

The New England Carpenter

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This Time, We Must Make It Happen

A Message from the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Thomas Harrington

Brothers and Sisters, as you may know, the New England Regional Council of Carpenters has endorsed John F. Kerry for President. The Executive Board of the Council voted to do so after careful consideration of the candidates and feedback from our members. John Kerry has been a friend to unions while serving in the Senate, and he would be an even greater asset to our organization if he were elected President.

We are about to take part in a national election some have called the most important in a generation. As head of the Executive Branch of government, the President appoints the leadership for agencies such as the Secretary of Labor, and OSHA, and he appoints vacancies in the Supreme Court. Several Supreme Court Justices will retire in the next four years. If George Bush is still President and makes those new appointments it would shift the court makeup from a balanced court to an ultraconservative body. These new Justices could rule on cases, which could include everything from freedom to join a union to prevailing wage issues. Their rulings would not be favorable to unions. Additionally the rulings and interpretations of the Labor Department and OSHA would be slanted towards the company.

George W. Bush has already shown how he feels about working class Americans. In his first week of office, he banned the use of Project Labor Agreements on federal work. He then pushed for collective bargaining rights to be taken from thousands of workers when the Homeland Security Department was formed. Given a second term with a friendly congress and no fear of having to be re-elected, there is no telling how far back he will set labor.

I know no one wants to be told how to vote, but I feel that, as independent thinking carpenters once you review the candidates' positions on the issues, you will make the right choice.

Our members have already been active in local campaigns, doing the things we do so well. However, we need even more members to get involved and help win this and other local elections. We don't want to be watching television as they count chads, thinking we could have done more. By then it will be too late.

Brothers and Sisters, you have shown your ability to impact elections in the past. We need every effort now to ensure that John Kerry will be elected President of the United States. No matter how you vote, you should make sure you are registered in your state and get out the vote on November 2.

A Message from the Political Director, David Wallace

The election for the President of the United States between George W. Bush and John F. Kerry is crucial to our members. Four years ago, we had a chance to defeat George W. Bush. Although the results in Florida, where Gore lost by less than 600 votes, and the decision of the Supreme Court were devastating, New England also played a part in the election drama. Right here in New England, George W. Bush picked up four electoral votes in New Hampshire, winning the statewide vote by only 1 percent, which equated to a little more than 7,000 votes.

New England, and especially our Council, again finds itself involved in national politics. Maine and New Hampshire are in play this election cycle as recent polls are showing. Polling indicates the presidential candidates are running neck and neck. The number of votes necessary to win Maine and New Hampshire this time will be much fewer than last time. With over 2,000 Union carpenters living in Maine and New Hampshire, our members could very well decide the outcome of the election. If we can help turn Maine and New Hampshire in favor of John F. Kerry by activating our membership, it will give him eight valuable electoral votes and possibly decide the election.

Some ways to help might include visiting Maine or New Hampshire and volunteering your time. Take a few hours to attend an event such as a visibility, phone banking or sign making. If you are out of work, you could even spend a day or more with the campaign. Every hour you contribute makes a difference.

Not only are we involved with Maine and New Hampshire, but also every state is having its own local elections and our carpenters are involved. City councilors, mayors, state representatives, state senators and governors are being elected in every local area. Two of our own members, Brother Miguel Fuentes in Waterbury, Connecticut and Brother Joe Donahue in Derry, New Hampshire will be on the ballot, running for State Representative. If you live in those areas, I urge you to contact their campaigns and help elect a union brother.

There is not much time left in the campaign, but you can still help. If you live in the swing states of New Hampshire or Maine, be sure to do your part by planting a lawn sign and placing a bumper sticker on your vehicle. Talk to your family, friends and neighbors about benefits that a Kerry administration will bring to middle-class Americans. Contact your local to see how you can join your union brothers and sisters at campaign events.



Esta Vez Nosotros Lo Debemos Hacer Suceder

Un Mensaje por Thomas Harrington, Secretario-Tesorero Ejecutivo

Hermanos y Hermanas, como usted ya debe de saber, el Consejo Regional de Carpinteros de Nueva

Inglaterra da su apoyo a John Kerry para Presidente. El Comité Ejecutivo del Consejo ha votado a favor de hacer esto después de tomar cuidadosa consideración de los candidatos y de las reacciones de sus miembros. John Kerry ha sido un amigo de los sindicatos mientras que ha trabajado como miembro del Senado y sería todavía una ventaja mayor para nuestra organización si el fuera elegido Presidente.

Estamos a punto de participar a una elección nacional que han llamado la más importante de una generación. Como el jefe de la Rama Ejecutiva del gobierno, el Presidente nombra los líderes de agencias como el Secretario del Trabajo, y "OSHA", y también nombra vacantes en La Corte Suprema. Varios Jueces de La Corte Suprema, van a jubilarse durante los próximos cuartos años. Si George Bush sigue siendo el Presidente y asigna estos nuevos nombramientos, la composición del la corte cambiaría de una corte equilibrada a una entidad ultra conservativa. Estos nuevos jueces pueden decidir casos sobre "la libertad de afiliarse con un sindicato" a "temas predominantes de salario". Sus decisiones no serían favorables para los sindicatos. Además, las decisiones e interpretaciones del Departamento del Trabajo y OSHA serían en favor de la empresa.

