

HOTSHEET

SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION

AFSCME
District Council
36

Volume 1 Issue 4

Despite stunned disbelief at the national election results, Council 36 savors a slate of Local victories

AFSCME Members Take Pride in the Power of Their Union Activism

In contrast to the national election outcome, you could find congratulatory high-fives and victory hugs being shared over literally dozens of local political victories across the Southland.

From **Los Angeles to Lynwood, Ontario to Orange County, Carson to Chino Hills to San Diego**, Council 36 members and staff are celebrating an array of electoral wins for which we fought to strengthen our Locals, support working families and enhance public services.

Significantly, even in cases in which Council 36 Locals did not win every race, their participation in the political process – whether contributing funds, phone-banking or manning polling stations – offered valuable lessons for the next election cycle.

Council 36 also takes pride in the fact that one of our own stepped into the ring for the first time to run for Garden Grove City Council: **Local 3090's Rickk Montoya**.

While he did not win the race, his candidacy sent a message to management.

In two of the most significant wins for Council 36, in the County of Los Angeles, labor-endorsed **Janice Hahn (4th District)** and **Kathryn Barger (5th District)** were both elected to the **County Board of Supervisors**, the nation's largest local government agency.

Their election will create an unprecedented labor-supported super-majority on the Board, as they join current Supervisors **Sheila Kuehl, Hilda Solis and Mark Ridley-Thomas**.

In addition, the election of Hahn and Barger breaks an historic glass ceiling, as women for the first time will make up four of five seats.

It is hard to overstate the importance of these wins for Council 36's nearly 10,000 members in **ten LA County Locals** – but in another political plus, all five Supervisors also sit on the Board of the



Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which employs the **MTA Supervisors in AFSCME Local 3634**.

Council 36 also supported the successful **LA County Measure A**, which creates green spaces and parks and **LA County Measure M**, which creates mass transit and eases traffic.

In perhaps the most remarkable victory, a community-based grassroots coalition of Los Angeles clergy, environmentalists, consumer advocates and others united with **Council 36, our six AFSCME LA City Locals, and the Coalition of LA City Unions**, to wage a David and Goliath battle to defeat **L.A. City Charter Amendment RRR** -- and succeeded.

Powerful political leaders including **Mayor Garcetti, City Council President**

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★ ★ Election Results in Council 36-Supported Races ★ ★

Carson City Council:

Jawane Hilton VICTORY

Chino Valley Unified School District:

Irene Hernandez-Blair VICTORY

Garden Grove City Council: Rickk Montoya (Next time)

Judicial Seat 11 Steve Schreiner (Next time)

Judicial Seat 42 E. Matthew Aceves VICTORY

Judicial Seat 84 Susan Jung Townsend VICTORY

Judicial Seat 158 Kim Nguyen VICTORY

Los Angeles City Measure JJJ

(Creation of good jobs) **VICTORY**

Los Angeles City Measure RRR

(Misleading DWP "reform" that endangered Civil Service rights, including promotions and transfers) **VICTORY**

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

Janice Hahn (4th District) VICTORY

Kathryn Barger (5th District) VICTORY

Los Angeles County Measure A

(Restores and creates green spaces/parks) **VICTORY**

Los Angeles County Measure M

(Traffic Improvement Plan) **VICTORY**

Lynwood Measures RD and PS

(Penny sales tax to fund City services) **VICTORY**

Midway Sanitation District Board of Directors:

Joy Neugebauer VICTORY

Orange County Board of Supervisors:

Michele Martinez (Next time)

Pomona City Council

Robert Torres VICTORY

San Diego City Council District 9

Ricardo Flores (Next time)

San Diego City Attorney:

Mara Elliott VICTORY

San Diego City Measures K and L

(Increases voter participation) **VICTORY**

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Herb Wesson and the entire City Council had been championing RRR as being a needed “reform” measure for the scandal-plagued DWP. In fact, the measure would have reduced oversight over DWP management and rate setting and, critically, dismantled the civil service protections of City employees, including transfer and promotion rights.

The measure led by 44 percentage points early in the No on RRR campaign’s polling, but ended up being defeated by four percentage points.

The outcome comes days after an L.A. Times exposé that one of the Measure’s key proponents could have directly financially benefited from RRR’s passage. It also follows all-out efforts of the No campaign, spearheaded by the **Coalition of LA City Unions**, which included broadcast television, direct mail and digital advertising along with media outreach, citywide phone banking and 20,000 door-to-door conversations with voters.

It was a real-time lesson in the power of labor-community coalition-building. The measure, if it passed, would have had severe ramifications for civil service systems across the nation – par-



Ruben Canales (left) was one of many Local 3061 activists who knocked on doors and talked to voters to make a difference in the City of Ontario.

ticularly in light of the Trump Presidency and political winds palpably shifting against workers.

In San Diego, Council 36 and **Local 127** joined forces with the Central Labor Council to elect **Mara Elliott** as City Attorney. This victory could improve labor-management relations, as under her predecessor, City management was constantly provoking Unfair

Labor Practice charges due to their pattern of legal misconduct.

In addition, Local 127 helped get out the vote for City Council candidate **Ricardo Flores**, who lost by two points.

In addition, Local 127 members supported two key ballot measure successes, **Measures K and L**, which will build voter participation and were

More election highlights:

- Members of both **Locals 809 and 1017 in Carson** won the reelection of **Councilman Jawane Hilton**, who pulled ahead of a crowded field thanks in part to AFSCME’s participation in canvassing and phone-banking operations.
- **Local 1902 in Lynwood** played an important role in the passage of a **Penny Tax & Rainy Day Fund measure** – both with flying colors. The Lynwood **Public Safety and Vital City Services Protection Measure**, PS, passed with 74.10% of the vote, while the **Lynwood Budget Stabilization Fund**, Measure RD (for “Rainy Day”), passed with 65.64% of the vote and will help maintain the flow of vital City services.
- **Local 3061 in Ontario** joined with **IFF Local 1430 and the Ontario Police Association** to knock on doors and speak to voters about supporting two labor-endorsed candidates, **Debra Porada** for City Council and **Sheila Mautz** for City Clerk. Local 3061 also made time to go door to door in adjacent Chino Hills, to turn out voters for **Irene Hernandez-Blair**, an AFSCME sister and president of **Local 1083**, to the **Chino Valley Unified School Board**. Council 36 provided financial support for a direct mail campaign on the candidate’s behalf.
- **Local 3112 (Anaheim Union School District)** helped to narrowly reelect CA State Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva, who had fought hard to protect AFSCME members in conservative Orange County.
- Also in **Orange County**, **Local 2076** was out in force to support **Michele Martinez**, a candidate for the County Board of Supervisors. She did not win, but the Local had good reason to be proud of their efforts to shake up the OC’s anti-labor political culture. Council 36 provided financial support, as well.
- **Local 1734 (Midway Cities Sanitary District)** members successfully elected **Joy I. Neugebauer** for the district’s Board of Directors. They also worked to support Board of Directors candidate, **Anita Rice**, whose votes fell short of victory.

AFSCME Int’l. President Lee Saunders on National Election Results

AFSCME International Pres. Lee Saunders issued the following statement on Wednesday:

“As we take stock of the message voters sent yesterday, we see that many were motivated by a real, palpable fear for their ability to provide for their families. We must come together now to address that economic insecurity while not falling prey to the politics of division and hate. We must focus on rebuilding the middle class and restoring the American Dream for everyone, not just the privileged few.... For our part, the 1.6 million public service workers of AFSCME will never quit working to make their communities safer, healthier and better places to live.”