



## IMPORTANT ELECTION NOTICE

## Local 888 Officer Election 2021 Candidate Statements

Listed below by office are the candidates running for President, Secretary-Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Executive Board and Trustee. The first 150 words (if applicable) from each candidate's statement have been printed as submitted. Each candidate's name, worksite, and slate affiliation (if applicable) are also listed.

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As now allowed by the bylaws, an independent election vendor will send voting credentials for electronic balloting on March 13. Members may also request a paper ballot. **Voting will conclude at 9 a.m. on April 3. For more information, see [www.seiu888.org/elections](http://www.seiu888.org/elections).**

## President

### A Stronger Union for Economic Security slate

**Jorge Vargas.** Boston Public Schools, planning and engineering. A leader in his community and a passionate Union member for over 20 years, Jorge Vargas has an unmatched heartfelt and genuine dedication to his



**VARGAS**

peers and takes the time to understand the difficulties of each Local member he meets. This is what differentiates him from the other candidates. He has witnessed the economic injustices enacted by the current administration, including the notion during negotiations that a 1.5 percent raise over 3 years is a reasonable cost of living increase. Jorge sponsored a resolution in October 2018 which fought  
*For more on Vargas, Page 2*

### Strength in Unity slate

**Emmanuel Marsh.** Massachusetts State Lottery Commission. I am proud to be a candidate to lead SEIU Local 888 as your president. I have represented the Lottery on our Executive Board and want to continue the work to unite



**MARSH**

and strengthen our union. My experience as a first-generation American in a single mother union household, a law school graduate, and an elected official during tough times means I'll be ready on day one. If elected, I promise to keep our focus on members' needs. I'm committed to leading our union with integrity and responsiveness, protecting our members on the job and in their contracts, and expanding our  
*For more on Marsh, Page 2*

### Take our Union Back slate

**Tom McKeever,** Massachusetts State Lottery. Let's take back our union! It's not my union or your union ... it's our union. Together we can do better! Together we will fight for and secure fair and living wages, high quality



**McKEEVER**

healthcare, better paid leave and safe workplaces. I would be honored to have your support to lead our united effort. I have been an active union member for over 25 years, 18 of those in the public sector. My vision for our union is one of inclusion, transparency and tireless work on our collective behalf. I have assembled a slate that represents a cross section of our membership. We are committed to listening to  
*For more on McKeever, Page 2*



*Vargas, continued from Page 1*  
for 5% annual wage increases. It was voted for unanimously. Jorge strives to cultivate a union where all members are heard and feel secure. The COVID-19 pandemic has proven that the current administration is unable or unwilling to provide basic protections for its members. If elected president, Jorge will provide a fresh perspective, one that's driven by economic stability for all.

*Marsh, continued from Page 1*  
union's strength. We must build on President Rodrigues' hard work; with a focus on unity and bridge building, respecting our past, and being open to new opportunities. I humbly ask for your vote as President and for our entire Strength and Unity slate.

*McKeever, continued from Page 1*  
you, to working with and for you and to keeping you informed about all of our work. This is about all of us, working together to do better! I would be honored to lead our collective effort. Let's take back our union together!!!



## Secretary-Treasurer

### Strength in Unity slate

**Shaylin Walsh Hogan**, Emerson College. I am excited to be a candidate for Secretary-Treasurer of SEIU Local 888. I've worked at Emerson College for eight years. When Emerson workers began to organize, I did my research, I listened, and I dedicated myself to bringing about meaningful, positive change on campus. I worked on the organizing drive, I served on the bargaining committee, and I'm currently vice-chair of our chapter. I am currently on the SEIU Local 888 EBoard working toward the same goals: upholding our mission, protecting our members' rights, and strengthening our union with integrity, passion, and care. I would like to represent all of you as we move ahead. We are in uncertain times, but we have many opportunities ahead of us. This is OUR Union, and I hope you'll support me and the Strength in Unity slate as we move ahead, together.



WALSH HOGAN

### Take our Union Back slate

**Marcellus Parker**, City of Boston, Police Department Dispatchers. My name is Marcellus Parker. I am a proud Army Veteran and pursued a career in law enforcement following my service. I've been employed with the City of Boston, Boston Police Department for 23 years. In those 23 years I've served as a 911 Operator and currently hold the position of Dispatcher and Dispatch Trainer. I've been dispatching for 19 of those 23 years and have been a union steward for 20 of those years. I've served on the executive board and chapter chair. When I began my career with the Boston Police, I began serving with Local 285 and when we switched over to SEIU Local 888 I continued my stewarding. I am honored to have served as long as I have and look forward in continuing my service as a steward for SEIU Local 888.



## Recording Secretary

### Strength in Unity slate

**Anita Christon**, City of Boston, DND. I am running on the "Strength in Unity Slate" for Recording Secretary. As an incumbent, I believe in the power and the strength of our union. As an SEIU member for 29 years, I am proud to be involved in a union that will fight to get us better wages and working conditions. I am proud of the training workshops to help



**CHRISTON**

members prepare for contract negotiations. I have marched with SEIU in other cities across America for members everywhere to achieve the same benefits we enjoy. It's been an honor to serve you for the past three years under President Brenda Rodrigues' leadership. In these challenging times, our Strength in Unity slate is ready to meet the challenges with you. We will continue to work hard to serve you and fight for all members. I will be honored to serve as your Recording Secretary of Local 888.

