

Local 888 Goes All Out for 2012 Election

After the election of a new leadership team at Local 888 last spring, we made a commitment to our members and to the International Union to work to elect pro-worker candidates. President Mark DelloRusso and Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Rodrigues asked members to volunteer and assigned staff to work in either Massachusetts or New Hampshire to support the election effort. The weeks of hard work paid off. Here is what Local 888 did:

- 81 members volunteered for Election Day and Get Out the Vote activities;
- 41 member worksite organizers talked with members about the elections.
- Members and staff spent a combined total of 241 days in the field in MA and NH;
- Phone calls were made to 3,937 members in support of endorsed candidates;
- 4,248 mailings were sent to Local 888 members with information about where the candidates stood on our issues.



SEIU Community Action members at a Springfield rally for Elizabeth Warren.



Local 888 members Eino Lopez, Rosa Matias and Jorge Vargas at a rally for Elizabeth Warren in Lowell.

The “Fiscal Cliff:” What will you do to protect your job?

Anyone watching the post-election news has no doubt heard about the approaching “fiscal cliff.” If Congress does not reach a budget deal by January 1, 2013 automatic cuts will kick-in, cutting military spending by 10 percent and domestic programs by 8 percent across the board.

Many Local 888 members’ jobs are funded directly or indirectly by the Federal government. If a deal is not reached, the automatic cuts could result in layoffs of thousands public employees and other service workers—potentially pushing the economy back into recession.

Avoiding the fiscal cliff is crucial to the survival of many Local 888 members and thousands of other public service workers

in Massachusetts. Whether you are a public school custodian or a Head Start early educator, the proposed cuts will be fast and deep.

We’ve learned from the past that members can’t sit back and rely on President Obama to fix the problem. He simply can’t do it alone.



Political Action Committee member Jorge Vargas calls members in support of Elizabeth Warren.

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Fifth wave (from cover)

That's why Local 888 leaders have teamed up with other public service unions in Massachusetts to apply pressure on Congress to reach an agreement that does not put the burden on working class families and the poor. SEIU is calling that effort the "5th Wave."

The 5th Wave is part of a larger "Jobs Not Cuts" campaign with the goal of staving off cuts that could impact SEIU's membership and vital public services like health care and education.



Local 888 Member Political Organizer Carla Elder. MPOs from four SEIU locals will be helping to communicate the importance of the services our members provide.

Member Political Organizers (MPO) from SEIU Locals 888, 509, 615 and 1199 will be working with members across the state to contact their representatives in Congress about how the services we provide are critical to their communities.

The campaign will focus on engaging members in political action through joining the Committee on Political Action (COPA), collecting "Jobs Not Cuts" postcards to give to our elected officials, and building participation in a December 10 statewide action to support public services.

Get Involved

If you'd like to get involved with the 5th Wave program or are interested in being a Member Political Organizer, contact Local 888 Interim Political Director Dan Hoffer at dhoffer@seiu888.org or call (617) 784-9369.

SEIU Community Action Joint GOTV Effort

The SEIU Community action program in Brockton was led by Local 888. It started on Sept 10 and finished after the election. It was a concerted effort by Local 888 and the Massachusetts SEIU State Council to increase voter turnout in the community. The idea was that if SEIU could significantly raise turnout among people who vote infrequently in urban areas like Boston, Brockton, Springfield,



Team Brockton (from left): Tomas Gonzales and Angel Howell (MassUniting), Daniel Hoffer (SEIU Local 888), Jon Stroud (SEIU Local 888), and John Guerrier (SEIU Local 509).

Lawrence, Lynn, Fall River and New Bedford, then Elizabeth Warren would win the Election.

It worked! SEIU Community Action in Brockton alone knocked on over 13,000 doors increasing voter turnout over 2008 levels by 3 percent. Over all SEIU Community Action helped beat 2008 turnout levels by over 6 percent. The increased turnout was

a major factor helping Elizabeth Warren win an eight point victory over incumbent U.S. Senator Scott Brown. The whole program was paid for by COPA contributions from Massachusetts SEIU members.



Local 888 Executive Board member Kwesi Ablordeppey campaigning with Elizabeth Warren.

For a complete list of vote totals for SEIU Local 888 and State Council endorsed Pro-Worker Candidates visit www.seiu888.org.