Un Mensaje por David Wallace, Director Político

La elección para Presidente de los Estados Unidos entre George W. Bush y John F. Kerry es crucial para nuestros miembros. Hace cuatro años, tuvimos la oportunidad de derrotar a George W. Bush. Aunque los resultados en Florida, adonde Gore perdió por menos de 600 votos, y la decisión de la Corte Suprema fueron devastadores, Nueva Inglaterra también tuvo su parte en el drama de la elección. Aquí mismo en Nueva Inglaterra, George W. Bush ganó 4 votos electorales en New Hampshire, ganando el voto a todo el estado por sólo 1%, que resulto en un poco más que 7,000 votos.

Nueva Inglaterra, y especialmente nuestro Consejo, se encuentran de nuevo participando en la política nacional. Según encuestas recientes, Maine y New Hampshire son sumamente importantes en este ciclo de elecciones. Encuestas indican que los candidatos para la presidencia están muy reñidos. El número de votos necesarios para ganar a Maine y a New Hampshire esta vez, va a ser mucho menos que la última vez. Con más de 2000 Carpinteros del Sindicato viviendo en Maine y New Hampshire, nuestros miembros podrían decidir el resultado de esta elección. Si podemos ayudar a cambiar a Maine y a New Hampshire a favor de John F. Kerry activando el número de socios, le daría 8 votos electorales esenciales y posiblemente decidiera la elección.

Unos ejemplos en como usted puede ayudar, incluyen ir a visitar a

George W. Bush ya ha enseñado lo que el siente por los Americanos de la clase media. Durante la primera semana en el poder, prohibió el uso de Acuerdos Laborales de Proyecto sobre el trabajo Federal. Cuando se formo el Departamento de Seguridad de la Patria, el entonces recomendó la eliminación de los derechos de negociaciones colectivas de miles de trabajadores. Dado una segunda administración con un Congreso amistoso y sin miedo de ser reeligido, solo podemos imaginar los atrasos que tienen el potencial de infligir sobre los trabajadores.

Yo se que nadie quiere que le diga como votar, pero yo siento que siendo carpinteros de pensamiento independiente una vez que revisan las posiciones de los candidatos sobre los temas, ustedes van a tomar la decisión correcta.

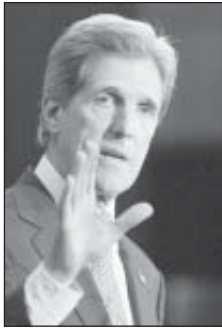
Nuestros miembros ya han sido activos en campañas locales, haciendo las cosas que hacemos tan bien. Pero, necesitamos la participación de aún más miembros para ayudarnos a ganar esta elección y otras elecciones locales. No deseamos ver la televisión mientras que cuentan "chads" pensando que habremos podido hacer más. Entonces, sería muy tarde.

Hermanos y hermanas, han mostrado su capacidad de influenciar elecciones en el pasado. Necesitamos su ayuda en asegurar que John Kerry sea elegido Presidente de Los Estados Unidos. No importa para quien usted vota, debe de estar seguro/a que usted esta registrado/a en su estado y tiene que ir a votar el 2 de Noviembre.

Maine o a New Hampshire, y ofrecer su tiempo como voluntario. Tome unas horas a participar a unos eventos como: construir letreros, demostrar su apoyo en la calle con letreros, o haciendo llamadas. Si usted esta fuera de trabajo, usted pudiera pasar un día o más con la campaña. Cada hora que usted contribuye, hace una diferencia.

No solamente estamos involucrados con Maine y New Hampshire pero también nuestros carpinteros están participando en las elecciones locales de sus estados. Consejeros de la ciudad, alcaldes, representantes del estado, senadores del estado, y gobernadores van estar elegidos en todas las areas locales. Dos de nuestros miembros, Hermano Miguel Fuentes en Waterbury, Connecticut y Hermano Joe Donahue en Derry, New Hampshire estarán en el boleto, postulados para Representantes del Estado. Si usted vive en estas áreas, le recomiendo participar en las campañas a ayudar a elegir a un hermano del sindicato.

No queda mucho tiempo en la campaña, pero usted todavía puede ayudar. Si usted vive en New Hampshire o Maine, por favor ponga un letrero en su patio y una calcomanía sobre los parachoques de su carro. Hable con su familia, amigos, y vecinos sobre los beneficios una administración de Kerry pudiera dar a los Americanos de la clase media. Debe de ponerse en contacto con el sindicato local para ver como usted puede reunirse con sus hermanos y hermanas a eventos de la campaña.



BUSH or KERRY

The Choice is Yours. Make It An Informed One.



As a union building trades worker, there are several unique issues that have a direct impact on your day-to-day work and home life. They may not be the only issues on which you base your voting decision, but they are the ones most appropriate for discussion among members of the New England Regional Council of Carpenters. Included in this piece are several issues and the positions taken on them by President George W. Bush and Senator John F. Kerry. We hope that you will read and carefully consider this information before you vote. You should also discuss these issues with your family and friends, as well as on your jobsite.

Freedom to Join A Union

In the construction industry, the more workers and contractors that are union, the easier it is to assure the wages, benefits and working conditions negotiated by union members will be used on all construction projects. While the freedom for workers to join a union is protected by law, efforts to protect those rights are not always sufficient. Employers opposed to unions have developed a vast array of tactics to discourage or intimidate workers or simply delay recognition or bargaining with a union once workers have organized. In the construction industry, the routine increase and decrease of work can be used as a threat by any contractor to layoff union supporters. Building clearer, more direct protections for workers would be crucial to allowing them real freedom to choose a union. Some of these protections were proposed in the Employee Free Choice Act of 2003. It also would have instituted procedures to speed negotiations of first contracts and set stronger penalties for employers who violate workers' rights.

