they must pay independent producers.

In the long run, the sort of longterm planning recommended by CUE would benefit virtually everyone. A proper incentive structure could be used to induce utilities like PG&E to construct generation and to make cost-effective decisions when purchasing power from other generators. Likewise, structures could be put in place to assure that independent generators, whose plants we now need, would be permitted an adequate return on investment, "whether through sales on the open market or through contracts with a utility."

But providing incentives to independent generators does not mean we have to give them *carte blanche* to run roughshod over California consumers in a runaway wholesale power market-the scenario that has brought so much grief to California consumers over the summer.

The genie is out of the bottle. Everyone knows that stuffing genies back in bottles isn't easy. But it does little good to simply wring our hands or give out bandaids to those injured in the genie's rampage.

CUE has pointed the way toward restoring some sanity to electric service in California. When policymakers are ready to tackle the genie, the CUE recommendations are where they should start.

## Plumas Sierra REC agreement hikes wages, extends benefits

ocal 1245 members at Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative bargained a 3.5% general wage increase effective July 1,2000 during a recent wage and benefit opener in their agreement.

The agreement also brings Satellite and Internet employees up to the same medical benefit level as physical employees, resulting in an additional \$200 a month applied to medical premiums.

The agreement also provides a 3% wage increase on July 1, 2001, and provides for a wage and medical benefit opener for July 2002.

"Our main priority was to make some gains on the 2.5% increase we had in 1999, and to bring the Satellite and Internet employees into the same medical plan that the physical crews enjoy through NRECA," said Business Rep. Ray Thomas.

"This negotiating committee took a one-year wage opener and used it to negotiate a two-year extension, with wage improvements. I want to commend them for this, and for their sincere concern for the level of medical benefit coverage for their union sisters and brothers in the Satellite and Internet side of the house," said

#### Thomas.

Thomas was joined in the negotiations by steward Donna Mills, Lineman Bruce Smith, and Line Foreman Robert Smith.

OCAL 1245 NEWS

The path to agreement wasn't always smooth. The Cooperative's Board of Directors rejected the first table agreement reached by the negotiators. Ultimately, however, an agreement was reached that won 100% approval by the members.

The union agreed to a classification addition of Work Order Clerk I and the deletion of several clerical classifications that will no longer be used by the Cooperative.



PLUMAS SIERRA NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE Bring negotiations to a successful conclusion at Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative were Business Rep. Ray Thomas, Donna Mills, Robert Smith and Bruce Smith.

## Northern California Power Agency pact ratified

Members of Local 1245 at the newly-organized Northern California Power Agency ratified a first agreement by a 51-6 margin.

The three-year agreement provides 3% general wage increases in each year. The agreement would be reopened for wage negotiations in the third year if the Consumer Price Index exceeds 4%.

The agreement makes improve-

ments in shift premiums, holiday pay for shift employees, and rest periods. It also improves post-retirement health insurance.

In addition, the negotiations produced a severance package and a successor clause that protects union status in the event of a change in ownership.

The pact provides that part-time and probationary employees will be laid off before regular employees. NCPA employees, who voted for union representation on Jan. 19, work for a consortium of municipalities with interests in hydro facilities and steam units at the Geysers.

Negotiating the contract for the union were Paul House, Ken Ling, Frank Carter, Gary Herlins, and Local 1245 Business Rep. Frank Saxsenmeier.

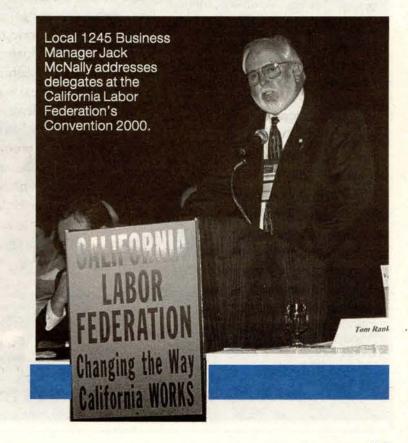
## Union power: Changing the way California works

ealthy Californians are riding the crest of the new economy into a prosperous future. But millions of California workers are battling the undertow of part-time, low-wage, no-benefit jobs-and being held underwater with brutal tactics to deny their freedom to join a union."

With those words the California Labor Federation sounded labor's battlecry for the current election year. Union members from all over California met in Anaheim July 17-18 for the Federation's Convention 2000, where they laid battle plans for winning more organizing drives and electing more worker-friendly politicians.

California Gov. Gray Davis, who appeared in person, and Vice President Al Gore, who appeared by video linkup, pledged their support for labor's goals and reaffirmed their belief in the right of workers to organize unions.

