



Local 540 Cargill Members in Plainview, Texas Ratify New Contract

Nearly 1,800 members of Local 540 who work at the Cargill Meat Solutions plant in Plainview, Texas, ratified a new five-year contract. The new agreement, which is retroactive to September 13, maintains affordable health care and increases wages \$1.60 over the term of the contract. The settlement improved labor grades, resulting in immediate wage increases of \$1.00 to nearly \$4.00 an hour for approximately 200 workers.

Richard Vasquez, a steward who was on the bargaining committee, said, "It's a good contract that we can be proud of. After we saw the contract with Cargill in Friona, Texas, our members knew we wouldn't settle for anything less and we didn't." **OP**

New Poll Finds More Americans Want Obama to Run Again in 2012

In the midst of the economic crisis, with Tea Partiers getting major coverage on every news channel and pundits predicting historic losses for Democrats, things might feel bleak. But there is some good news on the horizon.

A new Pew Research/*National Journal* Congressional Connection poll finds that more Americans, 47 percent, say they would like to see Obama run again in 2012, while just 42 percent say they prefer not to see him run. This is better than the outlook for President Ronald Reagan in August 1982—when just 36 percent of the public said they would like to see him run for re-election. Reagan went on to win by a landslide just two years later.

Reagan also inherited an economic crisis, which contributed to his sliding approval ratings. But as things improved, voter confidence rose and Reagan won an easy re-election. It is hoped that a similar situation will occur in President Obama's case; this new poll provides hope that voters understand already that the economy is improving, slowly, and that Obama is not responsible for the economic crisis that Republicans created. **OP**

American Workers Staying Safer on the Job

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics recently revealed that nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses declined in 2009. While the total number of cases and the rate of injuries declined, there were still more than 3.3 million reported workplace injuries in 2009.

Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis lauded the numbers, but warned that workplace safety advocates still have a way to go in combating workplace injuries, specifically citing widespread underreporting of injuries as a problem.

Said Solis, "Too many Americans suffer each year from preventable injuries or illnesses they received while on the job. Even in these difficult economic times, we must keep in mind that no job is a good job unless it's a safe job." **OP**

UFCW Gold Leads the Way in Final Week of Voter Mobilization

UFCW volunteers and activists are on full-court press to turn out union members for next Tuesday's key midterm elections. With tight governors races in a number of states and the U.S. House and Senate up for grabs, UFCW local unions are out in the streets, at worksites and on the phone, making sure every union member understands how important it is to vote for candidates who will fight for us.

In Indiana, Local 700 is running an aggressive voter registration drive, worksite communication and ABC program, with the goal of keeping the State House out of the hands of Republicans who would erase the state's fair share laws. They are also the Region 4 ABC fundraising leader.

Across the border in Kentucky, Local 227 has an historic number of members out working to elect Jack Conway to the U.S. Senate. They are running a tight race against Rand Paul who is no friend to working families.

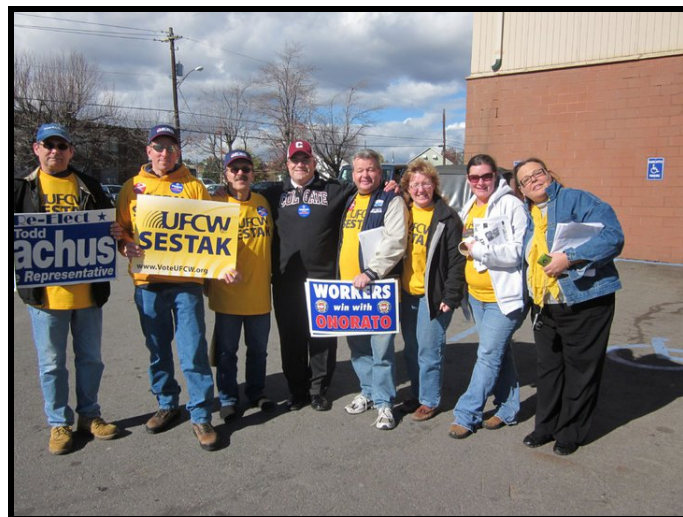
Races in California are at a fever pitch and many local unions have turned out members to reach voters. Jerry Brown and Barbara Boxer are recording strong leads over millionaires Meg Whitman and Carly Fiorina and UFCW members deserve credit for a strong effort in that race.



Local 1428's member-driven phone banks are part of the reason Jerry Brown and Barbara Boxer are moving ahead in the pre-election polls.



Local 1546 members are turning out the vote for Illinois Governor Pat Quinn.



Local 1776 members make sure that the members at Citterio's processing facility have plenty of information and motivation to turn out for Joe Sestak and other key Pennsylvania candidates.



With major U.S. House and Senate races on the line in Illinois, Local 881 members are out in force for candidates like Dan Seals in the 10th Congressional District.

The photos on this page are just a small sample of UFCW members in action around the country. Share your UFCW gold people power pictures by sending them to NewsService@ufcw.org and view a full slideshow at www.voteufcw.org **OP**