



# BUILDING TRADES NEWS

VOLUME 31, NO.2

LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTIES BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO



SPRING 2026

# PRIMARY SEASON IS ALMOST HERE



California State Capitol Building in Sacramento.

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With primary season fast approaching, the fields for numerous races, local and statewide, are starting to truly take shape. Ahead of the June 2nd primary elections, the LA/OC Building & Construction Trades Council has compiled our list of endorsed candidates for statewide races and for elections across

Southern California. Take a look at the voter guide on page 6 to see who we think is ready to deliver best for our members and our communities. You'll also find more information on the 2026 California Primary, how to check your voter status, and how you can register to vote if you haven't done so already.

# PUBLIC TRANSIT EXPANDING IN LA



Metro D Line construction near LACMA.

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A day to unite and reflect.

BY DAVID WINFIELD

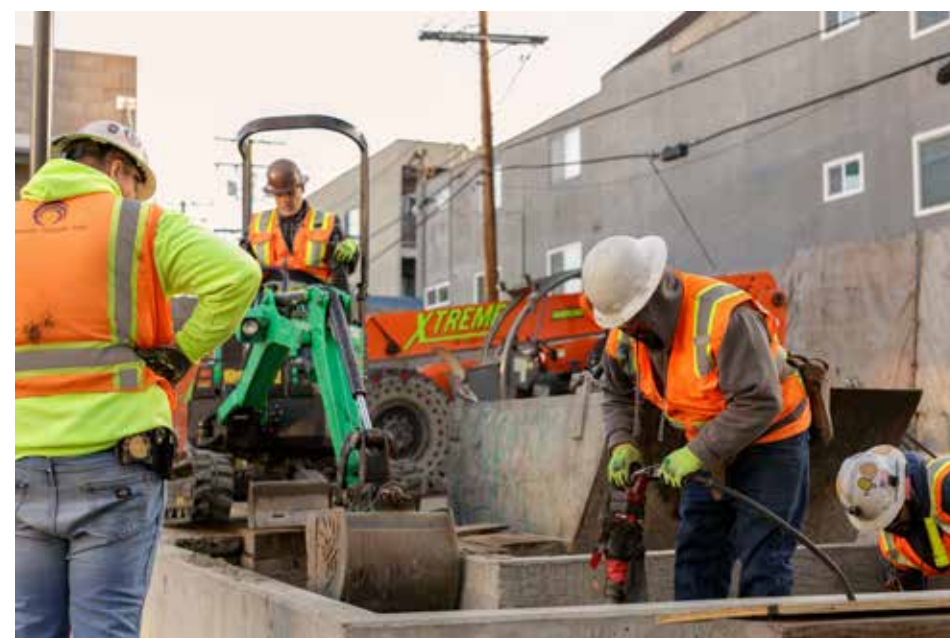
LA County is in the midst of a big transformation. Cars have dominated the landscape for decades, and for many Angelenos, they are a necessity on our daily commutes. But new public transportation projects from Metro, being built by many members of the LA/OC Building & Construction Trades, are right on the horizon.

Metro serves as transportation planner and coordinator, designer, builder, and operator for LA County. More than 10 million people, nearly one-fourth of California's residents, live, work and play within the

1,433-square-mile service area. Metro's Vision 2028 Plan, outlining their five strategic goals from 2018-2028, provides some insight into their current set of core priorities:

1. Provide high-quality mobility options that enable people to spend less time traveling;
2. Deliver outstanding trip experiences for all users of the transportation system;
3. Enhance communities and lives through mobility and access to opportunity;
4. Transform LA County through

SEE METRO PAGE 19



Construction workers building the D Line.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

# MENTAL HEALTH & OPIOID CRISIS

Our brothers and sisters across the building trades are in the midst of a real crisis, with opioid overdose deaths and suicides occurring at rates that should move every one of us to action. Construction workers tragically have significantly higher rates of death by suicide and overdose than American workers overall. According to the Center for Construction Research & Training (CPWR), although construction workers only make up about 7% of the entire workforce, they represent 20% of on-the-job fatalities and 16% of opioid overdoses. Suicide rates among male construction workers are nearly twice the rate of working men overall. No other occupational group comes close to our industry's rate of fatal drug overdose.

This is, unfortunately, not a coincidence. The physical demands of our work take a real toll. Construction workers suffer more musculoskeletal injuries and lead the nation in workplace falls, slips, and trips. That chronic pain creates a dangerous cycle, one that too often leads to prescription opioids and, from there, to addiction and death. This combination of factors has made our industry a significant part of the mental health and opioid crisis.

These numbers are alarming, but the tide is already beginning to turn. CPWR partners with North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) and experts across the industry to develop and share strategies for improving workers' mental health, including preventing deaths from suicide and opioids. These efforts include REASON (Resources and Effective Programs Addressing Suicide and Opioids Now), a quarterly newsletter that shares solutions, research, and resources about this crisis. You can scan the QR code at the end of this article for more information.

