



# THE DISPATCHER

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VOL 76, NO 5 • MAY 2018

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Photo by Robin Doyno

**Member to member:** ILWU Local 63 members discuss the upcoming California primary elections. From left to right: David Mora, Lorraine Alba, Kapi Lauriano-Heath and Eric Heath.

## Why voting matters: CA's June 5th election

ILWU members who live in California will have a chance to vote in the state's primary election on June 5. The outcome could shake-up the political establishment – depending on who votes and how many go to the polls or mail back their ballots.

Some locals are encouraging members to vote, and the ILWU's Northern and Southern California District Councils have interviewed candidates and analyzed which ones are committed to supporting working families and labor union members instead of business interests.

"Our District Council tried to interview every possible candidate so we could see where they stand on our issues," said Local 10 President Melvin Mackay, who heads the Northern California District Council.

Those issues include:

- **Support for ILWU issues and concerns.**
- **Willingness to honor or join picket lines.**
- **Supporting "Medicare for all" healthcare.**
- **Courage to challenge corporate power.**

"After interviewing the candidates, we talked among ourselves, and it was usually clear who deserved our support," said Mackay.

District Councils in both Northern and Southern California have compiled their list of recommendations, which can be seen on page 4 of this issue. Members should also check with their local union to see if they have any suggestions, as Locals 10, 34, 91 are doing – then make their own decision and vote.

Mackay noted a number of races where votes will matter on June 5, including U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

who is facing her first serious challenge in decades from Kevin De León, son of an immigrant house-cleaner who rose to be President of the California Senate.

Another race he's watching is for California Attorney General, where public-interest Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones is running against Xavier Becerra, who voted for NAFTA and supported ending the Jones Act that protects good union jobs – including members of the Inlandboatmen's Union, the ILWU's Marine Division.

"Everybody complains about politics, but some who complain aren't even voting, which makes me wonder how serious they really are about changing things," says Mackay.



Postmaster: Send address changes to The Dispatcher, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.



# LETTERS TO THE *DISPATCHER*

*Dear Editor,*

I am an African-American woman who spent 24 years (1983-2007) on the waterfront and want to share some of my experiences with readers of *The Dispatcher*.

First, let me tell you that without God and help from the old-timers, I wouldn't have made it. The work was hard and dangerous. When I first started in my 20's, I had no idea what longshoring was all about. I quickly discovered that the union membership was almost entirely male with family connections that went back generations. Because I didn't arrive with those kind of family connections and friends in the industry, it seemed like a stroke of good luck when I met Local 13 member Mark Williams in 1983, and his father, Walter E. Williams. I learned that Walter had been part of the "500" African American men who eventually became registered longshoremen after working on the docks during WWII. They had some hard times before becoming union members, but Walter always believed that the ILWU would become stronger if we could unite workers of all races – an idea shared by Harry Bridges, the ILWU's first

President. Women faced similar challenges, something I experienced myself as one of the early African American women to become registered. I became more involved and served as a union steward, where I learned from the old-timers how to understand and enforce the contract – and prevent injustices. I remember the early days when I worked on the banana dock where we unloaded 40 and 50-pound boxes with our hands and two cranes. I miss seeing Mr. Cooper sell his sweet potatoes at the hall, along with the "burrito lady. I appreciate the help we received from Mr. McCoy, Spiderman and Jelly who helped protect our jobs. And I miss seeing all the men who gathered in front of Ganon's Store on Fridays to cash their checks and buy a pair of gloves for work. I'm no longer working on the waterfront, but still carry the most important lesson I learned there: "An injury to one is an injury to all."

**Tami Lyn**  
**Local 13 Pensioner**  
**Bellflower, CA**

Send your letters to the editor to: *The Dispatcher*, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800 or email to [editor@ilwu.org](mailto:editor@ilwu.org)

## Bay Area proposition promises more ILWU jobs: Regional Measure 3 will boost transit & ferry funds

California's primary election on June 5 will provide Bay Area voters with an opportunity to support a local ballot measure that promises to generate more good-paying union ferry jobs while easing the region's terrible traffic jams.

Regional Measure #3 (RM3) has a dull title but an important purpose: improve the crumbling roads and transit systems – including more ferries to ease congestion throughout the nine Bay Area counties.

The first hurdle to passing RM3 is getting a majority of voters in nine Bay Area counties to vote "YES." The other challenge is convincing voters to raise tolls on all seven State-owned bridges by \$3 – in \$1 increments, phased-in by January 2025. It's been almost a decade since the last time bridge tolls were raised, and two previous bridge toll transit measures were passed by voters, so the odds are promising but far from certain.

If voters approve RM3, it will begin the flow of \$4.5 billion in new funding for a host of transit improvements, including expansion of the "San Francisco Bay Ferry" – a state-run program operated by the Blue & Gold Fleet. Most ferry workers, including deckhands on the vessels, are members of the Inlandboatmen's

Union (IBU) – the ILWU's Marine Division. The measure will provide up to \$35 million per year to operate the San Francisco Bay Ferries – along with \$300 million for new terminals, other facilities and new vessels.

Additional RM3-funded projects will employ thousands more union construction workers and other union members to:

- ✓ Build express lanes on Bay Area freeways.
- ✓ Improve freeway interchanges & connections.
- ✓ Purchase new BART cars & update the tube.
- ✓ Extend BART into Santa Clara and San Jose.
- ✓ Connect SMART trains to the Larkspur ferry.
- ✓ Bring Caltrain into downtown San Francisco.
- ✓ Buy more buses for Transbay & SF buses.
- ✓ Link other Bay Area bus systems together

"Passing RM3 is a great way for union members to make progress against the political headwinds that threaten to push us back," said Robert Estrada, IBU's elected Regional Director for the Bay Area. "I'm voting for RM3 and hope all ILWU families will do the same."



