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THE NEWSLETTER OF IBEW LOCAL 11

NEWS @ 11



At Paramount Refinery, IBEW 11 is Retrofitting the Union for a Brighter Future

By Grant Slater

IBEW

members are laying the groundwork for only the second refinery in the world dedicated to producing sustainable aviation fuel for the nation's commercial jets.

World Energy purchased the refinery in the South L.A.

community of Paramount in 2018 and set about fully converting it from a facility that processed crude oil to one that makes emissions-friendly jet fuel from animal fats and vegetable oils.

The Paramount refinery opened in the 1920s after the discovery of oil in nearby Signal Hill. The facility stopped using crude oil in 2014 and began producing biofuel. Now it is undergoing a complete overhaul, which is expected to be completed in 2025.

To do that, workers from IBEW and other trades must demolish or retrofit a massive amount of equipment, some of it more than 100 years old. For the dozens of electricians on site, that means a lot of work, safely de-electrifying structures that are going down while keeping the rest of the facility up and running.

Mark McDonald is the General Foreman for that demolition process, and he said working with
(Continued on page 5)

Vision Becomes Reality At Electrical Workers Minority Caucus in Atlanta

By Robert Fulton

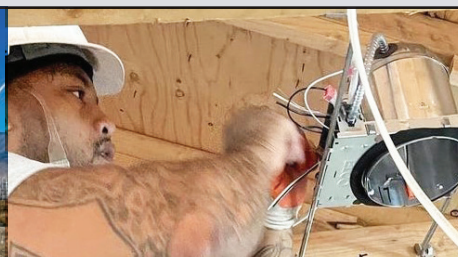
Atlanta, the urban capital of America's Civil Rights movement and the birthplace of IBEW's Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, played host to a convention this

month to celebrate achievements in diversity and push for greater inclusion in the trades.

A delegation of more than 30 IBEW Local 11 members attended the EWMC's 34th Annual Leadership Conference where the theme was
(Continued on page 3)



Keeping IBEW on the Cutting Edge



Staying Safe in Confined Spaces



March 5 Primary Voting Guide



BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By Robert Corona

In 2024, Get Involved and Get Ready to Vote

More than 32 years ago, I got my start with IBEW Local 11 after hearing about the Union while working at the Chevron refinery in El Segundo. After I got out of the Air Force, I worked in the refinery's Processing Unit, where sometimes I'd end my days covered in crude oil.

I still remember the day, with oil on my face, when I saw an electrician working on a motor there and asked him how I could get that job instead, and he told me about the IBEW. I went down to the Union Hall, applied and was accepted into the apprenticeship.

As I visited the World Energy refinery in Paramount this month, I was reminded of those early days and two things I learned from the start. First, it pays off to be involved in your Union. I was a shop steward in the processing unit at Chevron and became an instructor with IBEW Local 11 as soon as I could.

When I left Chevron to join the apprenticeship, my pay was cut in

half. But I've always been able to see the bigger picture, and I knew that being an electrician with IBEW Local 11 was going to be a career and not just a job.

As Business Manager, one of my goals is to make it easier for members to get and stay involved, because I want our members to be knowledgeable. I believe the more members know about our Union,

person again, because we need to hear from you. I talked about providing day care during General Membership meetings so more Brothers and Sisters with small children can attend. I proposed putting a rank-and-file member on our negotiating team.

These are the things I'll be working toward as Business Manager, because I want to make

we could also be working on a nuclear plant or on jet engines or in a refinery or a power plant. Those skills are really the future of IBEW, and they mean work for our members.

But securing those jobs doesn't come without a fight! The future of our Union depends on electing politicians who will look out for our interest. No matter what party you're affiliated with or whatever ideals you hold, the first and foremost thing you should vote for is your pocketbook.

Which politician is going to get more work for you?

In this issue, you'll find a list of our carefully vetted endorsements for candidates in the March 5 primary. In places like Paramount, the future of jobs for our Union depend upon politicians approving projects that will bring us more work.

Your vote directly impacts your future and the financial prospects of your IBEW Brothers and Sisters. We all need to get out there and vote for a future that is electric.

*In Solidarity,
Robert Corona
Business Manager/Financial Secretary*

The first and foremost thing you should vote for is your pocketbook.

the better decision making we can do together.

When I visited the refinery in Paramount, I saw some members there that I organized into the IBEW and some folks that I worked with on jobs over the years. There's a kinship there, and that put me at ease.

I spoke with them about making our allocation meetings in-

sure I hear from you.

The second thing I learned at the Chevron refinery all those years ago is that, just like it was for me working with crude, oil's days are numbered, and the future is in alternative energy and, as electricians, we will lead the way.

What makes electricians unique is that one day we could be simply hooking up a light fixture, but

IBEW 11's NEWS@11

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Rusty Roten

Vice President
Eric Brown

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Labor Candidates Look Out for Us

Brothers and Sisters, As we start the New Year, I would like to reiterate the importance of electing labor-endorsed candidates to all levels of government.

Our political/labor organizations and committees do their best to interview and select the candidates that have labor's

interests in their vision plan.