Among construction workers aged 16-64, drug-related overdose deaths declined 28.8% from 2023 to 2024. That progress didn't happen by accident. It came from:

- Education about the real risks of opioids, prescribed and otherwise
- Fewer opioid prescriptions between 2019 and 2023
- Wider availability of naloxone on jobsites and in the community
- Reduced stigma around asking for help with substance use and mental health
- Improving treatment and recovery support in the construction industry



BY ERNESTO MEDRANO  
Executive Secretary  
LA/OC Building and Construction Trades Council

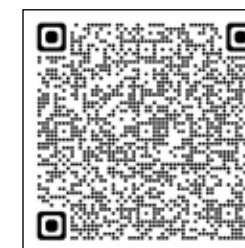
A huge part of eliminating the stigma around asking for help comes from the people on the ground, every day, driving that change. The VitalCog initiative out of the University of Colorado is a training program designed to address mental health and suicide prevention specifically within the construction industry, and it connects certified trainers with unions and apprenticeship programs around the country. Omar Galindo, one of the program's Master Trainers, an Apprenticeship Coordinator at UA Plumbers Local 78, and a Marine veteran, spoke on the importance of providing a judgement-free space for us to truly hear each other, and how meetings like these were what helped him break through his own personal struggles and inspire him. Businesses, unions, and MC3 training programs around the country are all taking notice, and beginning to ask the question: Are we doing enough to protect our mental health?

We owe it to every one of our members to make sure they have the mental health support and resources they need to come home. With a committed effort to making lasting changes in our industry, we can help ensure that our brothers and sisters are safe and supported, no matter what they are going through.

If you or someone you know needs immediate help, the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available 24/7. Call or text 988, or you can also reach the Crisis Text Line by texting "HELLO" to 741741. For survivors of suicide loss, through the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Healing Conversations is a great resource: a one-time visit that connects those who have lost someone to suicide with trained volunteers who are also survivors of suicide loss. These connections can help navigate this challenging journey by offering support, understanding, connection and resources.

In solidarity,

Ernesto Medrano,  
Executive Secretary  
LA/OC Building &  
Construction Trades Council



## BUILDING TRADES NEWS

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Electrical Workers Local 11  
Electrical Workers Local 40  
Electrical Workers Local 45  
Electrical Workers Local 441  
Elevator Constructors Local 18  
Operating Engineers Local 12  
Iron Workers Local 416  
Iron Workers Local 433  
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Laborers Local 300  
Laborers, Gunite Workers Local 345  
Laborers Local 652  
Laborers Local 1184  
Laborers Local 1309  
Laborers, Plaster Tenders Local 1414  
District Council 36 Painters & Allied Trades

Drywall Finishing Local 1136  
Glaziers Local 636  
Tradeshow & Sign Crafts Local 831  
Painters Local 1036  
Resilient Floor Local 1247  
Civil Service Local 1991  
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Plumbers Local 78  
Steam & Pipefitters Local 250  
Plumbers Local 345  
Plumbers & Fitters Local 398  
Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 582  
Road Sprinkler Fitters Local 669  
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Plasterers Local 200  
Cement Masons Local 500  
Cement Masons Local 600  
Roofers & Waterproofers Local 36  
Roofers & Waterproofers Local 220  
Sheet Metal Workers Local 105  
Teamsters Joint Council 42  
Teamsters Local 848  
Teamsters Local 952  
Teamsters Local 986

Change of address: Union members, please contact your local.

# LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT EXTENDS CWDA



LBUSD School District Board Members with Union Representatives.

BY BLAKE MILLER

On Wednesday January 14th, the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) voted unanimously to amend and extend a Community Workforce Development Agreement (CWDA) with the LA/OC Building and Construction Trades Council. The amendment extends the CWDA through August 2030 and adds more than \$400 million in additional projects

to an already impressive and ambitious project list.

The original agreement was created in 2020 and called for the creation of 15 bond-funded projects. Five of those projects are complete, with another five in construction, and the remaining five in the planning and design stages. When discussions regarding expiration of the previous agreement began to circulate amongst Board Members at LBUSD, Vice President Erik Miller

was a strong advocate for extension, crediting “not only the nature of the agreement, but the impact that we know it has on our local economy and workforce.”

The renewed agreement adds 10 more bond-funded projects to the list, including the modernization of seven different schools across the district. “We know that [LA/OC Building Trades labor unions] do the best job of not only protecting the wages of

employees, but they have the innate ability to hire locally and provide some of our most disenfranchised populations opportunities for work,” said Vice President Miller, who represents District 2 of LBUSD.

District 2 covers 18 schools across all delineations, two of which are receiving a facelift from the agreement. “It was important for me and the constituents that I represent to have opportunities for them to find full time employment,



LA/OC Representative Andrew Gonzales with Board President Erik Miller and Operating Engineers Local 12 Business Representative Justin Hall.