IBU deckhands who work on the San Francisco Bay ferry include (L-R) Bill Bartz, Keith Miller, Marcus Seals, Patrick Mooney, Carlos Guido, and Jesse Carr.

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The *Dispatcher* (ISSN 0012-3765) is published monthly except for a combined December issue, for \$5.00 a year and \$10.00 a year for non-members by the ILWU, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Periodical postage paid at San Francisco, CA. The *Dispatcher* welcomes letters, photos and other submissions to the above address © ILWU, 2012. Postmaster: Send address changes to The *Dispatcher*, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.

# ILWU Canada holds 35th Convention



**Union Rights = Human Rights:** The 35th ILWU Canada Convention tackled a range of issues to improve wages and conditions for ILWU Canada members and support for workers across the country.

ILWU Canada’s 35th ILWU Convention took place April 17-20 and featured four days of lively debate and conversation. Delegates were exposed to new ideas and inspirational speeches from labour leaders.

The theme of the convention was Union Rights = Human Rights. ILWU Canada Secretary-Treasurer Bob Dhaliwal explained the that the slogan reflects “Our fight to improve working conditions for our members – support workers across the country – and help move everyone’s standard of living higher.”

On the first day, Irene Lanzinger, President of the British Columbia Federation of Labour, spoke about the successful “Fight for \$15” campaign – which she said could not have happened without the support from unions like the ILWU.

ILWU Canada has been active in the BC Labour Federation’s successful Fight for \$15 campaign. “We understand that workers can’t survive on poverty wages,” said Dhaliwal. “Unions have to fight for the betterment of the entire working class – not just our own members,” he said.

Also on the first day, Natasha Tony from the International Alliance of Theater and Stage Employees (IATSE) gave a fascinating keynote presentation that explained how human rights are linked to the struggle for better working conditions, benefits and pensions. Among the examples she provided was her own personal struggle to obtain a decent job and raise her daughter as a single mom.

British Columbia’s Premier, John Horgan, attended the Convention on the last day. The 58-year old leader won office on a promise to create good jobs while carefully managing the province’s resources and environment. He’s a leader of the New Democratic Party (NDP) which was formed in 1961 when Canada’s Labour Federation merged with the Commonwealth Federation that had socialist roots dating to the 1930’s. The NDP is famous and respected for winning Canada’s National Healthcare program that provides “Medicare for all” type coverage for every citizen.

The Convention also featured a strong show of international solidarity with guests who attended from all over the world. Dynamic speakers included: Joe Fleetwood from the Maritime



**Hard work done for the day:** ILWU Canada Sec-Treasurer Bob Dhaliwal and ILWU International President Robert McEllrath enjoyed Local 500’s hospitality.

Union of New Zealand, Marc Loridan and Monique Verbeek from the transport Workers Union of Belgium (BTB), along with Frank Bomball and Bartosz Tuszynski from Germany’s Transport Union, Verdi. All spoke for the need to maintain strong connections between dockers unions in the struggle against common employers.

All of the ILWU International officers also attended the convention. Gifts were presented to ILWU International President Robert McEllrath in honor of his retirement later this year. He was presented with a collection of quintessential Canadian items including a hockey goalie stick signed by all the ILWU Canada local presidents and ILWU Canada officers. The stick symbolized the many times he has saved the ILWU from serious harm.

Convention delegates debated several resolutions, including a progressive policy statement that will remove gender references from the ILWU Canada

Constitution. “We want to continue pushing the envelope on inclusion,” said President Rob Ashton “Our founder, Harry Bridges, understood that any division among workers only benefits the bosses.”

ILWU Canada’s new and returning officers have two years before the next Convention to continue pushing an agenda of worker’s rights, health & safety and their union’s progressive social and economic agenda.

Outgoing officers Bill Hoadley, 2nd VP Education and Romeo Bordignon, 3rd VP for Safety, were thanked for their service to the Union

The titled officers returning to serve will be: Rob Ashton – President, Pat Bolen - 1st VP, and Bob Dhaliwal - Secretary Treasurer.

Newly-elected officers are Dan Kask - 2nd VP for Education and History, and Cliff Wellicome who will serve as 3rd VP for Safety.



Local 502 members Shannon Hoolsema, David Backie and Adan Noullet talked during a break in the action.

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San Pedro, CA 90731  
(310) 521-8796



**Southern California  
District Council**  
Cathy Familathe President  
Floyd Bryan Vice President  
Luisa Gratz Sec.-Treasurer

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE AND WAREHOUSE UNION  
**Southern California District Council**  
**2018 Election Pocket Guide**

In this election, we elect the Governor, every statewide officer  
and we choose our lawmakers. Please make YOUR voice heard  
by voting on **Tuesday, June 5th.**

**SHARE WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS.  
YOU MAY USE THIS CARD WHEN YOU VOTE!**

For more info, call **(310) 521-8796** or email **ilwusedc@gmail.com**

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SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**TONY THURMOND**

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION (District 3)

**SCOTT SVONKIN**

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION (District 4)

