

## UFCW Enthusiastically Endorses Obama 2012

On October 20, the UFCW Executive Board voted to endorse President Obama for a second term. The UFCW is the first private sector union to do so.

“The UFCW is endorsing President Obama’s reelection campaign because our members understand how much is at stake in this election,” said UFCW President Joe Hansen in a press statement. “President Obama has stood up for the jobless, the uninsured, the middle class taxpayer, Medicare recipients, working women, and accountability from Wall Street. UFCW members are ready to mobilize for the president and elect more leaders who will stand with him in Congress and statehouses across the country.”



*The UFCW is endorsing President Obama for 2012.*

Working families are struggling during a recession created by Bush-era tax breaks, lack of financial regulation and unnecessary military escalation. Turning our economy around is going to take a tremendous effort that must be led by a president who speaks for the 99 percent of Americans who clock into work every morning, instead of those who simply watch stock tickers all day.

“UFCW members have never stopped fighting back in statehouses and in their communities, and they are ready to win the fight for the White House in 2012,” said Hansen. “The UFCW will be mobilizing, organizing and energizing our members, their friends and families to keep President Obama in the White House and elect a Congress that works hard for hard working Americans.” **OP**

## JBS Workers Say Union Yes with Local 951

On October 19, a majority of workers at the JBS slaughterhouse and production facility in Plainwell, Mich., voted to join UFCW Local 951. Workers said they wanted a union voice on the job in order to address unjust terminations, unsafe working conditions, and an unfair compensation system where new employees were earning more than workers with more than 15 years of service to the company.

“This win feels great,” said Troy Schlotterback, a JBS employee and a part of the organizing committee. “I come from a union family and I have worked in a union plant in the past. I have seen, firsthand, what a union can do for the middle class.”

JBS is the world’s largest processor of fresh beef and pork, with more than US\$30 billion in annual sales as of 2010. JBS acquired this Packerland plant in 2008. During the workers’ campaign, JBS allowed a free and fair process for workers to decide whether they wanted union representation. The campaign was similar to previous JBS campaigns in Hyrum, Utah, and Souderton, Penn.

One thousand workers at the West Michigan plant will join with 28,000 other JBS workers who already enjoy the benefits of UFCW union representation on the job. **OP**



*A majority of JBS workers in Plainview, Mich., voted for a voice on the job with Local 951.*

## Walmart Health Care Roll Back Bad for Workers

Last week, Walmart announced a plan to roll back health care coverage for part-time workers and raise premiums for full-time employees. As the world's largest retail employer, this plan will lower standards for all American workers and have repercussions throughout the retail industry, particularly for part-time workers.

Listed below are talking points that UFCW Locals can use to address this latest development:

- Retail jobs are the jobs of the future. In fact, retail is one of the only sectors of our economy that's growing. Much like manufacturing once did, retail jobs will define how it is to live and work in America in the 21st century.
- It's critically important that retail employers compensate their workers with pay and benefits that allow them to live in the middle class.
- That's why retail workers have been sticking together in their union for decades. Together in the UFCW, they've bargained good health care coverage for more part-timers than any other union. In doing so, they've brought up the economic standards for hundreds of thousands of workers, their families and communities.
- Walmart could - and should - lead the way in making sure that retail jobs are good jobs-the kind that come with good benefits and wages for all workers.
- The Waltons are one of the wealthiest families in the country, and that means they have a responsibility to provide good jobs and help shore up our middle class - not take advantage of the economic crisis.
- Walmart Associates are coming together to speak out against these changes through the Organization United for Respect at Walmart (OUR Walmart). Associates should join online at [www.forrespect.org](http://www.forrespect.org). **OP**

## Bob's Discount Furniture Workers in Manchester, N.H. Vote Union Yes with UFCW Local 1445

Employees at Bob's Discount Furniture continue to organize and win. The workers' latest victory came on October 17 in Manchester, N.H. A majority of the 26 employees there voted UFCW "Yes" and joined 64 of their Bob's coworkers from Stamford, Orange, and Manchester, Conn. who joined UFCW Local 919 earlier this year.

Elections at Bob's stores in Glendale, Freeport, and Farmingdale, N.Y. will be held on November 14 and 21, and dates should be announced soon for stores in Nanuet, N.Y. and North Plainfield, N.J.

Bob's Discount Furniture was formerly a privately held company, but is now controlled by the London-based private equity firm Apax Partners. **OP**



*Wall Mart Free NYC joined the Occupy Wall Street movement at Liberty Park in New York City last Thursday. Workers talked about how Wall Street greed and companies like Walmart are wrecking good jobs here in America, and how Walmart workers are coming together to demand respect and change Walmart for the better.*