George Bush does not support workers rights or collective bargaining. During his presidency, he has taken away the collective bargaining rights of 170,000 workers in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 60,000 Transportation Security Administration airport screeners, 1,300 workers in the National Imagery and Mapping



Agency, since renamed the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and several hundred more in various U.S. Department of Justice agencies and offices. (*America @ work Special Report*; August 2004; www.GovExec.com, 11/12/03; *The Washington Post*, 1/20/02)

John Kerry has consistently supported workers' rights to organize and has publicly lent his support to workers attempting to organize, such as those at the Saint Gobain facility in Worcester, Massachusetts. He was a co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act.

Prevailing Wage

In 1931, the federal government followed the lead of several states in enacting the Davis-Bacon Act to set wages for construction work. The law was designed to protect government dollars from being given to fly-by-night contractors, or those who won competitive bids on the backs of working people. Provisions were created so that wages would be set according to what was common or “prevailing” in the area where work was to be done. In recent years, attempts have been made to remove Davis-Bacon provisions from virtually every bill appropriating money for construction. They are made by the White House and Republican leadership. The UBC has been successful in protecting Davis-Bacon by building coalitions in Washington consisting of both Republicans and Democrats.

George W. Bush opposes Davis-Bacon provisions for construction work, calling prevailing wages “wasteful.” (*Memphis Commercial Appeal*, 4/20/00).

During his Senate career, John Kerry has opposed numerous attempts to repeal Davis-Bacon in its entirety. Senator Kerry has also consistently resisted attempts to exempt individual projects from Davis-Bacon provisions.



(Senate roll call vote 320 on S. 1650, 10/7/99; Senate roll call vote 11 on S. 2019, 5/19/94; AFL-CIO questionnaire 2003; www.opensecrets.org)

Project Labor Agreements



Project Labor Agreements, commonly known as PLAs, are guidelines put in place by project owners. They lay out rules for qualifying bidders, set wages and work rules for crafts workers on the job and put in place procedures for resolving disputes. On public construction, they can be instituted by government bodies or their representatives. On private projects, they can

likewise be negotiated by owners or their representatives. They are commonly guided by provisions in local labor agreements negotiated by labor and management and include language that prevents work stoppages caused by strikes or picket lines. Though PLAs have been used on public projects for more than 60 years, anti-union groups have recently challenged them because non-union companies often do not qualify to bid on PLA projects. Still, both public and private for-profit entities have found them to be an effective tool in bringing projects in on time, on budget and without violations of labor laws.

John Kerry supports project labor agreements on federal and federally-funded construction projects. He also backs making all future energy infrastructure construction projects subject to PLAs. (*Engineering News Record*, 2/3/04)

George W. Bush strongly opposes project labor agreements (PLAs). In one of his first actions after taking office, Bush issued an executive order outlawing PLAs. (Executive Order 13202, 2001)

Union Rights and The Economy

John Kerry believes that the card check and neutrality system is the fairest and most equitable way for employees to establish their desire to form a union and for employers to recognize the union and begin negotiations. As a senator, John Kerry strongly supported the right to organize for many Massachusetts workers. John Kerry supported SEIU Local 254 in their efforts to organize janitors in the Boston area, UFCW Local 791 in their efforts to organize the Star Market employees in the 43 stores in Massachusetts, UFCW Local 1445 in their efforts to organize the employees of Kayem Foods in Chelsea, and CWA Local 1365 in their efforts to organize the employees of Lucent Technology. John Kerry also worked with Polaroid retirees to recover benefits that were lost as a result of the Polaroid bankruptcy filing. John Kerry is supporting UAW workers at the Sainte Gobaine plant in Worcester who have not been able to get their first contract due to the union busting tactics of the company. As president, John Kerry will continue to forcefully protect workers' right to organize a union.

Since President George W. Bush took office, 1.8 million private-sector jobs have been lost. (Bureau of



Labor Statistics, January 2001–June 2004) President Bush has exploited national security concerns to take away the collective bargaining rights of more than 230,000 federal workers in various government agencies.

Workers' wages have stagnated—rising just 0.3 percent from the first quarter of 2001 when Bush took office through the first quarter of 2004. In the same period, corporate profits leaped by 28.4 percent. (Economic Policy Institute analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data.)

Sportsmen's Issues



John Kerry is a gun owner and hunter, and both he and John Edwards support the Second Amendment right of law-abiding Americans to own guns. Like all of our rights, gun rights come with responsibilities, and John Kerry and John Edwards support mainstream measures to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and terrorists: enforcing the gun laws on the books, closing the gun show loophole, and standing with law enforcement officers to extend the assault weapons ban.