Delegates to the convention re-elected Federation Executive Sec.-Treasury Art Pulaski and President Tom Rankin. Local 1245 Business Manager Jack McNally was re-elected as District 12 vice president.





40 Years McCauley, Jim

35 Years Addcock, William E. Alderman, G. M. Bradley, E. H. Davis, Tommy L. Evanson, Evan E. Rector, Ronald W. Slater, John G.

#### 30 Years

Alvarez, John Cress, Michael J. Douglas, Ray Flanary, Bobby R. Garcia, Frank Hall, Jackie Harrison, Dennis Klecknet, Clyde L. Kopitar, Terrell L. Lawson, Arthur E. Lowry, Allen B. Marcum, Mark T. Martinez, Alfred Nelson, Jimmie L. Nelson, John P. O'Connor, Ruchard Pavon, James L. Pinney, Ken Prieto, Gary Rayner, Marvin Robertson, Ronald Sexton, Gordon Sinosky, Raymond D Smith, Roy B. Williams, Eddie Sr.. Williams, H. Barron Wilson, Michael J. Wimmer, John Wold, Jeff

#### 25 Years

Anderson, Richard. Armbruster. Dori Cardamona, Joseph Chapman, Robert Denyu, Tom Erends, Robert Fenton, Gary Gordon Joseph Hsu, George Hurtado, Alfred E. Karaica, Sandra Leung, Henry H. Medina, Edward S. Micklewait, Brian Mitosinka, Cary A. Poindexter, Jim Rhodes, Judy Singh, Christoph Vannoy, Richard S. Ward. Dan

Webb, William Whitfield, Mary Ann Yuhre, Frank

### 20 Years

Abalayan, Timothy Arnold, William L Ashford, Curt Ashworth, Glenn L. Ayers, Richard J. Barrick, Randy L. Bell, Timothy Benedict, Steven L. Bollinger, Tony L. Booth, Philip B. Buck, Tim Bunten, Edward R. Burt, Sharon A. Chong, Michael Coffin, Virginia G. Contaxis, Mary L. Cortez, Arthur, W. Costa, Daniel S. Crane, Kevin J. Critoria, John J. Dawkin, Steven W. DeLucio, Allan Dilbeck, William M. Dolan, Kathleen Dorricott, Mathew Drozda, Joe Eck, Steven A. Eddy, John W. Elizondo, Jim Ellithorpe, Michaael Ferguson, Richard L. Fletcher, Jane L. Franck, Alan K. French, Kevin G. Gaylor, Debra K. Genco, Jim Gonzales, Michele Gover, Howard K. Halseide, Janice Harness, Richard G

Harris, Michael P. Hernandez, B. Hines, Keith A. Hitchman, Dan Huey, Ronald S. James, Sherry C. Javier, Cornelio Johnson, Robert A. King, Kathleen Langham. Mitchell Lassus, Randall E. Lezer, Jeffrey L. Lindblom, Ross D. Lytle, John M. Malone, Gwenda L. Marymee, Brian Miller, Jeffrey K. Moreno, Ramon Mulvaney. Cynthia Myers, Pat A. Najera. Fred A. O'Donnell, Connie O'Sullivan, Kevin D. Padgett, Mary S. Palmer, Ralph L. Pirie, John H. Pittman, Kirk A. Rabello, David W. Ram, Bhika Rayos, Karen L. Reyes, Joseph Ridgway, Neil S. Rineor, Clifford Russo, Joel E. Saguindel, Samuel Segler, Michael D. Simmons, Jeffrey D. Smith, Laurence Sonneborn, Richard Sot, John S. Strickland, Ricky L. Sullivan, Jim G. Tom, Linnie Wilson, Dean W. Zermeno, Eduardo

Concord, Ca.

June 2, 2000



**35 Years** 



30 Years



25 Years



25 Years



## **Union seeks protections for PG&E hydro workers**

LOCAL 1245

#### From Page 1

#### employer.

• All bargaining unit employees in all departments assigned to the transferred entity would be allowed to move to the new employer, including hydro, general construction, water and technical employees.

• The new employer would enter into duplicate agreements for United Healthcare, DDS and VSP benefits.

• Applicable HMOs would be identified based on availability and participation.

• A new pension plan would be established with provisions identical to the existing plan with no break in credited service for affected employees, and funded at the same level as the utility plan, including the same future funding and actuarial liabilities.

• All other benefits, such as life insurance and LTD, would be identical.

• Affected employees not electing to move to the new employer would be offered their rights under the existing agreement, including Title 206 rights.