It's important that you, as members, be informed on the issues. Get both the pros and cons and don't be afraid to ask questions and have discussions with one another.

Also, just voting isn't enough either. Volunteering to phone bank, walk precincts and attend political rallies has proven to be very successful for us and for labor in general.

Please step up and volunteer when our Political Director reaches out to you all. Everything you do is very much appreciated!

As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask one of our Agents or call our Local offices.

*In Solidarity,
Gaylord "Rusty" Roten
President IBEW Local 11*



EWMC

Continued from page 1

"Vision to Reality: Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence, Wisdom, Mentorship and Courage." The EWMC was founded in Atlanta in 1974.

IBEW 11's chapter of EWMC won a nationwide contest in the run up to the convention to provide its tagline, "Vision to Reality." And here in Southern California, that is exactly what is happening.

"At the time that it was put together, it was in the '70s, when systemic racism made many members feel that they didn't have a voice in our union," said Alton Wilkerson, IBEW 11's EWMC President. "That was the vision. They fought for that. We still have work to do, but now we have people seated at the high table."

In the convention hall, IBEW 11 Business Manager Robert Corona reconnected with Edwin Lopez, a member of Local 3 in New York and Executive Secretary of the New York Electrical Contractors Association. Corona told Lopez that he had been appointed to his new position and Lopez said he was "proud."

On the final day of the conference, Lopez called out to Corona from his perch on the stage and congratulated him on becoming the first Latino Business Manager in IBEW Local 11 history.



"I'm not a big crybaby or anything like that, but that was really something," Corona said. "When we have a general meeting, it looks different up on stage. A lot of our members are Mexican American. Maybe they haven't seen themselves in leadership. Younger guys like that, maybe they look up there and think, 'That could be me someday.'"

One of the key talking points at this year's conference was mental health. A workshop presented by Dr. Keith Dempsey was especially poignant for Wilkerson.

"I feel mental health is a thing that's overlooked when it comes to construction," said Wilkerson, who is now also Local 11's Director of Organizing and Assistant Business Manager. "It doesn't matter what your occupation is; you still have the daily stresses of paying your

bills, taking care of your family, and all that stuff. It's a lot to take on. It definitely will place a heavy burden on your mental health."

The members attending the conference also took part in seminars on empowerment and solidarity.

Victor Blas, a second-year journeyman Inside Wireman, attended the EWMC conference for the first time. He said he didn't know what to expect and found the experience "inspiring," particularly the camaraderie as both a member of IBEW and the EWMC. Blas first got involved with the local EWMC chapter through volunteering on Skid Row and with Habitat for Humanity.

Blas said his involvement in the EWMC has been instrumental in developing a rewarding, community-oriented lifestyle.

"They were pretty inspirational to my success in the union," Blas said, following a shift working for Taft Electric on the Airport Metro Connector at LAX.

Summer Zachary is Vice President of the local EWMC

chapter and also attended this year's conference. She joined IBEW in 2012 and the Minority Caucus two years later.

Like Blas, community service is what drew Zachary into the caucus.

"For me, leadership took the form of just helping others learn about our trade, learning about our union and the wonderful opportunities it offers, and helping people be able to step into those opportunities," Zachary said. "That's what kind of sucked me in and why I continued to participate over the years."

At a meeting last year, IBEW International President Kenneth Cooper presented a challenge: to increase the union membership from 775,000 to 1 million across the United States and Canada.

The EWMC's role in that effort was evident at the January conference.

"We've always traditionally helped people that were interested in the program to get prepared through tutoring or just mentorship," Wilkerson said. "There are multiple ways that we try to help people in the community who want to join the IBEW."

I feel mental health is a thing that's overlooked when it comes to construction.

Fighting to Keep IBEW Electricians on the Cutting Edge

A Conversation with Bernie Kotler, Head of Sustainable Energy Solutions for the Labor Management Cooperation Committee.

It's Bernie Kotler's job to keep an eye today on the jobs of tomorrow. As the Executive Director for Sustainable Energy Solutions for the joint Labor Management Cooperation Committee (LMCC), he not only bridges the gap between contractors and laborers to create new work opportunities for IBEW members — he makes sure they have the skills to fill those jobs.

The local LMCC was formed via a partnership between IBEW 11 and the Southern California arm of the National Association of Electrical Contractors. There are 15 chapters of the LMCC across California alone.

News @ 11 spoke with Kotler about his work on behalf of IBEW 11 members:

What is the mandate of the joint labor management committee?

Our mission is to work with both labor and management to get more work for the organized electrical contracting industry in California. We develop training and education for IBEW and NECA members and aid in advocacy with state or local agencies. When I say advocacy, that may take the form of being involved in

advisory boards, commissions, and workshops. We have a seat at the table.

We say in labor, “if you're not at the table, you're on the menu.” What would you say to members of IBEW 11 about what you and the LMCC do to help them get jobs?

We use a number of tools to create more projects for the contractors and more work hours for the members.

How do you do that?