A proposed rule change by the Bush administration would remove mercury emissions from Clean Air Act regulations that have been used to limit the most toxic air pollutants, despite the fact that fish advisories urge reduced consumption of many fish species. [*Washington Post*, 12/3/03]

Right to Work (for Less)

John Kerry opposes so-called right to work laws that cut wages and benefits, weaken collective bargaining rights and hurt working families. In the 21 states with such laws, wages are lower, poverty levels higher, people are more likely to lack health insurance and education spending per pupil is lower. Such “right to work for less” laws forbid workers and their unions from negotiating union security clauses into their collective bargaining agreements. Simply put, a union security clause means that all workers who receive the economic benefits of union representation share the costs of maintaining their union. (Senate roll call vote 188 on S. 1788, 7/10/96; AFL-CIO questionnaire 2003)

George W. Bush, supports “right-to-work-for-less” laws, such as the one he helped enforce during his two terms as governor of Texas. During his 2000 campaign, he told a group of business leaders, “I can tell you why you’re poor—you don’t have right-to-work.” (Chicago *Sun Times*, 10/6/00)



School Construction



John Kerry supports using federal dollars to modernize and repair crumbling schools—some 14 million children attend substandard schools in need of major repair and renovation. He introduced legislation to allow the federal government to issue \$24.8 billion in school modernization bonds—and apply Davis–Bacon prevailing wage standards to such construction work—to help states and school districts repair and build modern schools. (AFL-CIO questionnaire, 2003)

George W. Bush opposes using federal funds to modernize and repair the crumbling, substandard schools some 14 million children attend. (Scripps Howard News Service, 4/24/00)

To get involved in
political events in your area,
stop by your Local Union
or contact

David Wallace, NERCC Political Director,
at drwallace@nercc.org



VP Candidates: John Edwards or Dick Cheney

AFL-CIO Voting Record: John Edwards: 96% Dick Cheney: 6%

"I know from my own life how important unions are. My mother, my father, and my brother and his family, have health care because of unions. My mother is a member of the letter carriers, and my brother is a member of the IBEW. The only reason my brother's family has had health care is because of the union.

We have a lot of work to do to protect workers' rights in America. Parents are working longer hours, and we need to do more to support them. I support real labor law reform, including measures such as card check recognition. I also support making sure corporations face severe punishments when they violate the rights of workers."

— John Edwards,
from AFL-CIO questionnaire



"The backbone of the American economy is the hard work and ingenuity of the middle class, not the insiders. It's time to end the failed conservative experiment and return to the idea that made this country great. Instead of helping wealthy people protect their wealth, we should help working people build their wealth.

I also strongly oppose efforts to roll back worker protections under the Davis-Bacon and Fair Labor Standards Acts. And the Bush Administration's recent effort to roll back the protections provided by the 40-hour workweek is a disgrace."

— John Edwards,
from AFL-CIO questionnaire



"The story of Wal-Mart exemplifies some of the very best qualities in our country"

— Dick Cheney,
in a speech to workers
at Wal-Mart headquarters

Before becoming Vice President, Dick Cheney was CEO of Halliburton. The company, and its subsidiary, Kellogg, Brown & Root, have been given \$2 billion worth of no-bid contracts for Iraqi reconstruction.

Halliburton has been under scrutiny for massive overcharging and underperforming in Iraq and other places where they have done work. Kellogg, Brown & Root has a history of being one of the largest, most anti-union contractors in the world.



New Hampshire and Maine to Be Key Battlegrounds

The fight is now!

It's all coming back to New Hampshire. Earlier this year, the major Democratic candidates for President campaigned long and hard for the support of New Hampshire voters. They set up multiple campaign headquarters, flooded the airwaves with ads and sent legions of volunteers knocking on doors in frigid weather.

Now, while national polls sway back and forth, the campaigns are fighting for individual states that will be crucial to electing the next President. New Hampshire is one of them. Maine is another.

Two weeks before the 2000 election, we were in the same circumstances. Everyone predicted a very close election, but no one could have ever imagined that the Presidency of the United States would be decided by a few hanging chads in Florida.

What many New Englanders don't realize is that the election

results in New Hampshire were also extremely close. George Bush beat Al Gore by just over 1% of the vote in New Hampshire. Al Gore won Maine, but not by a huge margin.

Very soon, America will go to the ballot box again. This time, with your help the people, not the courts, will decide the next President of the United States. The past four years have clearly shown that we are in a fight for our livelihood.

More than one hundred years ago UBC members fought for the eight hour day. In his first term, George W. Bush has taken away workers' right to overtime pay and has allowed employers to replace overtime pay with nonpaid compensatory time off.

UBC members fought for federal and state Davis-Bacon prevailing wage laws. George W. Bush opposes Davis-Bacon prevailing wage laws for construction workers. He believes prevailing wage laws are "wasteful."

UBC members fought for Project Labor Agreements (PLAs). George W. Bush strongly opposes them. In one of his first actions after taking office, Bush issued an executive order outlawing PLAs.

New Hampshire and Maine have been declared battleground states. Both parties clearly understand that the voters of New Hampshire and Maine may determine the next president.

We can only win this fight with your help. No matter where you live, your help is needed in New Hampshire and Maine. Whether you can give an hour or a day or a week, your time and effort is critical to our victory.

For more information on how you can help, call your local union or call Joe Donahue at the Manchester, New Hampshire office 603-621-7077 or Bruce King at the Augusta, Maine office at 207-621-8160. ■

Registering to Vote in New Hampshire

Who Can Register

New Hampshire residents who will be 18 years of age or older on election day, and a United States Citizen, **may register with the town or city clerk where they live up to 10 days before any election. You may also register on Election Day at the polling place.** The town clerk's office can inform voters of what proof of qualification they should bring to register. There is no minimum period of time you are required to have lived in the state before being allowed to register. You may register as soon as you move into your new community.