The successorship clause in the Local 1245-PGE labor agreement

would also afford affected employees significant protections in the event that PG&E auctioned its hydro assets to non-PG&E entities, as it originally proposed to do last year. However, the scope of the protections could be subject to interpretation. Furthermore, when the current agreement termed out, the union could find itself having to defend existing terms and conditions in negotiations with a large number of new employers who may or may not have a constructive approach to bargaining.

That's why Local 1245–as a lead player in the Coalition of California Utility Employees (CUE)–has been working on the regulatory front to achieve a transfer of the hydro assets within PG&E Corp.

A "settlement agreement," coauthored by CUE, PG&E and others, was submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission on Aug. 9.

"PG&E had earlier submitted an application to auction off these assets. We insisted that auctioning these plants was unacceptable," said CUE attorney Marc Joseph.

"Any settlement with us had to keep hydro at PG&E or an affiliate. Our goal in these talks was to keep the system intact," Joseph said. The Aug. 9 settlement proposal would preserve the employee protections already agreed to by Local 1245 and PG&E by transferring the hydro assets to a new PG&E affiliate to be called Cal-Hydro.

NEWS

Consumers would also benefit from the settlement. Under a 40-year agreement with California's Independent System Operator (ISO), Cal-Hydro would generate power for a stated rate-of-return, rather than a market rate. This would offer California's electric consumers a measure of protection against the sky-high rates that have recently battered the state's wholesale electric market.

"The power would be dispatchable by the ISO to supply ancillary services, to fill in the gaps so other generators can't exercise market power," said Joseph.

It is not yet clear what action the CPUC will take in response to the settlement proposal. In addition to CUE and PG&E, the settlement is supported by The Utility Reform Network (TURN), the Agricultural Energy Consumers Association, and water districts in Sonoma and Tuolumne Counties. The settlement is opposed by the CPUC's Office of Ratepayer Advocates and a coalition of environmental groups.

### Edwards, Dwyer & Mohr on staff

Arlene Edwards has been hired as a union business representative.

Edwards, the Clerical-at-Large representative on the Advisory Council, served on the

union's bargaining committee during General Negotiations with PG&E in 1999.

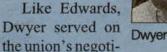


Her initial assignment will be to

represent PG&E employees in the Sacramento area, including those in the Sacramento Call Center.

Ed Dwyer has been brought on staff to fill in temporarily be-

hind Business Rep. Jim Lynn, who is on special assignment.



ating committee during the last round of General Bargaining with PG&E.

Dwyer will represent members at PG&E in Central California, from Clovis to Dinuba, including General Construction and tree trimming companies. Business Rep. Debbie Mazzanti will fill in behind Lynn at the Fresno Call Center.

Joy Mohr has been hired by Local 1245 as an Accounting

Associate. Mohr, who graduated from Heald Business College with degrees in Accounting and



activities. payer who Manager, Accounting and

> Computer Business Administration, worked in a Sacramento accounting office before coming to Local 1245.

> Arlene, Ed and Joy: we welcome you to the Local 1245 staff!

## Notice regarding agency fee payers objection plan

Any employee who is not a member of the IBEW and who pays agency fees to IBEW Local 1245 pursuant to a union security provision in Local 1245's collective bargaining agreement has the right to object to expenditures of fees for activities which are not reasonably related to collective bargaining or undertaken to advance the employment-related interests of employees represented by the Local. The agency fees paid by a fee payer who perfects an objection will be reduced by an amount reflecting the portion of the overall expenditures of the Local Union that are used for non-chargeable activities. Objections must be made annually and will be effective for a single calendar year. Each fee payer who wishes to file an objection with Local 1245 must do so in writing, addressed to the Business Manager, Local 1245, Post Office Box 4790, Walnut Creek, California 94596, by certified mail. In registering their objections, objectors must state their name and address and that they pay fees to this Local, and provide their nonmember identification number, if known, and their social security number. Objections must be postmarked during the month of November preceding the calendar year for which the objection will be in effect, or during the first thirty days after the objector commences paying fees to the Local Union as required by a collective bargaining agreement. Objections must be renewed annually, during the month of November.