We look down the road, and we say, ‘What are the next big things coming in electrical energy? What are the technologies that are just beginning now and are likely to be much bigger in the future? How do we prepare our electricians and our contractors to be the most successful in these new technologies?’

The industry is changing very quickly. For instance, with

sustainability, if we hadn't seen that coming would we have missed the boat?

Absolutely. The main reason that our statewide LMCC trustees want us to spend a lot of time on new technologies in sustainable energy is that the trustees are visionaries.

They understand that the whole energy industry is changing rapidly. It's going through a transformation that is probably more significant than anything that's happened for decades. That transition is all about new technologies and decarbonization.

There's been technological progress going on in the electrical industry since electricity was first used, but I think the big transformations started in the 1970s with telecommunications. Solar was the next big transformative technology in the industry. It's continued with energy efficiency, building

automation, energy storage, and microgrids, as well as electric vehicles and the infrastructure to charge them.

All these things have become important over the last 25 to 30 years. They have caused a lot of upheaval in the industry. Most of those major changes are related to safe, sustainable energy, decarbonization and fighting climate change.

What's the difference between sustainability and renewables? And why is it important to differentiate between the two?

The reason my organization is called Sustainable Energy Solutions and not Renewable Energy Solutions is because the renewables field is narrower. It does not include saving energy or energy efficiency, and the state has a policy that we do energy efficiency before we do renewable generation.

The least expensive and the least damaging watt that you can create is one that you've saved as opposed to one being produced. We

(Continued on page 11)



SAFETY CORNER

Working Safely in Confined Spaces

By Mike Costigan
Safety Officer

With the influx of refinery work and the tasks required by our traffic classification, there are many hazards to take into consideration.

One of those hazards is confined spaces. This is not to say these are the only jobs that present this danger, they're just more prevalent.

There is a lot of discussion on what defines a confined space, but OSHA regulations spell it out clearly.

There are three types of confined spaces. The first one being that the space is large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter. The second type has a limited or restricted means of entry or exit. If egress is limited by its size or configuration, it's considered limited access. The third type of

space is small enough that it is not designed for continuous work.

Some examples of confined spaces are electrical vaults, boiler units, grain silos, turbines, and any underground substructure where you might perform cabling.

Beyond that, some confined spaces may require a permit to enter. In these types of spaces, there are other hazards to consider, such as a hazardous atmosphere, a potential for engulfing the entrant, or the possibility of asphyxiation.

Before any work begins at a jobsite, a competent person must identify all confined spaces and determine which confined spaces are permit-required confined spaces.

If a confined space is determined to be a permitted, confined space, the competent person must implement some safeguards. These include informing employees and authorized representatives, posting

signage, and implementing a written permit-space program.

It is important to test the atmosphere prior to ventilation to confirm or remove doubt of any hazards by testing near the top of the space, then the middle and finally near the bottom of the space. This will allow you to know exactly what the condition is before you enter. Once the condition has been determined, ventilate the space, and perform routine atmospheric testing. Always follow company standards and OSHA regulations.

On another note, your Local 11 Safety Committee has been meeting for the past three months and attended our first NSC Labor Division Safety Conference. Your committee members are Estefania Yanez Ceballo, Teddy Lancaster, and Hector

Navarro. We have been making great strides and have been conferring with other Locals on how they operate their Safety Committees.

We are holding our meeting on the second Tuesday of the month in the South Bay Hall at 5:00 p.m. We encourage all members to come and join us to share any safety concerns they may be experiencing on the job or contribute any safety knowledge.

We are always stronger together.





WORLD ENERGY

Continued from page 1

old equipment can be challenging and potentially dangerous if not properly handled.

“We’re held to the utmost IBEW standards,” he said. “It’s definitely not a glorious task, but the most critical thing is safety to make sure my guys get home safe.”

The \$2 billion retrofit will see the former Paramount oil refinery facility fully converted to sustainable fuel production that will boost the facility’s capacity 700 percent by 2025 to 340 million gallons per year.

By 2050, World Energy, and its partner in the project AirProducts, estimate that fuels from the plant will displace more than 76 million tons of carbon dioxide — the equivalent of 3.8 million net-zero-emission airline flights from Los Angeles to New York.

Louis Lazoya, the site superintendent for



Newtron Electric said that, at the height of construction last year, the refinery project employed 47 IBEW 11 members.

“It started off slowly, but it’s been ramping up as we’re clearing out the areas, which will allow them to demo those areas to build a state-of-the-art facility,” Lazoya said.

So far, two million work hours have poured into the ongoing retrofit and demolition. Officials from AirProducts expect the project to peak at hiring 150 to 200 electricians.

IBEW Local 11 Business Manager and Financial Secretary Robert Corona visited the World Energy refinery this month to speak with officials from World Energy and AirProducts as well as union brothers and sisters on the site.

“In this day and age, we know fossil fuels are not good for the earth,” Corona said. “But we have to have some way of producing fuel to run all our cars and our planes and everything. This plant is doing that, and this means work for our members. That’s really the future of IBEW.”