LBUSD Board Member Juan Benitez.



LA/OC Representative Andrew Gonzales addressing the LBUSD School Board



Sheet Metal Workers Local 105 Political Director Fernando Ochoa addressing the LBUSD School Board.

while also getting some of the most up to date facilities,” Miller notes.

“[This project] is about the dreams, the hopes, the aspirations that our school district and our broader communities have for our children and for the future,” described Board Member Juan Benitez to the Board moments before the vote. “By any measure, this agreement is good for students, and it’s also good for working families and its good for the broader community at large.”

The spirit of the agreement revolves around an idea that a child could grow up with the opportunities to live and raise a family in the City of Long Beach. The apprenticeship opportunities fostered by the CWDA’s local hire provisions make it possible for LBUSD graduates to directly work on projects in Long Beach. Both the LA/OC Building Trades representatives and Board Members at LBUSD mentioned that this spirit is still alive and is further strengthened with the extension.

Through this agreement, the LA/OC Building Trades and the LBUSD will be building the future of Long Beach by modernizing aging facilities, improving student outcomes, and building career opportunities for LBUSD graduates.



Operating Engineers Local 12 Business Representative Justin Hall, Plasterers Local 200 Journeyman Dancy Aguilon, Plasterers Local 200 Vice President Carlos Baraza, Plasterers Local 200 President/Business Agent Zeek Mendez, and Operating Engineers Local 12 Business Representative Ryan Espinoza outside of the Board Meeting.



Board meeting attendees provide their commentary on the CWA agreement.

# BUILDING TRADES VOTER GUIDE: 2026 ELECTIONS

## STATEWIDE ELECTION DATES FOR CALIFORNIA:

**JUNE 2, 2026:**  
PRIMARY

**NOVEMBER 3, 2026:**  
GENERAL ELECTION

### INFORMATION FOR THE 2026 CALIFORNIA PRIMARY:

- The last day to register to vote for the June 2, 2026, Primary Election is May 18, 2026.
- All California active registered voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot for the June 2, 2026, Primary Election.
- Your county elections office will begin mailing ballots by May 4, 2026.
- Ballot drop-off locations open on May 5, 2026.
- Vote-by-mail ballots can be returned by mail, at a drop-off location, or your county elections office.
- Vote centers open for early in-person voting in all Voter's Choice Act counties beginning on May 23, 2026.
- Vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by June 9, 2026.

Are you registered to vote?  
Check your registration at  
[voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/)

For more information  
on the upcoming elections,  
please visit  
[www.sos.ca.gov/elections/  
upcoming-elections.](https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/upcoming-elections)

Use this QR code and visit  
[registertovote.ca.gov](https://registertovote.ca.gov) today:



# BUILDING TRADES VOTER GUIDE: 2026 ELECTIONS

The State Building and Construction Trades Council of California have officially endorsed their candidates for state constitutional office. The LA/OC Building & Construction Trades Council are in support and are adopting the endorsements of the State Building Trades Council for state office:

## STATEWIDE RACES



**GOVERNOR:**  
ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA



**LT. GOVERNOR:**  
FIONA MA



**ATTORNEY GENERAL:**  
ROB BONTA (INCUMBENT)



**SECRETARY OF STATE:**  
SHIRLEY WEBER (INCUMBENT)



**CONTROLLER:**  
MALIA COHEN (INCUMBENT)



**INSURANCE COMMISSIONER:**  
STEVE BRADFORD



**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION:**  
JOSH NEWMAN

# BUILDING TRADES VOTER GUIDE: 2026 ELECTIONS

## U.S. CONGRESS



District 26:  
Jacqui Irwin



District 27:  
George Whitesides



District 28:  
Judy Chu



District 29:  
Luz Rivas



District 30:  
Laura Friedman



District 31:  
Gil Cisneros



District 32:  
Brad Sherman



District 33:  
Pete Aguilar



District 34:  
Jimmy Gomez



District 35:  
Norma Torres



District 36:  
Ted Lieu



District 37:  
Sydney Kamlager-Dove



District 38:  
Hilda Solis



District 41:  
Linda Sánchez



District 42:  
Robert Garcia



District 43:  
Maxine Waters



District 45:  
Derek Tran



District 46:  
Lou Correa



District 47:  
Dave Min



District 49:  
Mike Levin

## STATE ASSEMBLY



District 34:  
Charles Hughes



District 39:  
Juan Carrillo



District 40:  
Pilar Schiavo



District 41:  
John Harabedian



District 43:  
Celeste Rodriguez



District 44:  
Nick Schultz



District 46:  
Jesse Gabriel



District 48:  
Blanca Rubio



District 49:  
Mike Fong



District 51:  
Rick Chavez Zbur



District 52:  
Jessica Caloza



District 53:  
Michelle Rodriguez

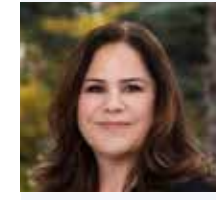


District 54:  
Mark Gonzalez

# BUILDING TRADES VOTER GUIDE: 2026 ELECTIONS



District 55:  
Isaac Bryan



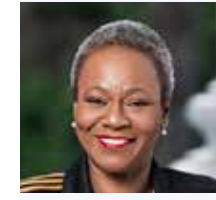
District 56:  
Lisa Calderon



District 57:  
Sade Elhawary



District 59:  
Phillip Chen



District 61:  
Tina McKinnor



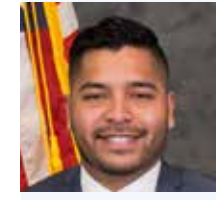
District 62:  
José Luis Solache Jr.



District 64:  
Blanca Pacheco



District 67:  
Mark Pulido



District 68:  
David Penaloza



District 69:  
Josh Lowenthal



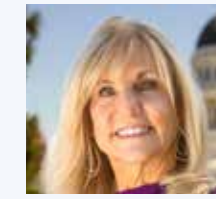
District 70:  
Tri Ta



District 72:  
Chris Kluwe

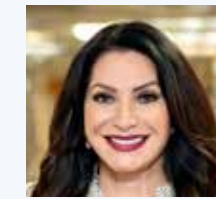


District 73:  
Cottie Petrie-Norris



District 74:  
Laurie Davies

## STATE SENATE



District 22:  
Susan Rubio



District 28:  
Lola Smallwood-Cuevas



District 30:  
Bob Archuleta



District 34:  
Avelino Valencia



District 38:  
Catherine Blakespear

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



District 1:  
María Elena Durazo



District 3:  
Lindsey P. Horvath

## CITY ELECTIONS

### BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND

YES on Measure A

### COMPTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Area E:  
Alma Taylor-Pleasant



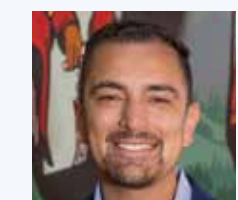
Area G:  
Satra Zurita

YES on Measure CPT

### CITY OF COVINA CITY COUNCIL



Area 1:  
Hector Delgado



Area 5:  
Drew Aleman

### CITY OF GLENDALE

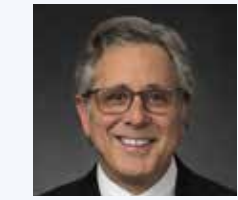


City Clerk:  
Dr. Suzie Abajian



Glendale Unified:  
Ingrid Gunnell

### CITY OF GLENDALE CITY COUNCIL



Dan Brotman

# BUILDING TRADES VOTER GUIDE: 2026 ELECTIONS



**Elen Asatryan**



**Alek Bartrosouf**

## GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD



**Manuel Magpalian**



**Yvette Vartanian Davis**

## CITY OF LAKEWOOD CITY COUNCIL



**Todd Rogers**



**Steve Croft**

## CITY OF LONG BEACH



**Mayor: Rex Richardson**



**District 1: Mary Zendejas**



**District 3: Kristina Duggan**



**District 5: Megan Kerr**



**District 7: Vivian Malauulu**



**District 9: Dr. Joni Ricks-Oddie**



**Long Beach City Prosecutor: Doug Haubert**

## CITY OF LOS ANGELES



**Mayor: Karen Bass**

## CITY OF LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL



**District 1: Eunisses Hernandez**



**District 7: Monica Rodriguez**



**District 9: Jose Ugarte**



**District 13: Hugo Soto-Martínez**



**District 15: Tim McOsker**

## LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



**District 4: Nick Melvoin**

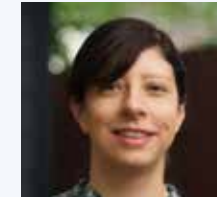


**District 6: Kelly Gonez**

## CITY OF PASADENA



**District 3: Justin Jones**



**District 5: Jess Rivas**



**District 7: Jason Lyon**

## CITY OF SAN DIMAS



**City Council: Eric Nakano**

## CITY OF SAN FERNANDO



**City Council At Large: Sean Rivas**



**City Council At Large: Mary Solorio**

## SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES



**Seat 116: Paul Thompson**

## WAGE THEFT

# FIGHTING WAGE THEFT IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Union representatives in attendance at 2025 wage theft seminar.