How to Register

- 1) Apply to your town or city clerk's office. You will be required to fill out a standard voter registration form and will be required to show proof of age, citizenship and domicile.
- 2) Qualified individuals may also register to vote at the polling place on Election Day at all elections. You will be asked to show proof of age, citizenship, and domicile.

Absentee Registration

If you meet the state's voter requirements and qualifications and are unable to register in person because of physical disability, religious beliefs, military service, or because of temporary absence, you may register by mail. You should request an absentee voter registration affidavit and a standard voter registration form from your **town/city clerk**. The absentee voter registration affidavit must be witnessed and then both the affidavit and the voter registration form are to be returned to your town/city clerk.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available from your town or city clerk 30 days prior to an election. Request the absentee ballot application from the clerk or submit a request in writing which should include your name, voting address, mailing address and your signature. Clerks may accept completed absentee ballots submitted in person until 5:00 p.m. the day before an election or until 5:00 p.m. on Election Day if received through the mail.

Focus Put on Key New Hampshire State Senate Races

Though the presidential race is thought to be a toss-up in New Hampshire, the state has long held a reputation for going with Republican candidates in state and local elections.

Union carpenters have been able to forge alliances with some moderate Republicans recently, with mixed results. “Right-to-work” legislation has been defeated twice, with bipartisan opposition, but another bill, Senate 429, which would restrict local municipalities from enacting Responsible Employer Legislation, has a chance of passing next year.

“Turnout of carpenters in New Hampshire, and political activity by any carpenters that can spend any time in New Hampshire will be critical to the presidential race and the future of our union in New Hampshire,” said NERCC Political Director David Wallace.

“If any carpenters can spare even a small amount of time to spend in New Hampshire, they should call me at the Council (617-268-3400) or Joe Donahue at our Manchester office (603-621-7077). It’s that important.”

The state mouthpiece for the Virginia-based Right-to-Work Committee is State Senator Russell Prescott. Two years ago, Maggie Wood Hassan came close to knocking Prescott from the Senate. This year, she hopes to finish the job.

Her campaign in District 23 includes East Kingston, Exeter, Kensington, Kingston, Newfield’s, Newmarket, Newton, Seabrook, South Hampton and Stratham.

“In two short years, my opponent, Senator Russell Prescott, has repeatedly sponsored legislation that jeopardizes the greater interests of his constituents,” Hassan said. “He has been the primary sponsor of “right to work” legislation, in a brazen

attempt to dismantle New Hampshire’s proud tradition of union participation. I would never support such legislation, which threatens to lower personal income for thousands of New Hampshire’s workers.”

In District 21, incumbent Democrat Iris Estabrook will face off against Republican Dan Philbrick, who squeaked through a close primary. Carpenters are hoping that voters in the Epping, Dover, Durham, Lee and Rollinsford district will remember Estabrook’s strong first term in the Senate and record in the House and send her back to the capital. She has certainly been an ally of carpenters.

“I have been a consistent opponent in both the House and Senate of so-called right to work legislation and I was a vocal opponent of last term’s effort to restrict municipalities from choosing to contract with responsible employers,” she said.

Members wishing to help the campaign can call the Local 1996 office in Manchester, visit estabrookforsenate.net or call the campaign at 868-5524.

Another race that bears watching is in District 19, covering Derry, Hampstead and Windham. Former Republican State Senator Frank Sapporeto was a moderate that supported carpenters on vital issues. The right wing of his party rewarded him by pitting staunch right-wing Representative Bob Letourneau against him, who defeated Sapporeto.

In order to protect their support in the district, carpenters will need to get out the vote for Democrat Grace Reisdorf. She has pledged to stand up for working families on issues like living wages and rising health care costs.

Carpenters are expected to turn

out strong in Derry, where Brother Joe Donahue will be on the ballot for State Representative. The union connection is one that Reisdorf appreciates.

“My brother-in-law, a retired business agent and officer of his local union – Carpenters Local 12 in Detroit – has fought for fair labor practices for all of his working life and continues to fight as a retiree,” she said. “He taught me that union workers are the pulse of America – the first to feel a shift in the economy, the first to lose jobs in a downturn, the first to fight for fair wages and work practices. As your state senator, I’ll make your priorities my priorities.”

Union members will work to defeat another avowed Right to Work supporter in District 12, representing part of Nashua as well as Brookline, Hollis and Mason. Republican State Representative Harry Haytayan trounced fellow State Representative Paul LaFlamme in the primary.

Haytayan will now face Dave Gottesman in a race to take the seat of retiring Republican State Senator Jane O’Hearn.

Gottesman, a lawyer, is among the growing number of candidates and elected officials who understand and support UBC issues.

“My opponent has already made it quite clear that he favors “right to work” legislation, which I stand with the UBC in opposing,” he said. “You should have someone in Concord who understands prevailing wage requirements, that employees ought to be paid properly, with appropriate overtime, and that benefits for workers compensation ought to be paid properly without a lot of nonsense. I will be that person, with your help and support.” ■

New Hampshire Fights Out of State Right-to-Work Group

Though twice being defeated by significant margins, sponsors of "Right-to-Work" legislation have not given up on New Hampshire. National resources have been pouring into the state to defeat Democrats and moderate Republicans who opposed the anti-union measure.

In areas like Derry, the group has had some success, as two moderate Republicans who opposed "Right-to-Work" were defeated in primary elections.

The goal of these national groups is clear. They are not interested in persuading citizens of New Hampshire or respecting the representation of their elected officials. They are only interested in bulldozing those who do not march in lockstep with their agenda.