Corona noted that billions of dollars in federal funds are pouring into the production of clean and sustainable hydrogen and that AirProducts, is the biggest supplier of hydrogen in both California and in the world.

Tomi Riley, AirProducts’ government relations manager, said that the company has around \$6.5 billion to providing hydrogen infrastructure to serve the California market.

“There’s a lot of exciting developments ahead, and we’re really happy to be working with IBEW to make all of this a reality,” Riley said.



Members Speak Out

“I feel that we need great expertise to work in a refinery. So, you’ve got to be on your A-game. The IBEW brings that A-game. In my time, I’ve worked on both sides. In the beginning, I was working non-union and, now that I’ve worked union, there’s no turning back. The halls teach members how to do it right.”



—LOUIS LAZOYA
Superintendent for Newtron Electric

“Guys give you respect for being a union member and how we do whatever we do. The work is higher quality, and because of the camaraderie out here, it’s very safe to work in a refinery.”

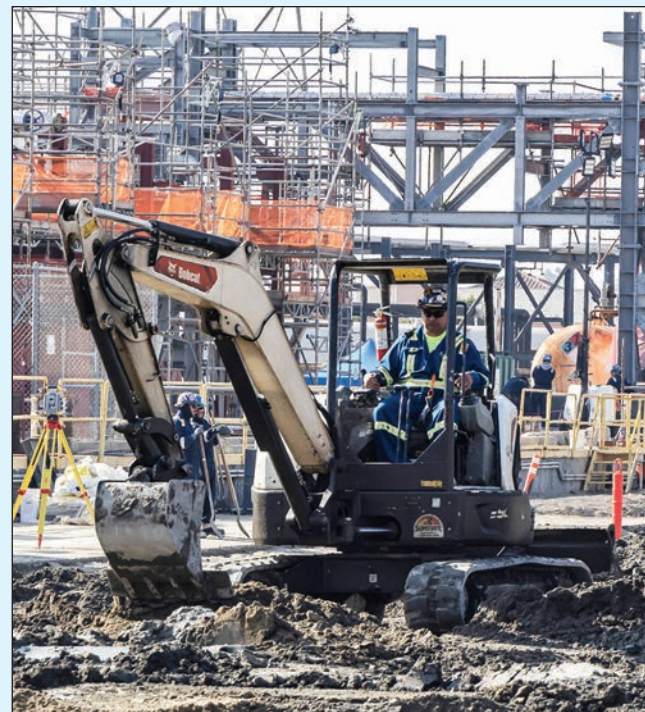


—FRANCISCO VILLALOBOS
Journeyman Inside Wireman

“Being a union member is absolutely life changing. We need to come together stronger as a true brotherhood. With every sticker that we put on our hardhat, we’re talking about solidarity.”



—MARK MCDONALD
General Foreman



IBEW Local 11 Voting Guide

MARCH 5, 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION

Biden Must Win

California Primary Election is March 5: VOTE

BY ANTONIO SANCHEZ

Government policies affect IBEW members in many ways, as consumers, as parents, and as concerned citizens. Government policies also have an impact on your paycheck, on safety rules on the job, and on the future of our pensions and healthcare.

Though we have won many benefits, it's important to remember that, as union members, we must continue to be politically active to keep and protect these benefits. All our victories can be taken away with the stroke of a pen.

The California Primary Election is on March 5, and President Joe Biden will be on the ballot for a final term. It's more likely than not that Donald Trump will win the Republican Primary and head to the General Election against President Biden.

Let me remind you of a few facts: Trump was a developer before getting into politics, and he didn't hire union workers unless he had no choice. Under President Trump, there were no Project Labor Agreements on federal projects. Former President Trump doesn't care about the working class and only uses working people for his political gain.

President Biden, on the other hand, has had our backs time and time again. Because of this, the IBEW fully supports his reelection campaign.

The Inflation Reduction Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill, and the CHIPS Act are all monumental pieces of legislation. They fund real construction projects that will be built by IBEW members. Biden was responsible for all three major bills. Biden also made history when he walked a picket line with the United Auto Workers in Michigan. It's clear that

California will be won by President Biden in November, but the battleground states are up for grabs.

U.S. Senate and House Races

IBEW 11 endorses Congressman Adam Schiff for the open U.S. Senate seat. Open Senate seats are rare, so there are many candidates running. Congressman Schiff has proven to be an effective leader in the House of Representatives, and he is our choice for U.S. Senate.

George Whitesides is challenging Republican Mike Garcia for a seat in the House of Representatives. This congressional district includes Santa Clarita and extends up into the Antelope Valley. George is a local leader, a former NASA Chief of Staff, and an aerospace entrepreneur. Mike Garcia has voted against every major bill that created work for IBEW members.