### COMMON WAGE THEFT SCHEMES

- 1  
**SHAVING HOURS**  
 Reporting fewer hours than what were actually worked.
- 2  
**MISCLASSIFICATION**  
 Labeling employees as independent contractors or lower-paid job titles.
- 3  
**CASH KICKBACKS**  
 Forcing workers to return part of their paycheck in cash.
- 4  
**BOUNCED CHECKS**  
 Issuing paychecks that cannot be cashed.
- 5  
**DENIED BENEFITS**  
 Failing to fund healthcare, retirement, or workers' comp.
- 6  
**TIP THEFT**  
 Withholding or diverting service workers' tips.

BY SHAHRAD ARJOMANDI

Wage theft is one of the most damaging forms of jobsite abuse, because it steals directly from the people doing the hard work. It is also one of the crimes that directly impacts our brothers and sisters in the Building Trades the most, and is an attack on the union standard and everyone earning a fair wage. When contractors shave hours, manipulate overtime, or run kickback schemes, they do not just harm individual workers. They tilt the bidding process, reward dishonest operators, and put responsible contractors at a disadvantage. These are just some of the reasons that the LA/OC Building & Construction Trades Council continues to treat wage theft as a core worker-protection issue, and why we are pushing for stronger accountability across the industry.

In conversations with the Orange County District Attorney's Office, we had the opportunity to examine how wage theft is impacting our members, and how you can better protect yourself from wage theft schemes in the future. Prosecutors in their office emphasized that they vigorously pursue wage theft cases and often treat wage theft as a felony. They also spend significant time educating local law enforcement and city agencies on the seriousness of these violations, because too many workers still hear the message that wage theft is "just a payroll problem," when in reality it is theft. Their approach also includes working with partners who can help validate claims and strengthen cases, including awarding bodies, project inspectors, insurance companies, licensing authorities, and labor enforcement organizations.

A major challenge that the OC DA's office has to deal with is that wage theft schemes often target workers who feel they cannot safely come forward. To combat this, the OC DA's office intentionally builds relationships

with trusted community organizations so that victims have a bridge to law enforcement through people they already trust. Their message to workers is straightforward: if you are the victim of wage theft, they are focused on the crime, not your background. They want workers to feel safe reporting concerns so investigations can move quickly and efficiently.

with partners who can help validate claims and strengthen cases, including awarding bodies, project inspectors, insurance companies, licensing authorities, and more to help back up your evidence.

When a worker does come forward, the process typically begins with a claim and then a months-long investigation to gather records and corroborate the



Executive Secretary Ernesto Medrano and Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer.

For workers, the most practical protection is documentation. The DA's Office identified some of the most common schemes they see in construction as hours being shaved, overtime being falsified, and kickback arrangements where workers are pressured to return part of their pay. They strongly recommend that workers save pay stubs and keep records of any pay-related communications, including texts, emails, and proof of digital payments. One of the biggest obstacles in wage theft cases is not being able to prove what was promised or what changed, simply because there is no paper trail. Having your own receipts is essential, but they also work

facts. Not every situation results in immediate prosecution, and in some cases a warning letter may be used to correct a violation quickly. But when the evidence supports it, the OC DA can pursue criminal charges and push cases toward resolution in court.

The bottom line is this: wage theft thrives when workers are isolated and silent. It becomes much harder to get away with when workers keep records, speak with someone they trust, and report what they are seeing. The LA/OC Building Trades will continue standing with our members to protect the union standard, hold bad actors accountable, and make sure every worker gets paid what they have earned.

# COUNCIL STAFF TALKS POLICY PRIORITIES, TOUTS PROJECTS AT LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



Replacement passenger terminal at the Hollywood Burbank Airport.

BY DUSTIN JEFFORDS

This March, the LA/OC Building and Construction Trades Council attended the 2026 Joint Legislative Conference, hosted by the California Labor Federation and State Building and Construction Trades Council. From March 17-18 in Sacramento, council staff took part in the annual

labor advocacy event and spoke with state assembly members about priority bills that have been introduced, as well as the impactful work that the union construction trades are doing on transformative projects throughout Southern California.

Nearly 40% of the elected state legislators represent jurisdictions covered by the LA/OC Building

Trades Council.

“It is an enormous responsibility for both state and regional politics that the voices of the 160,000 members represented by the LA/OC Building Trades are carried to Sacramento,” said Executive Secretary Ernesto Medrano.

“The bills that are passed each year can make a difference in economic growth, workforce development, and the future

of labor standards for all construction workers throughout California.”

Legislative priorities that were taken to policymakers included prevailing wages, defense of workers in the oil and gas industry, and support for the California High Speed Rail.

One of the priority bills, Assembly Bill 1198, seeks to fix a problem that allows contractors to use old prevailing

wage rates based on the advertisement date of a project, even though years could pass from the advertisement until the start date. Union signatory contractors are still contractually obligated to pay the current negotiated wage rates, while non-union contractors are allowed to pay the lower advertised prevailing wage rates, putting unions at a competitive disadvantage and asking construction workers to work for less. The LA/OC Building Trades supports AB 1198 to fix this completely unfair standard.