**NO ENDORSEMENT**

**US CONGRESS**

District 24 **Salud Carbajal**  
District 25 **BRYAN CAFORIO**  
District 26 **JULIA BROWNLEY**  
District 27 **JUDY CHU**  
District 28 **ADAM SCHIFF**  
District 29 **TONY CARDENAS**  
District 30 **BRAD SHERMAN**  
District 31 **PETE AGUILAR**  
District 32 **GRACE NAPOLITANO**  
District 33 **TED LIEU**  
District 34 **JIMMY GOMEZ**  
District 35 **NORMA TORRES**  
District 36 **RAUL RUIZ**  
District 37 **KAREN BASS**  
District 38 **LINDA SANCHEZ**  
District 39 **Gil Cisneros**  
or Sam Jammal  
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District 41 **MARK TAKANO**  
District 42 **JULIA PEACOCK**  
District 43 **MAXINE WATERS**  
District 44 **NANETTE BARRAGAN**  
District 46 **LOU CORREA**  
District 47 **ALAN LOWENTHAL**  
District 48 **HANS KEIRSTEAD**  
OR HARLEY ROUDA  
District 50 **AMMAR CAMPA-HAJJAR**  
District 51 **JUAN VARGAS**  
District 52 **SCOTT PETERS**  
District 53 **SUSAN DAVIS**

**STATE BALLOT MEASURES**

**PROPOSITION 68 YES**

**PROPOSITION 69 YES**

**PROPOSITION 70 NO**

**PROPOSITION 71 YES**

**PROPOSITION 72 YES**

**SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE**

VENTURA **CALEB DONNER**  
LOS ANGELES **ALFRED COLETTA**

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District 57 **CRISTINA GARCIA**  
District 58 **REGGIE JONES-SAWYER**  
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District 61 **AUTUMN BURKE**  
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District 65 **AL MURATSUCHI**  
District 66 **MICHELE SINGLETON**  
District 67 **MICHELLE DUMAN**  
District 68 **TOM DALY**  
District 69 **PATRICK O'DONNELL**  
District 70 **JAMES ELIA**  
District 71 **JOSH LOWENTHAL**  
District 72 **SCOTT RHINEHART**  
District 73 **COTTIE PETRIE MORRIS**  
District 74 **ALAN GERACI**  
District 75 **SUNDAY GOVER**  
District 76 **TODD GLORIA**  
District 77 **SHIRLEY WEBER**  
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District 79

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District 22 **ENG, MIKE**  
District 24 **MARIA ELENA DURAZO**  
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District 38 **JEFF GRIFFITH**  
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**HILDA SOLIS**

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**SHIELA KUEHL**

**CITY OF TORRANCE**

MAYOR

**PAT FUREY**

CITY COUNCIL

**TIM GOODRICH**

**CITY OF LONG BEACH**

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 5

**RICH DINES**

**Northern CA District Council**

**Regional Measure 3 YES**

**Prop 68 Yes**

**Prop 69 Yes**

**Prop 70 No**

**Prop 71 Yes**

**Prop 72 Yes**

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**Lt. Governor**

Gayle McLaughlin

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**Assembly Dist 17**

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**Assembly Dist 18**

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**CA Senate Dist 2**

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Phil Kim

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Richard Pan

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Tom Pratt

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Malia Cohen\*

**Bart Board – District 8**

Jonathan Lyens

**SF Mayor (Rank Choice Voting) Dual Endorsement**

London Breed\*

Mark Leno\*

**SF Board of Supervisors D8**

**Dual Endorsement**

Jeff Sheehy

Rafael Mandelman

**Election  
Guide**



# Oregon Historical Society Employee Association votes to join the ILWU

Earlier this year ILWU Local 5 was approached by the leadership of a small independent union, the Oregon Historical Society Employee Association (OHSEA). Formed in the early 1990's, the union had been involved in a solitary struggle to improve wages and working conditions for its members. Over the last several years the employer had slowly been chipping away at who was in the union with so-called "promotions" to management that brought the membership of OSHEA to dangerously unsustainable levels.

OHSEA President Joey Beach reached out to several different unions in Portland seeking support, solidar-

ity and ultimately a partnership. It was clear from early on that the membership of OHSEA and ILWU Local 5 had much in common and it was not long until the membership of OHSEA was holding a formal vote to affiliate with ILWU Local 5. The vote was a resounding "yes" and at that point, the members of OHSEA became the newest workers to join the ILWU.

Over the next several months, ILWU and OHSEA worked closely together in preparation for contract negotiations. We surveyed the membership on their priorities as well as moved forward with demands on the employer for open and transparent negotiations - where the membership could witness the proceedings first hand.

After several months of negotiations, we had achieved a tentative agreement. That agreement (which has now been ratified), provided for an

11.5% increase in wages over a three-year period. It also maintained a platinum level healthcare plan at no cost to the workers. It maintained all other economic benefits for the duration of the agreement—again at no cost to the membership.

The one exception was that while the negotiating committee did hold on to the 401K matching for current employees, something the employer was attempting to cut. They unfortunately did end up decreasing the 401K match by 1% for future employees. This reduction was the one loss we sustained through these negotiations.

This contract was largely about improving the union's ability to effectively represent the membership. In order to achieve that, the negotiating committee won the following provisions: notification to the union of job openings; notification to the union

of newly hired workers; notification to the union of disciplinary actions; expanded timelines on grievance filing; increased reporting to the union on safety issues; the ability for union officers to take time off for union business or training; on the clock union orientations meetings between union officers and newly hired workers; and on the clock union meetings (30 minutes) up to 3 times per year.

The contract negotiations were a success and more importantly, OSHEA found themselves with the support and solidarity they deserve. As we move forward in this contract the membership will work together to defend the gains made as well as resist any attempts to weaken the bargaining unit. Together we are strong!