"Obviously, more New Hampshire politicians need to be shown that voting against right-to-work is politically foolish," commented National Right-to-Work Committee

Vice President Doug Stafford.

New Hampshire State Senator Russell Prescott has been the local mouthpiece for the Virginia based Right-to-Work Committee and will certainly attempt to reintroduce this dangerous legislation in the near future. Union members need to fight back by supporting Democrats and Republicans who have stood up to the out of state bullies and voted no on "Right-to-Work." ■

Lynch Faces Weakened Benson for Governor

What was once thought to be a walk is turning into a serious campaign for Governor of New Hampshire. Independently wealthy incumbent Craig Benson rode to victory in 2002 when former Governor Jeanne Shaheen ran for US Senate. But now the Republican is suffering from a series of mini-scandals and missteps that have put his re-election in the conservative state in jeopardy.

Polls have had Democratic nominee John Lynch running neck-and-neck with Benson through the summer.

Turnout is expected to be high, as both presidential campaigns are targeting New Hampshire as a battleground state that will be key to locking up precious electoral college votes.

Lynch has been hammering Benson on proposals of the governor that he said would have cut wheelchair vans for seniors as well as cuts to state troopers and funding to promote tourism and trade. At the same time, Benson has hurt his reputation by using taxpayer money to buy himself a new SUV, give bonuses

to personal staff and hiring an image consultant for himself, with taxpayers footing the \$5,000 a month bill.

News reports have also focused on an alleged insurance scam by two top aides to the Governor, which reaped them \$187,000 in state fees, and the Governor's breach of environmental laws when he allegedly bulldozed wetlands at this beachfront property twice.

"I know we can do better," Lynch said. "With your help, we can change the way business is done in Concord. UBC members in New Hampshire have gained some important victories for working people in New Hampshire."

"Together we can build on these victories, we can provide access to affordable health care to our citizens, defend the rights of working men and women, and ensure a quality education for our children. As Governor, I will stand with the UBC and oppose efforts by out-of-state interests to impose so-called right-to-work laws on us. With your continued support, we will win in November!" ■

Brother Joe Donahue Local 218 Candidate for State Rep Derry, NH



Joe topped the Democratic ticket in the primary, capturing 80% of the vote. In the general election runoff, he must compete against a field of well-backed Republican candidates, some of whom are being bankrolled by out of state "right-to-work" groups.

Join the Donahue campaign by calling 603-425-0053 and remember to vote for a union Brother, Joe Donahue, on November 2!

Maine Voters Could Shift Power

Politics in Maine could get a shake-up this year as redistricting and term limits play with the balance of power. Control in the state has been somewhat deadlocked between Democrats and Republicans in recent years. The House of Representatives favors Democrats 80-67 over Republicans with three unenrolled members and one member of the Green Independent Party.

The House has generally been a labor-friendly body, but is sometimes thwarted by the Senate. There, 18 Democrats face off with 17 Republicans. Governor John Baldacci is the only sitting Democratic Governor in New England.

Term limits and redistricting have forced some members out, some members to run for higher office, and some members to run against other labor-friendly members. Of the seven Senators leaving due to term limits, 5 are Democrats.

The Carpenters union has joined with the Building Trades to endorse candidates in key races. They are listed below. Endorsed candidates whose name appears in bold type are engaged in priority campaigns. Union members are also noted.

In September, members of the Carpenters union attended a fundraiser for Democratic Senate candidates, helping to raise more than \$10,000. The event was sponsored by the Maine Building Trades.

Of particular interest to carpenters will be the race in District 21 where Halowell Representative Scott Cowger will take on Doug Newman, a Republican. Newman is the owner of Newman Concrete, a nonunion construction company, and is heavily involved in the anti-union group, the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC). ■

Endorsed Senate Candidates in Maine

District 1 John O'Brien (Union Painter)

District 2 Nancy Sullivan

District 5 Barry Hobbins

District 6 Philip Bartlett, II

District 7 Lynn Bromley

District 8 Ethan Stimling

District 9 Michael Brennan

District 10 Betheda Edmonds

District 12 G. William Diamond

District 12 Bruce Bryant (PACE member)

District 15 Neria Douglass

District 16 Margaret Rotundo

District 17 Jon Nutting

District 20 Christopher Hall

District 21 Scott Cowger

District 22 Marian Swan

District 24 Elizabeth Mitchell

District 25 Kenneth Gagnon

District 26 Pamela Hatch

District 27 Stephen Stanley

District 30 Elizabeth Schneider

District 31 Earl Sherwood (Teamster)

District 32 Joseph Perry

District 33 Jane Cronk

District 34 Edward Buckley

District 35 John Martin

Tax Issues Trump Elections in Rhode Island

The election season in Rhode Island is a bit cooler than it has been in recent years, especially for carpenters. Though favored incumbents Patrick Kennedy and Jim Langevin both face challenges, they are expected to triumph.

Kennedy will face the familiar Dave Rogers, an opponent he has previously defeated. A win will give him his sixth term in Washington.

Langevin is mounting a more active campaign against challenger Chuck Barton, but that race is also expected to be a victory for the incumbent.

The absence of big races has allowed the union to focus on building momentum to address the issue of tax credits offered to developers.

Tax increment finance policies (TIFs) were developed to encourage construction or rehabilitation of property in non-desirable locations. In Providence, they have been used to redevelop old mill buildings into commercial or residential space.