The LA/OC Building and Construction Trades Council represents 48 local unions across LA and OC, so highlighting the work that our representative unions are doing is critical for the organization. This kind of advocacy helps build positive relationships with government officials and are the same people who shape California’s future. The more state leadership understands the benefits of using skilled union labor for the public and the worker alike, the better equipped they will be to fight for that labor on projects that shape the future of the Golden State.

These were some of the highest-impact projects that were on the council staff’s agenda during meetings with state Assembly members:

- The Los Angeles Convention Center expansion, a \$2.2 billion project that will create more than 6,000 construction jobs.
- Exposition Park, receiving a nearly \$100 million renovation that will create hundreds of local jobs ahead of the 2026 World Cup and 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.
- OC Vibe, a \$4 billion transformation near Anaheim’s Honda Center that will connect the public through sports and entertainment across a 92-acre campus.
- Hollywood Burbank Airport, expected to celebrate the completion of the Elevate BUR terminal replacement project in October 2026. The currently budgeted \$1.3 billion project is estimated to have created hundreds of jobs in construction, transportation and services while elevating the airport experience for passengers.
- The Doheny Ocean Desalination Project, expected to create numerous union jobs as it seeks to create a new local water supply and produce 5 million gallons of drinking water per day.

“Our region has an enormous responsibility in delivering an Olympics that our city, state, and nation can be proud of, and union construction workers are meeting the moment,” said Medrano. “100% union projects like the OC Vibe and the LA Convention Center are vital pieces in showcasing what can be achieved when you entrust your developments to union construction workers.”



LA/OC Building & Construction Trades representatives meet with Asm. Jesse Gabriel.



LA/OC Building & Construction Trades representatives meet with Asm. Blanca E. Rubio.



LA/OC Building & Construction Trades representatives meet with Asm. José Luis Solache Jr.



LA/OC Building & Construction Trades representatives meet with Asm. Juan Carillo.



Rendering of the LA Convention Center Expansion Project.



Exposition Park Rose Garden.



Doheny Ocean Desalination Project.



Rendering of the OC Vibe & Honda Center.

# UNION LABOR SPREADS TO CERRITOS

## The City of Cerritos Passes their First Ever CWA



LA/OC Representative Andrew Gonzales with Cerritos Mayor Frank Yokoyama.

BY BLAKE MILLER

History was made on March 9th, 2026, for the LA/OC Building & Construction Trades. After months of negotiations, Cerritos City Council

passed a 5-year Community Workforce Agreement (CWA), marking the first agreement in the city of Cerritos. Part of this agreement encourages participation in state-certified apprenticeship programs and supports

workforce development opportunities for residents, veterans, MC3 program graduates and graduates of local educational institutions. The agreement is designed to make trade careers with living wages more accessible to young

adults in the city of Cerritos.

Historically, the population of the City of Cerritos has been predominantly Asian American and Pacific Islander, which is a community that is underrepresented in the building and construction trades. This made the City of Cerritos an area of focus for LA/OC Orange County Representative Andrew Gonzales, as a CWA could help take that representation to the next level.

Running to fill a seat in 2025, former Cerritos Mayor Mark Pulido was elected to the city council when Gonzales initially set up a meeting to discuss the benefits of a CWA. They went over how they could work together to implement an agreement in Cerritos, and in his first council meeting, Councilmember Pulido asked the staff to enter negotiations for implementation. After months of introductory negotiations, the CWA was placed on the agenda for the March 9th Meeting.

Positioned on the agenda after the City Council voted on their updated 70th anniversary logo, the council engaged in thoughtful discussion surrounding the logistics of implementation. The agreement's



Sheet Metal Workers Local 105 Business Representative Donny Sappington addressing the Cerritos City Council.

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term, accountability clauses, and standard of work were all in discussion when Mayor Pro Tem Lynda Johnson invited Gonzales up to the stand. Providing additional context of CWAs in other cities, Andrew Gonzales was able to highlight to them other local success stories in neighboring cities like Santa Ana and Anaheim.

When Mayor Pro Tem Lynda Johnson moved forward the motion and Mayor Frank Aurelio Yokoyama seconded the motion, the CWA passed 3-1. The room full of union representatives all raised in applause to celebrate.



LA/OC Representative Andrew Gonzales addressing the Cerritos City Council.

“This CWA is dedicated to the future of Cerritos, and it was important to me to help navigate concerns during negotiations,” explained Mayor Yokoyama. “As a dad of a recent high school graduate, every one of our students have a different path to the future and to success. The LA/OC Building and Construction Trades Council ensures quality workforce development programs that will allow our children enter a dependable career with strong living wages. I am glad this Community Workforce Agreement is safely and



The City of Cerritos City Council eagerly listening to a labor representative's address.



LA/OC Representative Andrew Gonzales speaking with Cerritos Mayor Frank Yokoyama and a meeting attendee.