— Local 5

## "They're with us:" Remembering the 32nd ILWU Convention, Portland



**Recreating history:** ILWU Local 5 members recreated a well-known of Portland longshore workers taken during the 1934 strike.

The year was 2000. The day was Monday, May 1st and the 32nd Convention of the ILWU was just being called into session. There was a major campaign underway in Portland, the creation of a warehouse local in the area - with the first unit being Powell's Books. And there, a scrappy group of booksellers was entrenched in that struggle to form Local 5 and become a part of the ILWU story..

We had been fighting for months for our first contract and through that, had experienced first hand the support of the ILWU and the locals in our area. But all of that could not prepare us for the what happened next. The workers had voted to strike in an effort to push the company to negotiate fairly and to provide a living wage to the then, dominantly minimum wage workforce. We were on the picket line (something new to most of us) and all around us the city was in chaos. Several blocks away, the May Day marches had turned into a warzone with pepper spray, flash-bangs and tear gas being used as means of crowd control. We could hear them going off and see the news helicopters circling overhead. The police were

being deployed in riot gear, arresting people left and right and the original May Day march plan, to come to Powell's and support the organizing efforts, seemed to be falling apart.

As we continued to march the picket line, management eyed us suspiciously from inside the store. But the business remained open and slow stream of customers continued to cross our picket line. Despite the apparent failure of the May Day march to arrive and customers lack of support to booksellers, we rallied our spirits with chants and song - "The War Ain't Over Til The Fat Man Signs" and "Powell's Books, Run By Crooks", but it was starting to feel like our efforts were having little effects.

Suddenly, down the street, we could see a mass of marchers coming our way. They took up the entire both lanes, were flanked by riot police and were chanting, loud. We cheered from the picket line. Finally, the May Day march had arrived. We were right - and wrong. Whereas the May Day march was still in chaos, trickling in supporters as folks left the fray occurring at the waterfront and throughout the downtown area, what we were seeing, what had come through with its support, was the ILWU Convention and the hundreds and hundreds of

delegates and guests. As they marched down 10th Avenue, the chants grew clear, "I-L-W-U! I-L-W-U". They grew louder and louder booming off the walls of newly built buildings of the Pearl District. Soon we were engulfed in a sea of white longie caps. And those faces from management peering out at us were no longer suspicious. The power had shifted. They were scared.

As the Convention descended on the store, the streets and sidewalks became impassable.

Several riot cops tried to grab some of the booksellers to make an arrest - then ILWU President, Brian McWilliams, backed by several particularly large longshoremen stopped them - "No, they're with us". Astonishing to us, the police backed off and no arrests were made.

The riot cops refocused their efforts on the front steps of Powell's, hoping to hold the line and protect Powell's property. But nothing was damaged. The ILWU was not there to destroy. The ILWU was there to build - a local and a worker's movement. And build

it they did. The May Day rallies forced the company to shut down the store. No workers to work and no customers to shop, the day was ours! The tenor of negotiations immediately changed and soon after the tentative agreement was reached and then ratified and Local 5 became the newest local of the ILWU.

Now, 18 years later, a full cycle of conventions, seven contracts, new organizing, and thousands of new and old friendships later, we look back on those formative moments and we know truly what it meant when Brian McWilliams said "They're with us". We were brought into the fold. We joined a movement of support where we struggle together. Where an injury to one really is an injury to all. We are ILWU Local 5. We will forever be indebted to your invitation to be a part of this family. We are proud to be with you. Proud to be ILWU.

2018, Portland Oregon, 37th ILWU Convention: Welcome back to town!

*In Solidarity,*  
Ryan Takas  
ILWU Local 5 Secretary-Treasurer



**Marching for a contract:** ILWU Local 5 members demonstrating in Portland in 2000 during the contract battle with Powell's Books.

# ILWU District Council supports community meeting on public education and private charter schools



**Diverse attendance:** Families, teachers, students and community leaders came to the neighborhood meeting in Wilmington sponsored by the ILWU SCDC: "Don't Privatize - Our Schools Are Not For Sale."

The ILWU's Southern California District Council (SCDC) worked with representatives from United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) to plan a community meeting earlier this year that attracted parents, teachers and ILWU family members to the Harry Bridges "Span" (K-8) School in Wilmington for an event titled: "Don't Privatize – Our Schools Are Not For Sale."

## Schools are a union issue

"We attended and supported this event because public education has always been a union issue – and always will be," said SCDC President Cathy Familathe, whose son attended public schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). She says union support for public education goes back more than a century.

"Labor had two demands at the early 1900's besides the right to form unions – ending child labor and free public education for every child." She says that unions deserve credit for ending child labor that once totaled 20% of the workforce in factories and mines – and half of those children were under the age of 12.

"The fight against employers to end child labor took 50 years, from the 1880's to the 1930's, and those are also the years when labor won the fight for free public education. Today we've got the challenge of protecting our public schools from being privatized."

## Explosion of charter schools

Familathe's comments speak to the biggest threat facing public education in a century – the explosion of private charter schools, especially in Los Angeles, home of the nation's second largest school district that teaches 640,000 students each year, employs 27,000 educators and operates 1200 schools. Almost 200 of those schools are now private charters – the largest concentration in America. Both public and private charter schools in Los Angeles have one thing in common; both depend on public tax dollars that previously supported public schools exclusively.

## Damaging public schools

"Every tax dollar that's diverted into a private charter school means one less dollar that's available for our public schools," said Familathe, "and they keep diverting more resources away from public schools each year." Losing those dollars to hundreds of private charter schools can quickly add up to real cuts in public education. A new study by the independent research firm, MGT of America, shows that charter schools stripped away a staggering \$591 million from Los Angeles public schools during the past year alone.

