

# Professional & Technical Engineers, Local 21



AN ORGANIZATION FOR PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES

San  
Francisco  
Edition  
May 2008

## Ballots for HSS: Re-elect Zvanski

The voting to elect a member of the Health Services System is on. Local 21 member and current incumbent Claire Zvanski is running for re-election and we need everyone to vote for her in this critical election.

Zvanski has a long history of supporting and championing the interests of our members, ensuring that the City continues providing the very best healthcare coverage for all of its employees. She is considered an expert among the commissioners on healthcare related issues and is well versed on all issues of importance.

Zvanski is the most senior commissioner on the board. She holds the decisive vote against an employer driven agenda, which means it is vital that each and every member vote for her re-election.

Ballots can be dropped off in the interdepartmental mail.

Be sure to vote!!

## Union Makes Endorsements for June Election

The Executive Committee followed the Local 21 San Francisco Council's recommendations for the June 2008 Election making endorsements on many of the issues which will be on San Francisco voters' ballots.

The union has decided to make 'Yes' endorsements on Propositions A, B, D, and H. The union has made a 'No' recommendation on Proposition C and a 'No Endorsement' on Proposition E. The union did not address Propositions F and G.

In candidate races the union endorsed **Fiona Ma** for State Assembly District 12 and made a dual endorsement in State Senate District 3 for **Carole Migden** and **Mark Leno**. The union has already endorsed **Tom Ammiano** in his bid for the State Assembly District 13 seat.

## Budget Deficit Looms Over City

Local 21 is watching as time slips away and little if any direction or consensus is emerging from either the Mayor's office or the Board of Supervisors about how they intend to tackle the budget deficit. Only recently has the Mayor's office proposed an exchange of a 3% labor reduction, in the form of an 8 day unpaid furlough, as part of a package to close the budget gap.

They claim they need 8 unpaid employee furlough days to reduce the number of eliminated and laid off city jobs by 500—from 1100 to 600.

Local 21 and other unions reacted negatively to the idea of unpaid furlough days to save jobs. The 8 unpaid days equal a one year wage reduction of 3% and would hit city employees at the same time we are struggling with rising gas, rent and food prices.

We are being told that if no agreement is reached to lower labor costs during the next fiscal year, the Mayor will present the Board of Supervisors with a budget proposal that will include 800 layoffs in addition to the 300 vacant positions that were eliminated last month. About 20 of the 300 eliminated positions were in classifications represented by Local 21. The 800 positions to be laid off have not been identified.

In addition, there is a proposed ordinance to cap overtime and city unions have been invited to a "meet and confer" to discuss the proposals. This move seems more in response to the flood of recent newspaper articles about the growing numbers of public employees making over \$150,000. Although these stories most often are neither accurate nor balanced, the bad publicity seems to have brought a reaction from the city's political leadership.

While the city claims the deficit has climbed to \$338 million, many Local 21 leaders with history with prior "budget crisis" say the city has a record of inflating their figures to squeeze give backs from city employees and defend other politically

unpopular program cuts. Local 21 has engaged Steven Raphael, Associate Dean of UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy, to conduct a close examination of the city's defect and revenue estimates. The city controller has committed to full transparency and cooperation with this effort.

Local 21 has been working with the SF Labor Council to explore the creation of a coalition of city unions to share information and work cooperatively with each other. We believe that developing an organized forum to meet with the city and explore positive and creative alternatives to layoffs and program cuts is the responsible thing to do.

It's an uphill battle. Too often unions feel in competition with each other when things turn bad and individual unions concentrate on protecting their jobs. We have a responsibility to protect the jobs of the people we represent, but there are many areas where unions working together may be able to minimize the number of positions threatened city wide.

Local 21 is hosting two informational meetings for our members on the City's budget, seniority rights and layoff protocol:

Members—last names starting with A through L:  
Monday May 12th @ noon at Local 21's office

Members— last names starting with M through Z:  
Thursday, May 15th, @ noon at Local 21's office.

Both meetings are nearing capacity, so if you have RSVP'd and decide not to attend, please let us know.

## City Proposing Overtime Changes

On April 16, 2008, several unions including Local 21, SEIU 1021, MEA, Local 6 and others met with the City to discuss the revisions to Administrative Code section 18.3-1 (Overtime) that have been proposed by Supervisor Jake McGoldrick.

The revisions limit the number of overtime hours an employee can work to 40 in a regular work week, excluding Police and Fire, or for emergency and critical service needs. Management explained that the purpose of the revisions was to address distribution of overtime. However, they could not give examples of where this was a problem, particularly with regards to

Local 21 represented employees. Management also did not have answers to key questions and so another meeting will be planned to follow up.

Key among our questions was whether or not approval by the Controller's Office and the Director of the Department of Human Resources is required in emergency situations or when there is a critical service need. We were informed at the meeting that if an employee exceeds the amount of hours in the ordinance, the employee will be paid and will not be disciplined. There was no clear answer for situations where there is chronic short-staffing and overtime is necessary to fulfill the mission of the department.

## Union Adopts the Phone Bank

We adopted phone banks for the June election for the first time in several years and many Local 21 supporters came out to participate in the Labor Council's efforts on May 6 and 7.

The phone banks are being held at the SEIU 1021 offices in Potrero Hill. Members and staff both took to the phones and called labor households throughout San Francisco to speak on Proposition B, the Retirement Charter amendment that a citywide coalition of public employee unions negotiated with the City.

We need to all support Prop. B, which delivers long overdue pension and retirement increases in exchange for modest changes to the vesting schedules for retiree healthcare.

Be sure to vote and to **support Prop. B.**

## Save the Date

The next Delegate Assembly will be held on June 7 at the Hotel Whitcomb in San Francisco. The agenda will focus on government budgets with a presentation by Bob Brownstein, a former San Jose City Budget Director, and now current member of Working Partnerships in the South Bay. Also on the agenda will be the annual adoption of the union budget and a guest speaker you will not want to miss.



**Professional & Technical Engineers, Local 21 (IFPTE/AFL-CIO)**

1182 Market St, Room 425 • San Francisco, CA 94102

Phone: 415.864.2100 • Fax: 415.864.2166 • Website: [www.ifpte21.org](http://www.ifpte21.org)