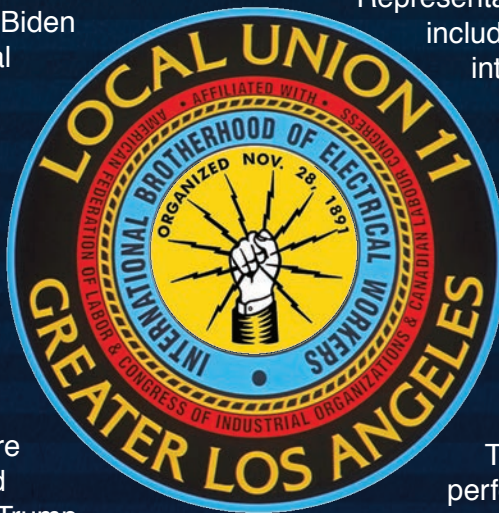
Also, keep in mind that Democrats need to pick up a few seats in the House. This congressional seat is the perfect pick up.

City & School Board Races

Local races for city council seats and school board members are just as important as these federal races. This March, we will also vote on local judges. I've included a list of candidates for judicial positions that know and understand labor's priorities.

Los Angeles County Vote Centers

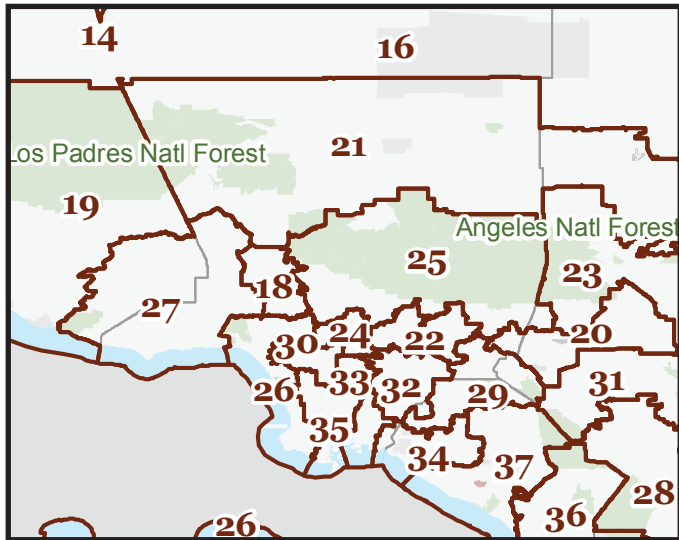
Lastly, please remember that L.A. County now has Vote Centers. At these centers, voters can mail in or drop off their ballot; you can also vote in person at any Vote Center. This means you can vote near the job site or near your home. We will share the list of Voter Centers when available. Check for updates.



IBEW Local 11 Voting Guide

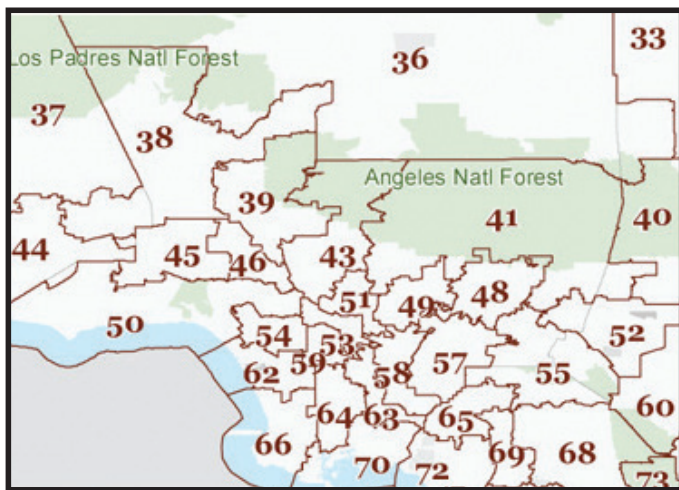
MARCH 5, 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION

California State Senate



Senate District 23: **Kipp Mueller**
Senate District 25: **Sasha Renee Perez**
Senate District 27: **Henry Stern**
Senate District 33: **Lena Gonzalez**
Senate District 35: *No Endorsement*
Senate District 37: **Josh Newman**

California State Assembly



Assembly District 46: **Jesse Gabriel**
Assembly District 49: **Mike Fong**
Assembly District 51: **Rick Chavez Zbur**
Assembly District 52: *No Endorsement*
Assembly District 53: *No Endorsement*
Assembly District 54: **Mark Gonzalez**
Assembly District 55: **Isaac Bryan**
Assembly District 56: **Lisa Calderon**
Assembly District 57: **Sade Elhawary**
Assembly District 61: **Tina McKinnor**
Assembly District 62: **Jose Luis Solache**
Assembly District 64: **Blanca Pacheco**
Assembly District 65: **Mike Gibson**
Assembly District 66: **Al Muratsuchi**
Assembly District 67: **Sharon Quirk-Silva**
Assembly District 69: **Josh Lowenthal**

Vote YES on Prop. 1 for Mental Health Treatment, Not Tents

Prop. 1 will provide over \$6 billion in bonds to expand our mental health and addiction services for more than 180,000 Californians in desperate need. It will also create housing for more than 2,300 of our homeless veterans. Vote YES to support this critical need.