Labor Representative Nate Brotton, Roland Gutierrez, Brian Germain, Mike Pino and Daniel Osborne listen attentively to City Council discussions.

properly developing our city to be better and stronger.”

This CWA is dedicated to the future of Cerritos, and as the city's first agreement, it was important to engage with city leadership to navigate concerns during negotiations. Through these conversations, the Building Trades were able to share a long history of quality results on the jobsite through CWAs, as well as clear and meaningful pathways to middle-class careers. Everyone, from high school graduates to aspiring apprentices, has a different path to the future and to success, and agreements like this are how the building trades open real doors for the next generation.

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# THE FUTURE OF FIRE SAFETY IN ANAHEIM



Rendering of the completed fire station.

BY DAVID WINFIELD

Just outside the gates of Angel Stadium, the dirt of an important new project is finally taking shape — and it isn't a baseball diamond. Anaheim Fire Station 12 is rising from the ground, and the skilled union workers of the LA/OC Building & Construction Trades Council are the ones building it. Earlier this year, we had the chance to visit the active construction site to see the progress firsthand and speak with the workers bringing this project to life. What we found was a crew deep in the work and proud of what they're accomplishing.

The project has cleared several major milestones already. Site grading and foundation installation are complete, underground plumbing and electrical conduits have been laid in, the concrete walls for the apparatus bay, where the fire engines will eventually be housed, and the slab on grade have been poured and finished.

On a typical day, anywhere from 10 to 20 workers are on site, with the



Full view of the fire station under construction.

specific trades and priorities shifting as the project evolves. Current daily work includes plumbing rough-in and utility tie-ins, while the team is simultaneously planning for the building envelope and MEP (mechanical, electrical, and plumbing) work to come.

## Putting Anaheim to Work

The project has a clear path forward. Electrical and low-voltage rough-in will follow the current progress, and the main building shell is anticipated to be substantially complete by Spring 2026. Site hardscape, curb and gutter, paving, and landscaping are also estimated to wrap up in Fall 2026. The team is targeting substantial project completion in November/December 2026, with the Anaheim Fire Department expected to move into the new station in December 2026, which is a finish line that the whole crew is motivated by. Workers on the project directly pointed out what an exciting opportunity this project is for not just the community, but for them personally, and how this is a tangible way to give back to the community many of them already reside in.

Beyond the construction itself, Fire Station 12 is delivering on a promise to the surrounding community. The project operates under a Community Workforce Agreement (CWA) with a local hire goal of 35%, and the project is continuing to track closely to that goal at 32.36%. Of the more than 11,500 hours worked on the project to date, over 3,700 hours have been performed by qualifying local hires.

Perhaps most encouragingly, the leading share of those local hire hours comes directly from Anaheim zip codes themselves. One of the CWA's core goals is to build and develop a skilled local workforce with real careers right in Anaheim and the surrounding community, and this project is making that a reality.

The meaningful apprenticeship hours also being spent on this project ensure that Fire Station 12 is both a construction project and an investment in the next generation of skilled and local tradespeople for



View from the inside of the fire station.



A variety of construction heavy equipment.



Worker driving heavy equipment.

the region. For many workers on this job, the hours logged here represent meaningful steps forward in their apprenticeship journey, as well as real hands-on experience on a high-profile civic project that will serve their community for decades to come.

When Fire Station 12 opens its doors at the end of the year, Anaheim will have a new, state-of-the-art home for the first responders who protect its residents. Thanks to the skilled union workers of the LA/OC Building Trades, it'll also be built to last, and by the very neighbors these firefighters will serve.



Night rendering of completed fire station.



Rendering of the fire station's north stairs.



Rendering of the fire station's east side.

# ORANGE COUNTY LABOR FEDERATION HOSTS ANNUAL MLK LABOR BREAKFAST



BY BLAKE MILLER

On the morning of February 13th, labor unions across Orange County united in observance of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Hosted by the Orange County Labor Federation, AFL-CIO (OCLF) at the UCFW 324's Auditorium, the gathering featured hundreds of attendees, including labor leaders and numerous elected officials from around Orange County. The breakfast was a great opportunity for attendees to break bread and absorb the knowledge imparted on the room from a selection

that reaffirmed our commitment to justice, equality, and solidarity with our brothers and sisters and the numerous labor unions across Orange County and within the labor movement.

Dr. King's legacy is of course closely associated with the civil rights movement; however, he believed that the fights for civil rights and labor rights were inseparable. Dr. King saw that improving the living standards of workers not only benefited individual workers but positively affected the United States' overall economy. He urged unions to take a stance against racial discrimination within their own organizations, believing that discrimination undermined the unity that was necessary for the labor movement to achieve its goals. In the decades since, unions continue to be

another powerful force in the ongoing fight for racial equality and social justice.