## No better performance

It would be one thing if private charter schools were consistently outperforming public schools, but leading studies show that most students in most charter schools perform worse or no better than comparable students in public schools. And the minority of charter school students who perform better are doing so for obvious reasons:

**More days** – The leading Stanford University study of students in 26 states found that charter schools added 3 to 10 additional weeks of teaching compared to public schools.

**More funding** – Some private charters, especially those promoted as having "miraculous" results, receive generous grants from foundations desperate to prove that private schools are superior.

**Better students** – Some charters attract better students that come from more motivated, supportive and engaged families.

**"Washing-out" students** – Even charters with "open admission" policies sometimes encourage struggling students with emotional problems and learning disabilities to return to public school.

## Ignoring impact of poverty

Studies over many decades have concluded that the best way to improve educational outcomes is by properly funding schools and reducing poverty. This fact lies at the heart of today's debate between public and private education. California has fallen behind in both respects; it once had the highest per-pupil spending levels

in the country and now lies in the bottom half. And while the state produces enough wealth to make it the world's sixth largest economy and boasts the largest number of billionaires on the planet, there are more children living in poverty and learning English in the Golden State than anywhere in the country.

## Promising easy solutions

Critics of public education who promote private charters argue that they can avoid increased school spending and policies to reduce poverty. "Just convert our public schools into private charters," they say, believing that charters can somehow magically overcome the disadvantages of poverty. Many charter advocates, especially the corporations and foundations that fund the charter movement, believe there's no need to raise taxes on the rich or worry about income inequality; no need for living wages that support families; no need for affordable health care, Medicare and Social Security; no need to improve teacher salaries – and certainly no reason to respect school employee unions that fight for smaller class sizes and better school funding. Charter advocates are almost universally anti-union.

## Spreading like cancer

Public school advocates see things differently. The 600% growth of charter schools in the past decade as a form of cancer that feeds on school budgets, turning once public schools into an increasingly private system that is unaccountable, undemocratic and ultimately bad for students, teachers and society.

## History may hold clues

Charters began as a brief experiment in 1988 led by public school teachers and union leaders who wanted to try different teaching techniques. But within a few years, their experiments were hijacked by political extremists with a vision of replacing public education with private and religious schools.

## Milton Friedman's dream

The charter movement's roots go back decades further to ideas promoted by Milton Friedman, a right-wing

economist at the University of Chicago who opposed public education, Medicare, Social Security and labor unions. Friedman's extreme views were not popular in 1955 when he published his plan to replace public schools by using taxpayer-funded school "vouchers." Among the few who embraced his ideas then were Southern segregationists who used what they called "tuition grants" to avoid and destroy integrated public schools during the 1960's, with vouchers that diverted public funds into private "segregation academies."

## Experiments in Chile

Friedman's views remained on the margins until 1973 when the C.I.A. supported a military coup in Chile that toppled the democratically-elected, pro-union government of Salvador Allende. The ruthless military junta that abolished all democratic institutions ruled with an iron fist for the following 13 years. The junta generals embraced Friedman and his team of "Chicago Boys," who destroyed Chile's public health, retirement and education programs – replacing them with private and religious "free enterprise" businesses funded with public tax dollars.

## Playing to racial fear

Ronald Reagan's administration was the next to promote the use of public-funded vouchers to privatize schools. Conservative, anti-union politicians hailed this strategy as a "reform" with political benefits, because it helped them win support from fearful, predominantly white, blue-collar parents who were worried about school integration. The first large experiment with vouchers took place in Wisconsin, where Republican Governor Tommy Thompson promoted the plan in his home state, then called later for using the same approach to dismantle Medicare and replace it with private insurance – now the centerpiece of House Speaker Paul Ryan's plan to privatize both Medicare and Social Security.

## Making money for Wall Street?

Wall Street jumped on the bandwagon to replace public schools with private ones funded by vouchers and public dollars in 1992, when the "Edison Schools" were launched. The

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**Union & community support:** The meeting on charter schools was organized with help from (L-R) ILWU Local 13 Vice President and Banning High Coach Gary Herrera, ILWU SCDC President Cathy Familathe, United Teachers of Los Angeles Chapter Chair Steve Seals, Local 13 Secretary to the President and community organizer Irene Huerta, Activist, attorney and community foundation leader Diane Middleton, UTLA Area Representative Sharon Harrison and ILWU Auxiliary #8 President Ida Taylor.

# El Consejo de Distrito de ILWU apoya reunión comunitaria sobre educación pública y escuelas autónomas privadas

El Consejo del Distrito del Sur de California de ILWU (SCDC) trabajó con representantes del Sindicato de Maestros Unidos de Los Ángeles (UTLA) para planificar una reunión con la comunidad hacia principios de este año que atrajo a padres, maestros y familiares de miembros de ILWU a la escuela K-8 Harry Bridges en Wilmington para un evento llamado “Alto a la privatización – nuestras escuelas no están en venta.”

## Las escuelas también es un tema que importa a los sindicatos

“Asistimos y apoyamos este evento, porque la educación pública siempre ha sido un asunto que importa a los sindicatos – y siempre lo serán,” dijo Familathe, cuyo hijo asistió a escuelas públicas en el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Los Ángeles (LAUSD). Ella dice que los sindicatos han apoyado la educación pública desde hace más de un siglo.

