

UFCW Locals in Calif. Come Together to Fight for Workers' Rights on the Ballot

UFCW members from across California are teaming up with state and local officials for one of the biggest fights of the year. Workers are coming together to oppose Proposition 32, a measure that will appear on the November statewide ballot.



Members attend a workshop to learn more about Prop 32 and what action they can take on Election Day.

Prop. 32 threatens union members' ability to fight for good jobs, fair wages, workplace safety and retirement security. It claims to be about "reform" but it really prohibits union members from having a voice in politics while creating special exemptions that give even more power to corporate special interests. Prop. 32 bans both unions and corporations from using any funds collected through payroll deduction for politics. Corporations, though, almost never use payroll deduction for politics; they use their massive profits. With the special exemptions in Prop. 32, corporate special interests will be able to spend with no limits on political campaigns while union members will have their voices silenced.

Members from UFCW Locals 5, 8-GS, 135, 324, 648, 770, 1167, 1428, and 1442 are fighting against the measure by educating their co-workers and taking action. Members have been traveling across the state to host workshops about the measure and what they can do to bring their co-workers together to fight it.

At the workshops, members learn messaging tactics to help bring workers together and vote "NO" on Prop 32. Locals are also organizing voter registration campaigns this month to ensure that workers are ready to vote on Election Day.

Members can learn more about Proposition 32 and the upcoming election fight for workers' rights by visiting <http://www.calaborfed.org/> **OP**

OUR Walmart Members Join Faith and Community Leaders for Workers' Rights Event

This week, members of OUR Walmart (Organization United for Respect at Walmart) attended "Organizing as a Civil Right: The Struggle for Dignity and Respect at Walmart" hosted by the National Workers' Rights Board in Washington, D.C. Terry O'Neill, President of the National Organization of Women, and Barbara Ehrenreich, author of *Nickel and Dimed*, both emceed the event. The National Workers' Rights Board is a body of faith and community leaders, elected officials, and scholars. The event provided the opportunity to hear testimony from two groups of workers who are coming together in solidarity to hold the world's largest retailer accountable.



OUR Walmart members participated in the "Organizing as a Civil Right: The Struggle for Dignity and Respect at Walmart" event hosted by the National Workers' Rights Board.

Through OUR Walmart, associates have been speaking out about issues at their workplaces and asking their company to change. At the event, several OUR Walmart workers told their stories of how they continue their calls for change at Walmart despite facing retaliation and getting fired from the company. Wessa Milien and Angela Williamson, both OUR Walmart members, were fired earlier this summer for speaking up for themselves and their co-workers.

Ana Diaz, a Mexican guestworker who joined the National Guestworkers' Alliance shared how she and her co-workers exposed forced labor in Walmart's U.S. supply chain and the extent of abuse and violent threats made by the Walmart supplier. Both groups of workers are determined to keep fighting for their basic human rights throughout Walmart's retail and supply chain. **OP**

Members from UFCW Local 23 Feed the Hungry in Western Pennsylvania in Two Events



Members from UFCW Local 23 participate in the Feeding the Hungry campaign in Pittsburgh and Erie, Pennsylvania.

Members from UFCW Local 23 participated in two Feeding the Hungry events in Pennsylvania last week. On July 31, members partnered with Smithfield and Giant Eagle to donate servings of protein to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. The food bank serves about 1,500 new households each month and reaches around 110,000 households across 11 counties.



On August 2, UFCW Local 23 members continued the Feeding the Hungry campaign in Erie, Pennsylvania. Over 30,000 pounds of protein was delivered to the Second Harvest Food Bank of NW Pa. The only food bank in northwest Pennsylvania, Second Harvest is the major supplier of food to a network of 251 member charitable agencies that obtain products from their warehouse and distribute them to individuals and families facing hard times. **OP**

Online Resources on Immigration Reform Available to Members

In an important step toward common sense immigration reform, President Obama issued a directive in June which allows undocumented people who were brought to the U.S. as children to remain here. This will allow them to stay in the U.S. legally, without the threat of deportation.

UFCW International President Joe Hansen called the directive an important investment in the American Dream. "President Obama is embracing these promising students and soldiers who have demonstrated a commitment to hard work and a strong desire to be upstanding members of our society," he said.

As a follow-up, the UFCW has launched an online resource where members can see if they or their children qualify for this program. Visit www.ufcwaction.org/DREAM for flyers in English and Spanish outlining the guidelines and qualifications. **OP**

Make Your DREAMS Come True

President Obama issued a directive on June 15th which allows undocumented people who were brought to the U.S. as children to remain in the U.S. lawfully. This will allow them to stay in the U.S. legally, without the threat of deportation.

You or your children may qualify for this program if you/they:

- (1) came to the U.S. under the age of 16;
- (2) have continuously resided in the U.S. for at least five years preceding June 15, 2012 and are present in the U.S. on June 15, 2012;
- (3) are currently in school, graduated from high school, obtained a general education development certificate, or are honorably discharged from the Coast Guard or Armed Forces;
- (4) have not been convicted of a felony, serious misdemeanor or multiple misdemeanors, or are not otherwise a threat to public safety or national security; and
- (5) are no older than age 30.

Immigrants granted deferred action under this program may apply separately for employment authorization, which includes an application fee, through USCIS.

If you feel that you or your children may qualify, please contact your local union for assistance with enrolling, or visit www.ufcwaction.org/DREAM.

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