



# AFSCME 36 HOT SHEET

News for AFSCME District Council #36 Locals and their leaders  
September 2008 Number 53

## San Diego Mayor Ordered to Negotiate.

In a major setback to Mayor Sanders, the California Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) determined that the City did not follow the proper procedure and failed to bargain in good faith in declaring an impasse with AFSCME Local 127 and other city unions concerning the Mayor's push for privatization of city services.

This victory for AFSCME Local 127 was a major embarrassment for Mayor Saunders who has been pushing privatization since he took office. The union has been battling his plan, which he calls "Managed Competition". Despite his determination his plan has been unable to move forward. His most recent troubles began when he accepted the City Attorney Michael Aguirre's legal opinion that claimed the City could declare contract negotiations at an Impasse without bargaining in good faith. The union filed an Unfair Labor Practice complaint with the PERB, which ruled against the City. The PERB action will probably delay the privatization plan several months. Meanwhile the Mayor is blaming bad advice from City Attorney Aguirre, for the defeat.

Aguirre is engaged in a tough reelection campaign against AFSCME- endorsed Superior Court Judge, Jan Goldsmith. The union has not forgotten Aguirre's law suit against the city pension board seeking multi-million dollar refunds. That suit was thrown out, but Aguirre is appealing that decision.

## Second Council 36 Member Wins AFSCME Union Plus Scholarship

City of Covina AFSCME Local 3325 member Hector Alikhan was awarded a 2008 Union Leaders of the Future Scholarships.. Only 13 of these scholarships were awarded after evaluating the applicant's leadership potential, career goals, social awareness and financial need. Applicants submitted an essay as well as other background materials. This is the second AFSCME scholarship awarded to a Council 36 member this year.

While in a management position, Alikhan was asked to cross a picket line. He refused, instead, showing his loyalty to fellow union members. The decision caused him major financial hardship and a loss of job security. The subsequent harassment from management motivated him to return to school. He now works as the new Code Enforcement Officer for the water department and is Secretary-Treasurer for his Local. He is heavily involved in his community and his local government. Local President Joanne Rumpler says "Hector's dedication to his job, union and improving his overall knowledge will all work towards making him a more valuable employee and future union leader."

## Obama, Ridley –Thomas Sprint to the Finish Line

The political marathons that Presidential candidate Barak Obama and LA County Supervisor candidate Mark Ridley-Thomas have been running are now a full sprint to the finish line. With the passing of Labor Day, the traditional starting line for the final campaign push, both campaigns are running at full throttle. The races are so close that both campaigns are calling on every available resource .

Polls are showing that McCain and Obama are running neck and neck. Palin's nomination for Vice President on the Republican ticket adds a new dimension to the race, scrambling the Electoral College map for both campaigns. The importance of Nevada, New Mexico and Colorado have grown considerably. Many pundits are saying the election will be won or lost depending on the outcome of these "toss-up" states. The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor will be running phone banks calling targeted union voters in California and the three swing states.

The runoff election between Mark Ridley Thomas and Bernard Parks for LA County Supervisor in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District is also on the November ballot. The larger turnout expected this election increases the number of voters that must be contacted.

### Make History, Swing a Swing State

Join the Obama / Ridley-Thomas Campaign

**PHONE BANKS: MONDAY-THURS. 5PM TO 9PM**

**LA COUNTY FED. 2130 JAMES M WOOD BLVD, LOS ANGELES, 90006**

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY, 880 OAK PARK RD, COVINA 91724**

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, 400 CHATSWORTH DR. SAN FERNANDO 91340**

**HARBOR AREA, 350 W 5TH STREET #200 SAN PEDRO 90731**

**BE A CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR. THE CAMPAIGNS NEED . VOLUNTEER TO DISTRIBUTE LITERATURE AND INFORMATION AT YOUR WORK-SITE. CALL AND VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

**• FOR INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP CALL (213) 487-9887**

## No on Prop 11, It's Just Politics

Mark Siegel, Communication Coordinator

AFSCME District Council 36

You can't take the politics out of politics and Proposition 11 is a perfect case on point. Proposition 11, if passed would create a redistricting commission comprised of 3 Democrats, 3 Republicans and 3 independents to draw legislative districts. The authors wrote in a number of restrictions disqualifying potential commissioners that are lobbyists, kin to an elected official or

***AFSCME is recommending a "no" vote on Proposition 11***

have had virtually anything to do with politics. This ethics cleansing is supposed to depoliticize the redistricting process, but redistricting is the quintessential political act.

Proposition 11 was placed on the ballot in an attempt to dilute the Democratic majority in the state legislature. Its fundamental purpose is to create districts that will elect more Republicans to office, which is why the Governor and the Republican Party has embraced the plan and Democrats oppose it.

The issue from the union's point of view is that the Republican caucus in the state legislature has supported destroying our pensions, cutting local government, opposed universal health care reform, and eliminating our jobs. The Republican leadership has imposed harsh discipline on their members who stray from the dogma, so there is little independence.

The Republican gambit is that they can pick up a few seats based on re-designed districts. Why is that in our interest?

Republicans are 32.5% of the registered voters yet comprise 40% of the State Assembly and 37% of the State Senate. It looks fair to me.

## Proposition 11, Another Point of View

Kevin Norte, Member Local 910

Proposition 11 is the redistricting measure. Governor Schwarzenegger has been fighting for redistricting reform since he took office in 2003. Many of us believe the people of California want to bring competition and centrist leadership back to our state.

I believe that we need a system where voters choose the politicians not where politicians choose the voters. If passed by voters in November 2008, will return power to the people.

Proposition 11 will create a 14-person independent citizens commission comprised of five Democrats, five Republicans and four individuals not registered as a member of either major party to draw district boundaries for the Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization.

Proposition 11 is "Good Government" because it creates a more open and transparent redistricting process, takes the power to draw district lines out of the hands of lawmakers and puts into place a non-partisan process that requires respecting existing city boundaries, county boundaries and communities.

The redistricting measure makes sense because it redraws districts so that they follow logical paths and are not drawn to favor one party or another. In fact, the redistricting guidelines favor following borders of cities etc. and it is believed that it will increase Latino representation.

Californians have a real opportunity to make their voices heard by supporting Proposition 11. With it in place, hopefully sound voices in both parties will prevail and combined with term limits, perhaps the November State Senate and State Assembly races will be competitive and true representatives of all the people will be elected. That is why I support Prop 11.

## What's the Difference Between Barak Obama and John McCain?...A Lot

	Obama	McCain
<b>Tax Policy</b>	<p>Obama offers middle class tax cuts that are three times the size of McCain's.</p> <p>Obama's plan calls for reforming the tax code so that it rewards hard work.</p> <p>Obama's plan has no tax increase for families making less than \$250,000</p>	<p>The McCain tax plan ignores the 101 million middle class households but not the oil industry, which would receive a \$4 billion tax break</p> <p>McCain wants to continue the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy that he once criticized as too tilted to the wealthy</p>
<b>Health Care Policy</b>	<p>Obama will lower costs by up to \$2500 for families and improve quality.</p> <p>Guarantee health coverage for every American.</p> <p>If you like your current healthcare, nothing changes.</p>	<p>Health insurance would be taxed for the first time, resulting in a \$3.6 trillion tax increase on working families</p> <p>The healthcare tax credit would cover less than half the cost of health care of the average plan.</p> <p>McCain's plan does not mandate coverage for pre-existing conditions</p>