

SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 521, LOCAL-WIDE CONVENTION PLATFORM 2017

In a rapidly changing world that is giving rise to increasing inequality, we will unite to put power back into the hands of union workers and the communities we serve, so that as one, we can rise up, and improve the quality of life for working families. Our goal is to become a more member-driven organization which thrives on becoming an unstoppable force. We will unite in transforming our union into a positive and powerful partner with those communities where we live and work. We can achieve this through intentional leadership development, membership and mobilization, and political strength. We will fight side by side, we will take ownership of our collective strength and we will give hope to our future.

Now more than ever the ability for workers to build power at the worksite is under threat, the stakes have never been higher, the livelihood of 40,000 working families is on the line. Given this, we commit to strengthening our union by focusing on three key priorities: **1) Member Leadership Recruitment and Development** **2) Membership Mobilization** and **3) Building Political Power**. We anticipate that in the coming years employers and anti-worker forces will seek to attack public sector workers and dismantle critical safety net services with renewed energy and focus. We believe that by focusing on these three priorities we can build a union that not only survives these attacks, but thrives into the future.

We further commit to fighting for a just society that achieves the following:

- 1. Good jobs and worker rights**—living wages, good benefits, and the right to be in a union or worker organization
- 2. Universal healthcare**
- 3. Strong safety net and social services and care**—for seniors, people with disabilities, children, homeless people, and for all Californians who need it
- 4. Affordable housing**—shelter for all
- 5. Comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship & protections for immigrants**

6. Racial equality & justice
7. LGBTQ and Gender equality & justice
8. Access to clean air & water for all communities, clean energy, and a clean environment
9. Retirement security for all Californians
10. Excellent affordable educational opportunities accessible to all—including child care, early education, K-12, free college, worker training, apprenticeships, and adult education
11. Strong democracy—reforming our broken electoral systems, with voting rights protected, more people participating, and more union members in elected office

REGION 1

Region 1 is geographically located in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. The Region has over 30 chapters representing over 15,000 county, city, school, transit authority, childcare and non-profit workers.

To achieve our local wide goals Region 1's priorities are:

- Recommitting our co-workers to the union
- Mobilizing our members around worksite issues, contracts, and our Chapter, Region, and Local priorities
- Building the political power needed to win for our members and for all working families in our Region by getting engaged in elections and legislative action
- Identifying and developing new member leaders, because we can't do this alone

We will ground our work in the needs of our members, chapters, and communities. The Region 1 delegation fully supports our local wide priorities. Additionally, we believe that the following issues are a priority for us to work on in our region:

- Good jobs and worker rights, including a living wage, access and opportunity for all to full time employment
- Racial equality and justice with a focus on criminal justice, intervention, rehabilitation, and public safety
- Adequate funding for and access to affordable housing
- Encouraging civic participation and broadening our political power through voter registration, community organizing, coalition building, and campaign finance reform

REGION 2

Region 2 covers San Benito, Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. We represent approximately 7,300 workers in 42 different chapters, including librarians, roads workers, school workers, parks maintenance workers, and many more public employees.

To achieve our local wide goals Region 2's priorities are:

- Recommitting our co-workers to the union
- Mobilizing our members around worksite issues, contracts, and our Chapter, Region, and Local priorities
- Building the political power needed to win for our members and for all working families in our Region
- Identifying and developing new member leaders, because we can't do this alone

We will ground our work in the needs of our members, chapters, and communities. The Region 2 delegation fully supports our local wide priorities. Additionally, we believe that the following issues are a priority for us to work on in our region:

- Fighting for proper funding to support strong safety net services and care, including mental health care
- Advocating for substance abuse and mental health treatment and programs across our region
- Using our union resources in an efficient manner, including staff time
- Programs that support moderate income housing for our members, not just low income
- Address global climate change by promoting access to clean air & water for all communities, clean energy and a clean environment
- Safe Streets: Improving our economy by raising wages and providing more youth programs and family support services in our communities to reduce gang participation

REGIONS 3 & 4

Regions 3 and 4 are located in Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, and Stanislaus Counties. We represent almost 6,000 members in 22 different chapters, including county, court, Head Start, healthcare, school workers, and substitute teachers.

To achieve our local wide goals Region 3 & 4's priorities are:

- Recommitting our co-workers to the union
- Mobilizing our members around worksite issues, contracts, and our Chapter, Region, and Local priorities
- Building the political power needed to win for our members and for all working families in our Region
- Identifying and developing new member leaders, because we can't do this alone

We will ground our work in the needs of our members, chapters, and communities. The Regions 3 & 4 delegations fully support our local wide priorities. Additionally, we believe that the following issues are a priority for us to work on in our region:

- Affordable and accessible universal healthcare
- Fighting to end violence in our communities
- Racial equality and justice with specific attention to criminal justice issues like for-profit prisons, racial profiling, and other abusive police tactics
- Breaking the cycle of homelessness caused by poverty wages, rising rents, and a lack of support services including access to transportation
- Social and Public Rebranding with media to change the public narrative of unions
- Build political power at the local and state level

REGION 5

Region 5 is geographically located in Kern, Kings, and Tulare Counties. We represent nearly 12,000 workers in 33 different chapters, including librarians, roads workers, school workers, parks maintenance workers, and many more public employees.