But since Providence has become a more desirable place to live and housing is at a premium, many wonder if tax breaks are necessary to draw developers, or if it's simply a case of giving away the store.

"There may have been a time or a place for this type of program, but it's certainly not here and it's not now," said Council Representative Tom Savoie. "The city is handcuffed because the regulations are written to read that developers "shall" negotiate tax treaties. They don't have leverage to be able to negotiate for local jobs or training for local residents."

The package available to developers includes tax breaks from the city on 30% of the construction cost of a project, 20% on federal taxes

through the US Department of the Interior and 30% on state taxes. City taxes are usually negotiated to remain at a fixed level for a period of time, usually 8-10 years.

Members of Local 94 have been working with a coalition of labor, civic and religious groups in Providence to educate elected officials about the downside of automatic tax credits. Though the problem is most severe in the capital city, it also exists in surrounding communities. The campaign will move there once it catches on in Providence.

"We're talking to city councillors, making them aware of the problems these treaties cause and asking them if they're really needed anymore," Savoie said. "The bulk of the projects are being done by out-of-state developers who have no interest in long-term benefits for the area. Youth Build-Providence and Jobs with Justice are involved because, like us, they want residents to get a real benefit out of the development of the city. Right now, they have kids

that are pushing a broom for a few months or a year while the project is being built, but have nothing to fall back on when it's done. We'd like to see the city or state require some training so these kids will get some real help."

The coalition isn't just banking on grass roots support and lobbying. They're backing it up with studies that show the downside TIFs have on communities. The group Good Jobs First has been studying a variety of development trends in order to help local community leaders ensure they get the most for their tax investments. Reports they have completed are available at www.goodjobsfirst.org. Later this fall, it's founder, Greg LeRoy, will speak to members of the Providence City Council and other interested groups. LeRoy is the author of *No More Candy Store: States and Cities Making Job Subsidies Accountable*, and winner of the 1998 Public Interest Pioneer Award of the Stern Family Fund. ■

ABC "Dem" Loses Primary

An interesting battle was waged in the democratic primary of the 70th State Representative district, covering Portsmouth and Tiverton. Democrat Nicholas Tsiongas faced Jay Edwards for the right to take on incumbent Republican Joseph Amaral.

Edwards, an employee of non-union Hodess Builders and a board member for the anti-union Associated Builders and Contractors, had his Democratic credentials questioned when the ABC published a newsletter saying that "Jay and the Board feel that the [Political Action Committee] needs to be a priority if

our Chapter is going to help ABC National in its efforts to get the President re-elected...The President recently made some important appointments ... most importantly getting individuals on the National Labor Relations Board who are more sympathetic to the issues and challenges facing merit shop contractors who wish to remain that way"

Edwards claimed the statements were printed without his review by an overzealous ABC staffer. Whether true or not, the issue didn't help him with labor-friendly Democrats; Edwards lost to Tsiongas in a rout. ■

Connecticut Members Focus on Congress, State Races

Though Connecticut is firmly in the Kerry column in most polling done in the state, carpenters are not taking the year off from political action. There are several hotly contested races for Congress and the state legislature that carpenters are actively working on in Connecticut.

Many members in eastern Connecticut are working on the race for Congress in the 2nd Congressional District. The Democratic nominee, Jim Sullivan of Norwich, is fighting to unseat current Republican Congressman Rob Simmons.

Simmons claims to be a “friend” of labor, but those who know Jim Sullivan realize that he understands our issues far better and would be a much stronger voice for working families in Congress. The AFL-CIO, the Building Trades and all three carpenters local unions in Connecticut have enthusiastically endorsed Jim Sullivan for Congress.

Sullivan’s campaign has caught fire, thanks to carpenter efforts. More than 300 UBC members attended a rally in New London to show their support for Jim Sullivan prior to his first Congressional debate against Simmons.

Former Governor John Rowland’s resignation left the corner office to Jodi Rell, a Republican who opposed prevailing wage laws when she served as a State Representative from Brookfield. Without support from the Governor, it is more important than ever to elect state legislators who understand and support our issues.

In the Local 43 area, carpenters are actively working to elect Jonathan Harris to the state Senate, representing West Hartford, Bloomfield, Farmington and

Burlington. Harris currently serves as Mayor of West Hartford and is a strong supporter of issues affecting carpenters and their families.

In the Local 24 area, two longtime friends of the carpenters face stiff challenges. State Senator Edith Prague, the chair of the Labor Committee, representing several eastern Connecticut towns from Ledyard to Norwich on up to Hebron, has the strong support of the carpenters’ union and all the members of the Building Trades. Also, State Senator Tom Colapietro, who represents Plainville, Bristol,

Plymouth and Harwinton, is running against a tough anti-union opponent. Carpenters are actively supporting both of these strong pro-union legislators.

Finally, members of Carpenters Local 210 are working to elect Bob Duff, a state representative from Norwalk, who is currently running for Senate in Norwalk and Darien. Duff supported the annual adjustments to the prevailing rate.

Members living in Connecticut are encouraged to get involved to help friends of labor. Call the local union nearest to you and lend a hand. Members will be active right through election day. ■

Brother Miguel Fuentes of Carpenters Local 24 Candidate for State Rep Waterbury, CT

Please assist a fellow Brother in his campaign for State Representative. Call 203-755-5821 to help with events and election day activity. We'll truly be represented when union members are elected!