“Los sindicatos tuvieron dos demandas a principios del siglo XX además del derecho de formar sindicatos – terminar con el trabajo infantil y la educación pública gratuita para todos los niños”. Ella dice que los sindicatos merecen reconocimiento por terminar con el trabajo infantil, que en un momento dado constituía el 20% de la fuerza laboral en las fábricas y minas – y la mitad de esos niños tenían menos de 12 años de edad.

“La lucha con los empleadores para poner fin al trabajo infantil tomó 50 años, desde los 1880 hasta los 1930. En esos años los sindicatos también ganaron la lucha por la educación pública gratuita. Hoy, tenemos el reto de proteger nuestras escuelas públicas de la privatización.”

## Crecimiento exponencial de las escuelas autónomas (“charter”)

Familathe se refiere a la mayor amenaza que enfrenta la educación pública en un siglo – el crecimiento exponencial de las escuelas privadas “charter”, especialmente en Los Ángeles, sede del segundo distrito escolar más grande del país que enseña a 640,000 estudiantes cada año, emplea a 27,000 educadores y administra 1,200 escuelas. Casi 200 de estas escuelas ahora son escuelas privadas autónomas – la mayor concentración en todo el país. Las escuelas autónomas privadas tanto públicas como privadas en Los Ángeles tienen una cosa en común; ambas dependen de fondos públicos que anteriormente eran solo para las escuelas públicas.

## Dañando las escuelas públicas

“Cada dólar de impuestos que se desvía a las escuelas privadas “charter” significa uno menos para nuestras escuelas públicas”, dijo Familathe, “y cada año desvían más recursos de las

escuelas públicas.” El uso de esos fondos para cientos de escuelas privadas “charter” rápidamente lleva a la falta de fondos para la educación pública. Un nuevo estudio realizado por la empresa independiente de investigaciones, MGT de América, muestra que las escuelas “charter” les quitaron la asombrosa cifra de \$591 millones a las escuelas públicas de Los Ángeles solamente durante el año pasado.

## No son mejores

Valdría la pena si las escuelas privadas “charter” tuvieran un mejor desempeño que las escuelas públicas, pero los estudios principales muestran que el rendimiento académico de la mayoría de los estudiantes en la mayoría de las escuelas “charter” es cuando mucho igual al rendimiento de estudiantes comparables en las escuelas públicas y a veces hasta peor. Además, la minoría de estudiantes de escuelas “charter” que tienen un mejor rendimiento lo tienen por razones obvias:

**Más días de instrucción** – El estudio más destacado de la Universidad de Stanford de estudiantes en 26 estados descubrió que las escuelas “charter” agregaron de 3 a 10 semanas adicionales de enseñanza comparadas con las escuelas públicas.

**Más financiación** – Algunas escuelas privadas “charter,” especialmente las que han sido promovidas por sus resultados “milagrosos” reciben generosas donaciones de fundaciones desesperadas por demostrar que las escuelas privadas son superiores.

**Mejores estudiantes** – Algunas escuelas “charter” atraen mejores estudiantes de familias más motivadas, que participan más y que prestan mayor apoyo.

**Exclusión de estudiantes “que no dan el ancho”** – Incluso escuelas “charters” que admiten a cualquier estudiante, a veces animan a los estudiantes que tienen un bajo rendimiento por sus problemas emocionales y discapacidades de aprendizaje a que vuelvan a las escuelas públicas.

## Ignorar el impacto de la pobreza

Los estudios a lo largo de muchas décadas han llegado a la conclusión de que la mejor manera de mejorar los resultados educativos es con una adecuada financiación de las escuelas y la reducción de la pobreza. Este hecho es el meollo del debate de hoy entre la enseñanza pública y la privada. California se ha quedado atrás en ambos aspectos; en un momento tuvo el más alto gasto por alumno en el país y ahora se encuentra en la mitad inferior. Y mientras que el Estado produce suficiente riqueza para que se le considere la sexta economía mas grande del mundo y cuenta con el mayor número de multimillonarios en el planeta, hay más niños que viven en la pobreza y están aprendiendo el inglés en el Estado Dorado que en cualquier otra parte del país.



**Promesas vacías:** los defensores de las escuelas “charter” prometen una mejor educación y oportunidades milagrosas, pero los estudios demuestran que el rendimiento de la mayoría de los estudiantes de escuelas “charter” es igual que el rendimiento de los estudiantes de las escuelas públicas. Las escuelas “charter” también tienen un efecto muy negativo en los presupuestos de las escuelas públicas, ya que solo en el año pasado perdieron \$591 millones en Los Ángeles.

## La promesa de soluciones fáciles

Los críticos de la educación pública que promueven las escuelas privadas “charter” dicen que ellos pueden evitar el aumento en los gastos educativos y las políticas para reducir la pobreza. “Simplemente conviertan nuestras escuelas públicas en charters privadas,” dicen ellos, creyendo que estas escuelas pueden superar mágicamente las desventajas de la pobreza. Muchos defensores de las escuelas “charter,” especialmente las corporaciones y fundaciones que financian su causa, creen que no hay necesidad de aumentarles los impuestos a los ricos o preocuparse por la desigualdad de ingresos; para qué pagar salarios dignos, para qué tener asistencia médica asequible, Medicare y Seguro Social; según ellos, no se requiere mejorar los salarios de los maestros – y por supuesto que no hay motivo para respetar los sindicatos de los empleados escolares que luchan por reducir el número de alumnos por aula y aumentar los fondos para las escuelas. Casi todos los defensores de las escuelas “charter” se oponen a los sindicatos.