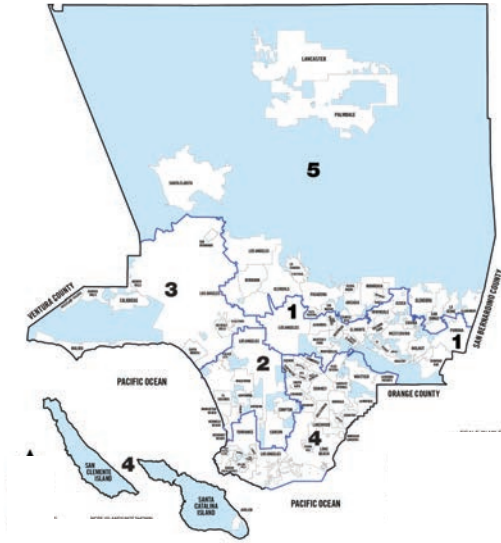


To determine which California State Senate and Assembly District you live in, visit findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov or scan the QR code on this page.

IBEW Local 11 Voting Guide

MARCH 5, 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION

County of Los Angeles

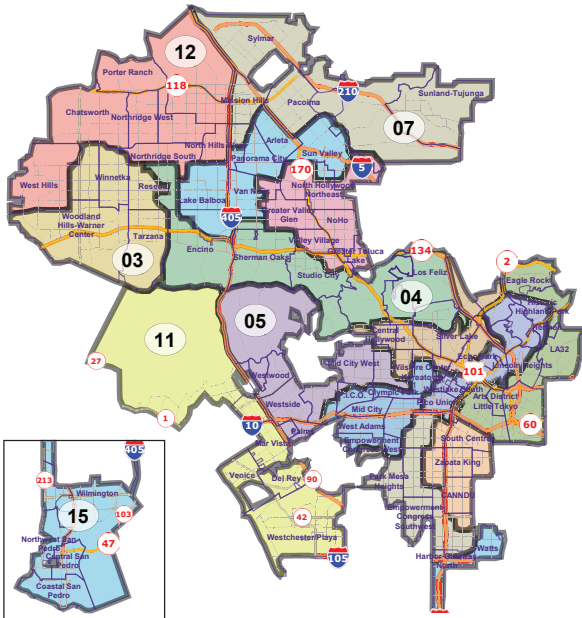


Supervisor, District 2: **Holly Mitchell**
Supervisor, District 4: **Janice Hahn**
Supervisor, District 5: **Kathryn Barger**



To determine which L.A. City Council District, L.A. County Supervisorial District, and LAUSD School Board District you live in, visit neighborhoodinfo.lacity.org or scan the QR code on this page.

City of Los Angeles



Los Angeles Council District 2: *No Endorsement*
Los Angeles Council District 4: *No Endorsement*
Los Angeles Council District 6: **Imelda Padilla**
Los Angeles Council District 8: **Marqueece Harris-Dawson**
Los Angeles Council District 10: **Heather Hutt**
Los Angeles Council District 12: **John Lee**
Los Angeles Council District 14: **Miguel Santiago**

Vote YES on Measure HLA for Safer Streets

HLA would improve over 2,500 miles of LA streets – for pedestrians, bicycles, public transportation and cars. And no new taxes required. Less traffic, better air, better transit options. Vote YES for a better Los Angeles.



Board District 1: *No Endorsement*
Board District 3: **Scott Schmerelsonn**
Board District 5: **Graciela Ortiz**
Board District 7: **Tanya Ortiz-Franklin**

IBEW Local 11 Voting Guide

MARCH 5, 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION



Senator
Adam Schiff



Congress
Anthony Portantino



State Senate
Sasha R Perez

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. Senate: **Adam Schiff**
Congressional District 26: **Julia Brownley**
Congressional District 27: **George Whitesides**
Congressional District 28: **Judy Chu**
Congressional District 29: **Luz Rivas**
Congressional District 30: **Anthony Portantino**
Congressional District 31: **Bob Archuleta**
Congressional District 32: **Brad Sherman**
Congressional District 34: **Jimmy Gomez**
Congressional District 35: **Norma Torres**
Congressional District 36: **Ted Lieu**
Congressional District 37: **Sydney Kamlager-Dove**
Congressional District 38: **Linda Sanchez**
Congressional District 42: **Robert Garcia**
Congressional District 43: **Maxine Waters**
Congressional District 44: **Nannette Barragan**
Congressional District 45: **Kim Nguyen-Penaloza**

CITY OF LONG BEACH

Council District 2: **Cindy Allen**
Council District 4: **Herlinda Chico**
Council District 6: **Suely Saro**
Council District 8: **Tanua Thrash Ntuk**

LONG BEACH USD

District 2: **Erik Miller**
District 4: **Doug Otto**

POMONA CITY COUNCIL

District 1: **John Nolte**
District 4: **Guillermo Gonzalez**
District 6: **Glenda Barillas**

JUDICIAL ENDORSEMENTS

Seat 39: **George A. Turner Jr.**
Seat 48: **Ericka Wiley**
Seat 97: **Sharon Ransom**
Seat 115: **Christmas Brookens**
Seat 130: **Christopher Darden**
Seat 135: **Steven Yee Mac**
Seat 137: **Luz E. Herrera**



To determine which U.S. Congressional District you live in, scan the QR code on this page or visit house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative or scan the QR code on this page.