With GOP Push, All Seats in Massachusetts Are Important

The political landscape in Massachusetts could shift if Governor Mitt Romney’s aggressive push to contest and win more House and Senate seats is successful. Romney has targeted over 100 Democratic state representatives and senators by recruiting wealthy Republican candidates with access, in some cases, to millions of their own money to run in the November election.

Romney’s goal is to elect enough members to sustain a veto so he will be able to push the Republican agenda that is now playing out in Washington, DC. The other motive is for Governor Romney to create a reputation for himself as a person who can get the job done, thereby making him more desirable for the national political scene.

Due to the large number of races in the state and how many of the legislators are truly friends to union carpenters, it would be difficult to list all of the candidates that the council and individual locals endorse and support. An example of how they support our issues can be found by looking at two important pieces of legislation. The “Construction Reform” legislation, which helped clarify the issue of misclassification of workers and OSHA 10 bill, requiring certification on public works projects were both passed with 100% support by Democrats. Each local has endorsed candidates, but only those considered very close races are listed on the right.

State House Races

Friend

Rep. Joe Driscoll, D
Rep. Barbara L’Italien, D
Rep. James Murphy, D
Rep. Matt Patrick, D
Rep. Joyce Spiliotis, D
Rep. Kathleen Teahan, D
Rep. Tim Toomey, D

District

5th Norfolk
18th Essex
4th Norfolk
3rd Barnstable
12th Essex
7th Plymouth
26th Middlesex

Opponent(s)

C. Kokoros, R
M. Mareco, R
D. Veeder, R
L. Wheatley, R
J. McCarthy, R
E. Kirby, R
D. Slavitt, R

State Senate Races

Friend

Edward Augustus
Katherine Clark
Sen. Susan Fargo
Sen. Therese Murray
Sen. Robert O’Leary
Sen. Pam Resor
Rep. Karen Spilka
Rep. James Timility

District

2nd Worcester
Middlesex & Essex
Third Middlesex
Plymouth & Barnstable
Cape & Islands
Middlesex & Worcester
2nd Middlesex & Norfolk
Bristol & Norfolk

Opponent(s)

R Blute, R
Sen. Tisei, R
J. Thibeault, R
T. Duncan, R
G. Lees, R
R. Jane, R
J. Coffey, R
D. McArthur, R

Local Republican candidates will support the exact same policies that George Bush and Mitt Romney are pushing. There is no question that these policies hurt working families. We have a clear choice. We can fight back and elect candidates that will stand up for working families, or we can let the anti-worker movement of Romney and Bush roll over us and our families.

The Romney and Bush forces might be grabbing for power and complete control of this country, but this is still our America, and in our America we still have a voice! This year our vote is our voice. We must

bring our family and friends to the polls with us on Tuesday November 2nd and make sure our voice is heard loud and clear this Election Day.

Members in Massachusetts are also strongly encouraged to travel to New Hampshire to assist members on John Kerry’s campaign. With polls running extremely close, every bit of help will be needed right up to Election Day. Contact Political Director David Wallace at the Council 800-275-6200 or contact your local union for information about campaign activities. ■

Carpenters Boosting Clavelle's Effort in Vermont

Members living in Vermont are hard at work on the campaign trail, working to elect Peter Clavelle to the Governor's office. The Burlington Mayor is trying to unseat Republican Jim Douglas.

Douglas was first elected in 2002 and has been a bit of an enigma on the campaign trail this year. He is chairing the Bush re-election campaign, but hasn't been as out front in that role as many expect. Some have speculated that Douglas hitched himself to the President when poll numbers were running high. Now that the race has tightened and Vermont is a sure bet to go for Senator Kerry, Douglas is downplaying his role in the Bush campaign.

Clavelle has been focusing on plans to provide affordable health care for Vermont residents. He's also highlighting the economic success enjoyed by the city of Burlington during his time as Mayor.

Clavelle's economic agenda for the state includes jobs, jobs and more jobs. The message has resonated with carpenters and other union members.

Union carpenters and contractors have been raising their profile in

the state, beating nonunion contractors to pick up significant work at Fletcher Allen and Middlebury College. With membership rising and a new training center being built at Local 1996's new hall in Vermont, a friend in the corner office would be a boost to future union efforts in the state.

The Vermont House of Representatives is currently under control of Republicans, while the State Senate is in Democratic hands. The elections are not expected to lead to any changes in that regard.

Also on the ballot in Vermont this year is the state's lone seat in the

United States House of Representatives and one of its Senate seats.

Independent Bernie Sanders and Democrat Pat Leahy are both incumbents with strong support from union carpenters in the state who are expected to be easily re-elected.

The union is encouraging any carpenters that live in Vermont, particularly those near the border, to travel to New Hampshire and join Brothers and Sisters there in their efforts to help Senator John Kerry. Members wishing to do so should contact Joe Donahue at 603-621-7077. ■

Sign Up at Your Local Union to Become a PAC Contributor



Do you contribute to a Carpenters Union Political Action fund? UBC PAC funds at the national, regional and local level help to support candidates and issues that make a difference in your lives. Our voice is louder when we work together.

Ask your Local Union Representative how you can sign up to contribute to a UBC PAC fund.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that every major victory realized during President Bush's first term will be reversed almost immediately by a John Kerry presidency."

"As you all know, 2004 is a presidential election year and our number one priority as an association is to re-elect President George W. Bush,"

**Carole Bionda,
2004 National Chair of anti-union
Associated Builders and Contractors
at the group's annual legislative conference
(www.abc.com)**