## Invaden como la hierba mala

Los defensores de las escuelas públicas ven las cosas de manera diferente. El crecimiento en un 600% de las escuelas “charter” en los últimos diez años es como un cáncer que se alimenta de los presupuestos escolares, convirtiendo a las escuelas que antes eran públicas en un sistema cada vez más privatizado que no tiene obligación de rendir cuentas, es anti democrático y en última instancia malo para los estudiantes, maestros y la sociedad. La historia puede enseñarnos algo

Las escuelas “charter” empezaron como un breve experimento en 1988 encabezado por maestros de escuelas públicas y dirigentes sindicales que querían ensayar diferentes técnicas pedagógicas. Pero dentro de unos cuantos años, extremistas políticos cuyo objetivo era sustituir la educación pública con las escuelas privadas y religiosas, se apropiaron de sus experimentos.

## El sueño de Milton Friedman

El movimiento de las escuelas “charter” tiene sus raíces en las ideas promovidas décadas antes por Milton Friedman, un economista de derecha de la Universidad de Chicago que se oponía a la educación pública, Medicare, el Seguro Social y los sindicatos.

Las opiniones extremas de Friedman no eran populares en 1955 cuando publicó su plan para sustituir las escuelas públicas mediante el uso de “vales” escolares pagados por los contribuyentes. Entre los pocos que entonces acogieron sus ideas estaban los segregacionistas del Sur que utilizaban lo que llamaban “subvenciones” de matrícula para evitar y destruir escuelas públicas integradas en los años 60, con vales que desviaban los fondos públicos para financiar las “academias de segregación racial.”

## Los experimentos en Chile

Los puntos de vista de Friedman fueron marginados hasta 1973, cuando la CIA apoyó un golpe de estado en Chile que derrocó al gobierno elegido democráticamente de Salvador Allende, que favorecía a los sindicatos. La junta militar despiadada que abolió todas las instituciones democráticas gobernó con mano de hierro durante los siguientes 13 años. La junta de generales acogió a Friedman y su equipo de “Chicago Boys”, que destruyeron el sistema de salud pública, jubilación y programas educativos de Chile, sustituyéndolos con negocios privados y religiosos financiados con fondos públicos.

## Jugando con los temores raciales

La administración de Ronald Reagan fue el siguiente en promover el uso de vales financiados por los contribuyentes para privatizar las escuelas. Los políticos conservadores y anti sindicales calificaron esta estrategia como una “reforma” con beneficios políticos, ya que les ayudó a ganar el apoyo de obreros miedosos predominantemente blancos que les preocupaba la integración de las escuelas. El primer gran experimento con vales tuvo lugar en Wisconsin, donde el gobernador republicano Tommy Thompson promovió el plan en su estado natal, luego propuso más tarde que se hiciera lo mismo para dismantelar el Medicare y reemplazarlo con un seguro privado – ahora la pieza central del plan de Paul Ryan, Vocero de la Cámara, para privatizar Medicare y el Seguro Social.

## ¿Más dinero para Wall Street?

Wall Street se unió al coro de los que querían sustituir las escuelas públicas con las privadas financiadas con vales y fondos públicos, cuando se lanzaron las escuelas Edison en 1992. La

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# TRANSITIONS

### NEW PENSIONERS:

**Local 8:** Raymond E. Oliver;  
**Local 10:** Carl A. Lomax;  
**Local 13:** Augustine A. Silva;  
Alberto A. Brown; Maria C. Cardenaz;  
Dagoberto C. Abila; Ryan A. Carson;  
Edward M. Kearney; Franklin N.  
Halstead, Jr.; Vincent J. Marinkovich;  
Collie Washington; **Local 23:** Robert  
L. Micheles; Boyd F. Johnson; James S.  
Lemon; Carlos A. Sambrano; John E.  
Anderson; **Local 26:** Rosalie Moran;  
**Local 27:** David G. Huntington;  
**Local 63:** Rosario Onorato; Armida  
M. Caseres; Janice M. Garnett;  
Frederic S. Serradell; **Local 91:** Frank  
J. Villeggiante; **Local 94:** Jeffrey  
Kealoha; **Local 98:** Roderick J.  
Edwards;

### DECEASED PENSIONERS:

**Local 7:** Kenneth J. Maneval;  
**Local 8:** Earl C. Trotter;  
**Local 10:** Benny P. Rodriguez;  
Gilbert Gonzales; Warren Dillard;  
Frank T. Mirabella; **Local 13:** John R.  
Despal; Lloyd R. Hutton (Marilyn);

Victor M. Diaz; Martin E. Davenport;  
Peter Kobzoff; **Local 19:** William P.  
Spear; **Local 21:** Edwin L. Johnson;  
**Local 29:** Peter Hernandez;  
**Local 34:** Richard A. Anderson;  
William A. Bonner Sr; **Local 40:** Tom  
A. Christy (Vickie); Jan M. Searing  
(Patricia); **Local 47:** Walter B. Knittle;  
**Local 52:** Robert A. Russell; Frank P.  
O'Brien; **Local 53:** Orton O. Kaminski;  
**Local 54:** Guadalupe Marquez;  
**Local 91:** Louis J. La Farga (Marilyn);  
**Local 92:** Kenneth W. Tallmon;  
**Local 94:** Salvador L. Flores (Sylvia);  
Robert M. Trani (Obdulia);

### DECEASED SURVIVORS:

**Local 4:** Evangeline M. Goodman;  
**Local 10:** Barbara J. Lara; **Local 12:**  
Maxine E. Johannesen; **Local 13:** Lucy  
Gregg; **Local 19:** Dorothy F. Woeck;  
Sadie Mae M. Bennett; Jean E. Dow;  
**Local 24:** Bertha E. Irwin;  
**Local 94:** Emma A. Lomeli;