To achieve our local wide goals Region 5's priorities are:

- Recommitting our co-workers to the union
- Mobilizing our members around worksite issues, contracts, and our Chapter, Region, and Local priorities
- Building the political power needed to win for our members and for all working families in our Region
- Identifying and developing new member leaders, because we can't do this alone

We will ground our work in the needs of our members, chapters, and communities. The Region 5 delegation fully supports our local wide priorities. Additionally, we believe that the following issues are a priority for us to work on in our region:

- Ensuring that universal healthcare is affordable
- Racial, LGBTQ, social, and economic equality and justice
- Access to clean air and water for all communities, clean energy, and a clean environment with an emphasis on protecting our parks
- Sustaining and strengthening our community coalitions and partnerships



OFFICERS / TRUSTEES / EXECUTIVE BOARD (ATTENDEES ONLY)

Officers / Delegates		
Riko Mendez	Chief Elected Officer	Local 521 Staff
Gwyndolyn Harshaw	President	Retired Members Chapter (521)
Alysia Bonner	First Vice President	Fresno County
Mullissa Willette	Secretary	Santa Clara County
RoseAnn Dominguez	Treasurer	Fresno Housing Authority

Trustees / Delegates			
Paul Klunder	Trustee at-Large	Region 1	Santa Clara County
William Ragland	Trustee at-Large	Region 2	Monterey County Court
Darlynn Qualls	Regional Trustee	Region 4	Madera County
Denise Quintana	Regional Trustee	Region 2	San Benito County

Executive Board / Delegates		
Region 1		
Hector San Roman	Regional Vice President	Santa Clara County
Connie Chew	Executive Board Delegate	Santa Clara County
Carmella DiSopa	Executive Board Delegate	Santa Clara County
Trina Moehring	Executive Board Delegate	Santa Clara County
Tammy Dhanota	Executive Board Delegate	Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Carol Garvey	Executive Board Delegate	Retired Members Chapter (521)
Myrna Bravo	Executive Board Alternate	Retired Members Chapter (521)
Karen Nakatani	Executive Board Delegate (APALA)	Retired Members Chapter (521)
Rachel Subega	Executive Board Delegate (Latino Caucus)	Retired Members Chapter (521)
Region 2		
Matthew Nathanson	Regional Vice President	Santa Cruz County
Jane Christmann	Executive Board Delegate	Santa Cruz County
James Heaney	Executive Board Delegate	Santa Cruz County
Yvette Carreon	Executive Board Delegate	Monterey County
Victor Caravez Ramirez	Executive Board Delegate	Monterey County
Javier Sanchez	Executive Board Delegate	Monterey County
Region 3		
Kate Selover	Regional Vice President	Stanislaus County
Region 4		
Jennifer Jensen	Regional Vice President	Retired Members Chapter (521)
Gary Linsner	Executive Board Delegate	Retired Members Chapter (521)
Debbie Acosta	Executive Board Delegate	Fresno Unified School District
Laura Basua	Executive Board Delegate	Fresno County
Rogenia Cox	Executive Board Delegate	Fresno County
Denise Holland	Executive Board Delegate	Fresno County
Riley Talford	Executive Board Delegate	Fresno County
Arvelia Cooper-Whigham	Executive Board Delegate (AFRAM)	Fresno County
Sergio Garcia	Executive Board Delegate	FASTA
Region 5		
Sonja Bennett	Regional Vice President	Kern County
Laurie Macgillivray-Mason	Executive Board Delegate	Kern County
Veronica Vasquez	Executive Board Delegate	Kern County
Michelle Jones	Executive Board Delegate	Tulare County
Rodolfo Plaza	Executive Board Delegate	City of Bakersfield

Together WE RISE

CONVENTION DELEGATES (ATTENDEES ONLY)

Region 1		Region 4	
Charles Drechsler	City of Redwood City	Patricia Clay	Fresno County
Tina Garnica	Santa Clara County	Nancy Her	Fresno County
Jose Hernandez	Santa Clara County	Lorenzo Lambaren	Fresno County
Rosalinda Nunez	Santa Clara County	Barbara Graves	Fresno County Court
Michael Randle	Santa Clara County	Amalia Johns	Fresno Unified School District
Rose Ruiz	Santa Clara County	Valeska Sanchez Reyes	Fresno Unified School District
Louise Alioto-Perez	San Mateo County		

Region 2			
Raymond Montemayor	City of Salinas	Suzy Caston	San Benito County

Region 5			
Yonder Posada	City of Bakersfield	Steven Leyva	Kern County Court
Sonia Chagollan	Kern County	Patricia Rymer	Kern Medical
Leticia Hernandez	Kern County	David Santiago	Kings County Court
Nicole Mozier	Kern County	Vivian Rushing	Standard School District
Nicholas Carrillo	Tulare County	Rosemary Ruiz	Tulare County
Kathleen Wilmes	Tulare County	Alicia Escalante	Tulare County Court

Other			
Martha Booker	Retired Members Chapter (521)	Anna Rodriguez	Child Care Providers United California
Robert Sigala	Retired Members Chapter (521)		



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