35 Years

55 Years Moran, James E.

50 Years Edmund Brown Henry Seavers

45 Years James McMullan

40 Years Blandford, Harley

35 Years Adams, S. Leroy Daniels, Robert J. Driscoll, Michael Ferguson, Spencer E. Lohre, Kenneth Matthews, H. J. McClain, Archie Moore, Raymond. E. Nawahine, Steve Robertson, Ronald, F. Santiago, A. R. Schober, Jim Tangen, Craig

30 Years Asbe, Gary

Beckman, Chris A. Bergh, Eugene D. Bizon, George Blackburn, Gordon Boatwright, Virginia Brightman, Thomas Brown, Robert L. Burns, Larry G. Burton, Darrell Canpietti, Ernest Carder, George V. Castelluccio, Peter Chan, Valerie Collins, Carol Colvin, Walter Cooper, Major. Covarrubias, Arnold Darby, Larry Disangro, Jim Dorsey, Edward Dotson, Marsdon Dudley, John M. Fernandez, Ronald Fletcher, Larry W. Forsythe, Waldo E. Gardner, Bonita Gary, Charles E. Gehring, Lockey Goulart, George, Jr. Gray, Steven R. Hall, Richard Head, Leonard L. Henry, Walter Hill, Milton Jackson, Clifton

Johnson, Ernest Johnson, Samuel Kay, James W. Lane, Frank Lillie, Don C. Lopez, John L. Marcum, Mark T. Matthews, Joe Mazon, Herb McClendon, Lonnie Meadows, James W. Middlebrook, Pat A. Montellano, Michael Notgrass, Marion Pacheco, Alvin A. Palmer, Arthur C. Peterson, Duane F. Reid, Edwin C., Jr. Reyes, Romeo T.. Rucker, Mary M. Sauer, Linda F. Sexton, Gordon D. Smith, Joseph Thomas, Pamela Thomas, Paulette Warren, William L. Watkins, Kenneth Williams, Maurice J. Wilson, Elzen E.

Johnson, David F.

25 Years Adiao, Cornelio Ahler, Robert Babbitt, Milton M. Blake, Anthony B. Calingo, Patrocini Cantiller, Gloria Chan, Ronald B. Cristobal, Bernardo Drew, Steven E. Fernandes, Robert Fortier, Dorothy Galang, Cesar Hom, Harry Hunter, Beverly Ip, Penny Isidro, Josephine Jacobson, Donald Lam, Elaine Lee, Steven Lemas, Darryl Martinez, Adrian P. Massey, D. Mata, Ermiline Monroe, Edgar L Nicoletti, Teresa Nunes, Frank Jr. Paakkari, Dennis F. Page, Michael S. Quintana, Leandro. Robles, Victor Rodriguez, Jose, A. Tang, Jane Tolliver, Adelaide

#### Valdez, Eduardo T. Wilcox, David Willis, Sara L. Wong, Ella Wong, Gene W. Yokoyama, Harry Yuhre, Frank

20 Years Affleck, Brian S. Alvira, Angel L. Armbruster, Martha Ashworth, Glenn Baker, Ivy J. Blasques, Steve S. Boeder, Steve Buchanan, Robert B. Burton, Shery L. Caires. Timothy G. Cano, Miguel Jr. Carey, Patricia Carroll, Patricia Carter. Valerie J. Cederquist, Jerry N. Ching, Cecilia Clifton, Jerome C. Contaxis, Mary B. Craig, Melvin L. Cravanas, Emma J. Cronin, Dennis P. Davis, James D. Davis, Patricia Dea, Galen H. Dominguez, Cornelio Douglas, William E. Drinkward, Peter C. Estes, Alfonso III Ferreira, Tanya L. Figueroa, Ena Garcia, Mauricio Garcia, Ruth E. Gaudet, Dolores L. Halseide, Janice L. Halsell, Diane Harper, Charles D Higgins, Wallace Holstein, John K. Huey, June Jackson, Joseph Jackson, Lawrence Johnson, William M. Jones, Angelica Jones, Susan F. Jones, Tina L. Jordan, Albert D. Jung, William Kahler, Charles H. Kimberlin, Maria Kiyomura, Glenn H. Klein, John P. Knowlton, Monica L Latigue, Rosalind Lombardo, Mary A. Long, Robert E. Lowe, Darcy E.

Luedtke, Hans Luer, Scott H. Lydon, Stephen W. McGee. Joyce R. Medina, William M. Mendoza, Fernando Mockel, Kenneth J. Moore, Thomas A. Morales, Joe B. Ng, Stella L. Ong, Kevin Orme, Catla A.

Oakland, Ca.

May 19, 2000





Smith, Loretta L. Silva. Jeffrey M. Stage. William Jr. Suarez, Gilberto Tambunting, I. Tancioco, Randolph Valenzuela. Alfred J. Veneracion T. Vera, Jaime M. Walker. Stephen R. Wedge, James L Williams, Negra E. Wilson, Linda J.



30 Years

Z

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Q



25 Years



20 Years