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**ADRP—Northern California**  
**Hunny Powell**  
HPowell@benefitplans.org  
400 North Point  
San Francisco, CA 94133  
(415) 776-8363

**ADRP—Oregon**  
**Brian Harvey**  
5201 SW Westgate Dr. #207  
Portland, OR 97221  
(503) 231-4882

**ADRP—Washington**  
**Donnie Schwendeman**  
3600 Port of Tacoma Rd. #503  
Tacoma, WA 98424  
(253) 922-8913

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**Teamsters Assistance Program**  
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Oakland, CA 94621  
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### ILWU CANADA

**EAP—British Columbia**  
**John Felicella**  
3665 Kingsway, Ste 300  
Vancouver, BC V5R 5WR  
(604) 254-7911

# El Consejo de Distrito de ILWU apoya reunión comunitaria sobre educación pública y escuelas autónomas privadas

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empresa alegó que podría ofrecer una mejor educación a un costo inferior al de las escuelas públicas y al mismo tiempo generar una buena ganancia para los inversores. El esquema atrajo a los inversores hasta que se hizo evidente que las afirmaciones de la empresa eran falsas, lo cual llevó al colapso de la compañía.

### Las fundaciones corporativas

Hoy en día, la campaña para privatizar las escuelas públicas en Los Ángeles y más allá es dirigida por un grupo de fundaciones privadas, la mayoría financiadas con las fortunas controladas por una nueva generación de magnates corporativos, incluyendo:

**La Fundación Walton**, controlada por los miembros de la familia que heredó \$130 millones ganados a costa de los trabajadores de bajos salarios de las tiendas de Walmart.

**La Fundación Gates**, controlada por Bill y Melinda Gates, cuyo patrimonio asciende a más de 90 mil millones.

**La Fundación Broad** controlada por el promotor inmobiliario Eli Broad y su fortuna de \$7 mil millones.

Otros magnates que están invirtiendo dinero en las escuelas “charter” incluyen Jeff Bezos de Amazon, Mark Zuckerberg de Facebook, Pierre Omidyar de eBay, La Familia Fisher de las tiendas Gap, la familia DeVos heredera de la fortuna Amway, y muchos más.

### Las perspectivas de los maestros

En la reunión de la comunidad en Wilmington, la organizadora de padres y comunidad de Maestros Unidos de Los Ángeles, Esperanza Martínez y Arlene Inouye, Secretaria de UTLA y maestra de una escuela pública entraron de lleno al debate sobre estas cuestiones espinosas y trataron de encontrar puntos de coincidencia. Todo el mundo estaba de acuerdo en que la educación de calidad es la máxima prioridad para los estudiantes, maestros y padres. Los maestros explicaron algunos de los desafíos que enfrentan, empezando con la falta de fondos, la gran cantidad de estudiantes del inglés, y tantos problemas que tienen sus estudiantes debido a la pobreza, los abusos en el

hogar y problemas en la comunidad. El ILWU ha luchado durante mucho tiempo para mejorar el financiamiento de la educación, apoyando a los candidatos que apoyan las escuelas públicas, apoyó el financiamiento escolar con la Proposición 98, y la reforma de la Proposición 13, que ofrece ventajas fiscales a los propietarios residenciales, pero le da la tajada mas grande de esas ventajas a las grandes empresas a expensas de las escuelas,” dijo Familathe. ILWU está en el frente de batalla dado su apoyo de la educación pública, su deseo de terminar con la pobreza, y el respeto por los derechos laborales,” dice ella. “Sabemos de qué lado estamos”.

# ILWU District Council supports community meeting on public education and private charter schools

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company claimed it could provide better education at lower cost than public schools – while also making a nice profit for investors. The scheme attracted investors until it became obvious that the company's claims were bogus, which led to the company's collapse.

### Corporate foundations

Today, the campaign to privatize public schools in Los Angeles and beyond is being led by a group of private foundations, most funded with fortunes controlled by a new generation of corporate tycoons, including:

**The Walton Foundation**, controlled by family members who inherited \$130 billion from the backs of low-wage workers at Walmart stores.

**The Gates Foundation**, controlled by Bill and Melinda Gates, who are worth over \$90 billion.

**The Broad Foundation** controlled by developer Eli Broad and his \$7 billion fortune.

Other tycoons pouring money into charter schools include Jeff Bezos of Amazon, Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook, Pierre Omidyar of eBay, the Fisher Family of the Gap stores, the DeVos family of the Amway fortune, and many more.

### Teacher perspectives

At the community meeting in Wilmington, United Teachers of Los Angeles Parent Community Organizer Esperanza Martinez and UTLA Secretary and public school teacher Arlene Inouye waded into these thorny issues and tried to reach some common ground. Everyone agreed that quality education was the top priority for students, teachers and parents.

Classroom teachers explained some of the daily challenges they face, beginning with underfunding, the large number of language learners and so many problems that enter into their classrooms because of poverty,

abuse at home and challenges in the community.

“The ILWU has long fought for better educational funding by supporting candidates who back public schools, back Prop 98 school funding, and support reforming Prop 13 which provides necessary tax-relief for homeowners – but gives the lion's share of tax savings to big business at the expense of our schools,” said Familathe.

Supporting public education, ending poverty, and respecting workers' rights, puts the ILWU into this battle front and center,” she says. “We know which side we're on.”