CITY OF PASADENA

Mayor: **Victor Gordo**
City College Area 6: **Ryan Liu**

ADDITIONAL CITY ENDORSEMENTS

Gardena City Council: **Mark Henderson**
Bell City Council: **Ali Saleh**
Glendale City Council: **Ardy Kassakhian**
Glendale Unified School District Trustee Area A: **Telly Tse**
Lakewood City Council: **Ariel "Ari" Pe**
Torrance City Council District 2: **Bridgett Lewis**
Torrance City Council District 4: **Sharon Kalani**



DISTRICT 1 - NORTH
Brett Moss

Brothers and Sisters, greetings from District 1 - North. I hope this report finds you and your families well and that you all had a great holiday.

Work in the area is progressing slowly. We still have a mix of LAUSD, Prop HHH, and private work in our district. The project at Sunset Boulevard and Western Avenue is moving at a rapid pace. Hopefully, some of the other projects along Sunset will get started this year.

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you about our meetings. District 1 Unit meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m. in Commerce. The District 1 Welfare Committee meets the last Tuesday of each month in Commerce at 5 p.m. Our holiday party was well attended, and it was nice to see all the brothers and sisters that could make it.

With the return of the rains, be careful on the muddy, slippery surfaces.

Stay safe and be well. Always feel free to reach out via email, phone or text.

DISTRICT 1 - SOUTH
Shomari Davis

These are some ongoing projects in the region:

- OHILL – SASCO ELECTRIC is building a high rise that is more than 50 stories tall at Olympic and Hill streets. If a call comes for that, it's still a project with a long way to go.
- ELAC South Gate Regional HS is at a standstill right now. Taft Electric is on the project and hopefully it will get going soon. Right now, the steel is up for all floors, and we're waiting for work to resume. So, that will be a lengthy project once it gets underway.
- Cupertino Electric is still looking to increase

manpower in the coming weeks and will need to do overtime to complete the project to make the deadline. Look for that call in the coming weeks.

There will be more projects to come as we get into the New Year. It is an honor to serve you.

DISTRICT 3
Mike Costigan

Greetings from District 3! We are expecting work to pick up here in our district in the New Year.

First off, we have Sasco moving forward with two large projects. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art redesign project has started calling for manpower, and there's also a 37-floor high rise in Century City that is getting going. Fisk has also put in calls for the Purple Line 2 & 3 station buildouts. All three of these projects are considered long-term projects.

Rosendin has started the MSC South buildings along Westchester Parkway. They will build the concourse in multiple smaller buildings then truck them over to where they will attach them to the existing concourse.

Looking further down the line, they have started grading for the Terminal 9 project at LAX. Taft is also doing work here with the Airport Metro Connector as well as multiple school projects. I will be visiting a few projects looking to break ground in the future and will have more information next time.

DISTRICT 5
Mitch Klein

Howdy Brothers and Sisters from the High Desert! I hope your holidays went well and were peaceful.

Hot off the press is the new 2-million-square-foot bus and passenger rail car hub that was passed and funded for the Antelope Valley. This will create many construction jobs for some time to come.

Next is the Resiliency Emergency Building project at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds along with a new Training Center.

We are continuing work on the new Cedar Hall project at Antelope Valley College with more work to come.

Special thanks to Business Development and members involved in helping secure these and several more projects under a Community Workforce Agreement.

Many thanks to our officers Steve Joyner, Chris Bonfilio, Alex Murillo, Juan Winters, Ron Dreiling and Mike Kaminski. Thank you to all our members and God Bless the IBEW.

**INTELLIGENT
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS,
RAILROAD COMMUNICATION
AND SIGNAL MAINTENANCE**
Chris Longoria

Representing the Intelligent Transportation Division, I extend a warm welcome and congratulations to Brother Robert Corona on accepting the role of Business Manager/Financial Secretary for Local 11.

A few months ago, during a conference in Chicago, Brother Corona took valuable time from his busy schedule to tour the facilities of Aldridge Electric.

Recognizing the expanding presence of contractors like Aldridge Electric in Southern California, Brother Corona found it important to gain insights into one of the contributors to the growth of the IBEW's ITS division in Los Angeles.

Local 11 and its Intelligent Transportation Systems Division are poised to benefit significantly from our new Business Manager's leadership.

CIVIL SERVICE
Luis Arida

I want to provide an update on our contract negotiations with the city.

Our city members just overwhelmingly ratified a five-year contract that will provide more than 22 percent in wage increases to both standby and shift pay, as well as several other contract improvements.

Notably, we were able to garner a \$5-per-hour wage adjustment for our Wastewater Treatment Electricians at the Bureau of Sanitation that will help them recruit and retain qualified people for those high-voltage positions.

For further information, please attend our monthly Unit 14 meeting on the fourth Thursday of every month at 5 p.m.