LA/OC Building Trades Orange County Representative Andrew Gonzales added: "As a labor movement, it's important to remind ourselves, and the elected leaders who choose to join us during an event that honors the legacy of Dr. King, that when we fight



UFCW International President Milton Jones addressing the Crowd. Courtesy of the Orange County Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

for the wages, benefits, and working conditions of our members, we help to uplift the whole person. We aim to do that whoever that person is or chooses to be."

The Los Angeles and Orange Counties Building & Construction Trades Council hold Dr. King's beliefs close, and we will continue to fight for fair, dignified working conditions for all our members. This is an ongoing fight, but events like this are a powerful reminder that we stand in unison with a large, supportive, and committed labor community.

*Special thanks to Lulit Shewan, policy analyst for CLASP's Education, Labor, & Worker Justice team. For more information on Dr. King's history of labor leadership, please visit [www.clasp.org](http://www.clasp.org) and search Martin Luther King, Jr.*



LA/OC Representative Andrew Gonzales giving an impassioned speech to attendees.

of speakers, including American Federation of Government Employees National President Everett Kelley and United Food & Commercial Workers International Union International President Milton Jones. LA/OC Building Trades Orange County Representative Andrew Gonzales also spoke, giving an impassioned speech



View of attendees in the event ballroom. Courtesy of the Orange County Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

## METRO

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regional collaboration and national leadership; and  
5. Provide responsive, accountable, and trustworthy governance within the Metro organization.

The work that Building Trades members are putting in on the projects that are turning this vision into a reality cannot be understated. Here are just some of the biggest ways that we are getting involved:

### Metro D Line

On May 8, 2026, Los Angeles will celebrate a historic achievement with the opening of the Metro D Line Extension Section 1. This milestone represents five years of tunneling, station construction, and meticulous street restoration along the Wilshire corridor. Twin tunnel boring machines carved nearly nine miles of tunnel beneath one of LA's busiest boulevards, and our members operated them with unwavering precision.

Section 1 brings three new underground stations to Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax, and Wilshire/La Cienega, connecting the Miracle Mile, Mid-Wilshire, and Koreatown with fast, traffic-free subway service. When complete, all three sections of the D Line Extension will stretch from Downtown LA to Westwood, connecting hundreds of thousands of residents to jobs, healthcare, education, and opportunities on the west side.

### Metro K Line Northern Extension

Building on the success of the K Line, which opened in 2022, Metro



Construction workers walking through a train tunnel.

is advancing plans for a northern extension that will connect the San Fernando Valley to Hollywood and beyond. With \$2.24 billion in voter-approved Measure M funding, this underground rail line will serve some of LA's busiest corridors and connect with four other Metro rail lines: the B, C, D, and E Lines.

The LA/OC Building & Construction Trades Council has already spoken out in support of the San Vicente-Fairfax route, the option that connects the most people to the most opportunities. On March 26th, Metro's Board of

Directors unanimously approved the project route, setting the stage for the project to start. This project will create thousands of construction jobs and permanent operations roles, and it is another way for us to reinforce our commitment to building career pathways for the next generation of skilled tradespeople.

### Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project

The Sepulveda corridor is one of the most congested, high-traffic areas in the nation, and the Sepulveda Transit

Corridor Project is designed to change that. In January 2026, the Metro Board selected the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), an underground heavy rail line between the Van Nuys Metrolink Station and E Line Expo/Sepulveda Station that connects to the G Line on Van Nuys Boulevard. This project is designed to transform how Angelenos move between the Valley and the Westside, cutting commute times and taking cars off the road. More importantly, it represents thousands of union construction jobs,

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LA County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath speaking at the Metro K Line Northern Extension press conference.



Executive Secretary Ernesto Medrano speaking at the Metro K Line Northern Extension press conference.



Sepulveda Pass & the 405 Freeway.



Metro D Line stop at Wilshire/Fairfax.

a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our region's infrastructure, and a transformational change in how we move around LA County.

To projects like these, union construction workers bring years of on-the-job training and experience, rigorous safety standards, and necessary accountability. The Building Trades have an established history of building the essential infrastructure that keeps California safe, connected, and moving forward. Helping build the future of transportation in the region is a tremendous opportunity, and a challenge our members are ready to meet.



Construction workers walking through a train tunnel.



Metro Board meeting for the Metro K Line Northern Extension.



Executive Secretary Ernesto Medrano speaking with reporter Guad Venegas from NBC/Telemundo at the Metro K Line Northern Extension press conference.



Sepulveda Pass & the 405 Freeway.

## CASTING CALL

### Want to Be Featured in Building Trades Media?

We're always looking for union members to spotlight in upcoming stories, photo shoots, social media, and videos. Whether you're on the job, training an apprentice, or building your community—we want to hear from you and showcase you.

Help us highlight the real faces of the Trades!

Scan the QR code to tell us your story and help represent the strength of union labor across Southern California.