VETERANS CORNER

Changes to Disability Programs for 2024

By Mike Kufchak

Director of Veteran Affairs

Fellow veterans of Local Union 11, the Veterans Administration has proposed changes to the administration's Schedule for Rating Disabilities. These changes apply to conditions related to respiratory, auditory, and mental disorders.

The proposed updates to the rating schedule for these conditions will enable the Veterans Administration to incorporate modern medical data and terminology and provide veterans with more accurate and consistent decisions regarding their disability ratings.

In addition to that, the V.A.'s Disability Rates have increased for 2024. Starting this past January 1, disabled veterans will see a 3.2 percent cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, increase in their monthly V.A. disability compensation. You can view the rate increase at the following website.

In other news, the fifth cohort of our Veteran Electrical Entry Program (VEEP) began earlier this month on January 5. The program has proven to be very fruitful.

Lastly the Local 11 Veterans Committee has established a Facebook page. Veterans, please take the time to follow us there for updates.

DISTRICT 3
Carlos Rodarte

Happy New Year from District 3! There are lots of projects being built.

This past month, I attended LA Harbor College's Career Event. It was interesting and very informative. Local city officials showcased some of their electric and hybrid vehicles, and they featured contractors who are performing sustainable work. They wanted to highlight for members of the community the work they are doing that will lead to green jobs.

The Los Angeles Community College District has a \$5 billion bond to make all its campuses NET ZERO and all-electric. Yes!

I see a lot of work for the members coming down the pipeline. In addition to these events, we continue with organizing non-represented electricians into membership.

DISTRICT 5
Adalberto "Beto" Gonzales

Happy New Year sisters and brothers! I hope you and your family enjoyed your holidays.

My organizer duties include visiting non-union job sites in the Antelope Valley. Two of the non-union contractors that I encounter frequently are Donald Tate Electric (DTEC) and MG Electric.

I have stripped some of their manpower, and I am currently working to organize others. When I'm not doing job walks in the Antelope Valley, I go with my fellow organizers in their areas. I also attend career fairs for different organizations and schools. Going to high schools for me is important. I like being able to give students information on our apprenticeship program, especially for students that may not be college bound.

I want to congratulate our Business Manager Robert Corona on his new position leading Local 11. I believe that with his hard work ethic, dedication, and the new vision that he possesses, our Local is in great hands.

EAA
Marleen Fonseca

EAA continues to negotiate for 6,000 City of Los Angeles employees whose contracts expired in December 2023.

Although it has been a long six months of bargaining with challenges that include a dim fiscal outlook for the city, we are confident that we will reach a fair tentative agreement for our members.

With negotiations as the priority, EAA postponed our annual after-holiday party, typically held in late January, until an agreement can be reached. It will be rescheduled and may likely become an after-

contract celebration!

In addition to bargaining, we've been busy working with the city to improve outdated hiring practices. This includes changes to testing and building alternative pathways for underrepresented Angelenos to enter city service, providing the training and resources needed to advance in a good paying union career.

EAA looks forward to another year of success with IBEW Local 11, working together to uplift workers and working families.

SOUND & COMMUNICATIONS
Citlali Castillo

Happy New Year to Unit 9! We are starting the year off strong in the organizing department of our local.

We see a great work picture ahead of us for 2024. We continue to visit job sites all over L.A. County. As always, members can contact me with any sites they know of or, if they are working with non-represented candidates, send them my way for information.

Continue to spread the union word; in doing so, let's not forget about each other.

I want to remind you to keep all your certifications current, register for classes at the ETI, and be ready to take job calls coming in. Let's keep the Sound Unit growing. Being part of this local makes us all organizers! Be safe out there.

BERNIE KOTLIER

Continued from page 4

talk about building automation, which includes advanced lighting controls, daylight harvesting, and efficient motors.

Even though solar and wind are certainly preferable to generating with fossil fuels, you still have to build that equipment. You still have to build those panels; you still have to build those wind turbines. That requires energy, and that creates CO₂. When you save a watt, it doesn't create any CO₂.

Are you always searching for the next big thing and then determining what necessary training and education is required?

Training and education is just one tool in the toolbox. At the same time, we are doing advocacy, business development, and networking. We're sitting on panels, and we're helping contractors develop projects. It's a big toolkit.

I don't think laborers or painters are experiencing nearly

the amount of technological upheaval that's going on in the electrical industry. Do other classifications in the construction industry change as much as electrical?

Changes in energy policy have been very favorable to the electrical industry, because decarbonization, for the most part, is electrification. Whether it's solar, wind, electric vehicles, building energy efficiency, or building automation, every one of them equates to more electrical work.

Along with these new technologies, there's been a lot of efforts to de-skill the trade. Every single one of these technologies has come along with people who don't know what they're doing and want to put in a narrowly trained or poorly trained "technician" to do an electrician's work.

That's why it's important to have a seat at the table, on boards, commissions, advisory boards and in workshops. It's a way to make sure that governmental bodies and other organizations understand the importance of having state-certified general electricians doing this work.