### Take our Union Back slate

**Keturah Trusty**, City of Boston, clerks and techs chapter. I work for the City of Boston Election Department for the last 15 yrs. After wanting to be more involved, I decided that I would become a SEIU Steward because I was tired of seeing issues happening in City Departments and no one was around to help members resolve them. After a year, I ran for Chapter Chair and have been holding the position since.



## Executive Board

### A Stronger Union for Economic Security slate

**Rosa Orrillo Matias**, Chelsea Soldiers' Home, a lifelong Member of SEIU Local 888, I want to serve and contribute to making a stronger union for your economic security. During my 25 years of union membership, I have fought for the dignity and respect of our members and for our working families trying to earn a living wage. I am proud to serve over 20+ years as an employee in the Environmental Service Department at the Soldiers' Home. I know about difficulty and hard times working on the front line in our battle to survive this pandemic. And, as a mother of four, I know about resilience and perseverance to provide, protect, and inspire. I am running to support Jorge Vargas's presidency and contribute to achieving each point of his plan. I know he can bring the collaborative framework to include members' input, improve access to union resources, implement a problem-solving system.

### Independent, No slate affiliation

**Speandilove Nelson**, Chelsea Soldiers' Home. Dear Fellow Members: I am the current Chapter President at the Chelsea Soldiers' Home. I am running for a higher office as an Executive Board Member. If nominated, I will be advocating for all members of SEIU Local 888. I strongly believe that if given the opportunity being on the E Board, the members' voice will be heard. Without Executive Board members, we are voiceless. The strength of a stronger union is in your hands, you the members. By voting for me, you will be giving a voice to the voiceless and strength to all. With me, all members deserve equal representation. Let's Get Stronger Together. Thank you for your support. Speandilove Nelson

*For more on the executive board, see next page*

## Executive Board

### Strength in Unity slate

**Kwesi Ablordeppey**, Holyoke Soldiers' Home. I have been employed at the Soldiers' Home for twenty-plus years now, and I've been actively involved in our union for the past two decades. I have participated in our conventions, community organizing events, and signature drives for legislative change. I am the current chapter President and an Executive Board member. Being a leader is to serve your members, not the politicians or self interest. Decisions concerning any chapter must include the entire membership. A strong union is where the leaderships cares about the members. A strong union is achieved with transparency, honesty, and accountability. A strong union is where oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, or disability is not tolerated. The E-Board is where decisions are made that affect all members. I am running for election with the Strength in Unity Slate. I ask for your vote to be your voice at the table.

**Carolyn Carey**, Town of Harwich. Director of the Harwich Community Center. I want to continue taking an active role in the necessary improvements to Local 888, therefore, I am seeking reelection to the Executive Board with the Strength in Unity Slate. I will continue to work collaboratively with all to set goals to better serve our membership, effectively and will work tirelessly on your behalf. I remain committed to professional, responsive, and individual services to you and to all our members and dedicated to the values of our union. I welcome your thoughts or suggestions and humbly ask for your support and vote for re-election to the Executive Board to serve you.

**Jim Corcoran**, Town of Mashpee. The Spark did not receive a statement from the candidate.

*For more on Strength in Unity, see next page*



### Take our Union Back slate

**Hajji Glover**, City of Boston, BCYF. Hajji has worked for the City of Boston for 22 years. He has been the Athletic Director at Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) Mildred Avenue for eleven years (2010-present). Hajji was Lead Tennis Instructor at the Charlestown Community Center from 1999 – 2010. Union involved for 15 years; Hajji has been the SEIU 888 BCYF Chapter Chair for the past 8 years.

**Rick Moran**, Massachusetts State Lottery Commission. As an employee of the Massachusetts State Lottery since 2003, I have experienced first hand, the Value of a Strong Active Union. A strong Union advocates on behalf of it's members. Workplace Safety, Equal opportunity to advance, Job Security and "Positive Morale" in the Workplace are Issues I strongly hold. Sadly, our Union has Not always stood by these ideals. These Objectives are more critical going forward as we work through this Pandemic. By Voting the "Take Our In Union Back" Slate, we will establish these Workplace Policies. As a Northeastern University graduate, I will never "abstain" from a tough Vote. As an elected Executive Board Member it is my responsibility to weigh the issue and vote accordingly. I humbly ask for your Vote. Thank You

**Thomas Regan**, UMass Lowell. Tom Regan has been an employee of University of Massachusetts Lowell since 1999 and has been a member of SEIU 888 or its precursor labor units. In addition to working full-time as the UML Reactor Engineer, he is also been an adjunct professor, actively teaching in the UML Physics Department since 2006. Prior to this, he worked in several entrepreneurial positions. He possesses a M.S. and B.S. in Nuclear Engineering from UML and is actively working towards an MBA at UML.

I'm seeking a position as a member of the Executive Board of SEIU 888 in order to represent all members and ensure that their union is primarily focused on helping our own unit members improve their lives (work and home).

*For more on Take our Union Back, see next page.*

## Executive Board

### Strength in Unity slate

**Baraa Fadel.** Boston Public Health Commission. I am currently running for the Executive Board Member seat at SEIU888, because I have been witnessing employers undermining and challenging unions. I believe that it is not enough for employers to merely tolerate unions; they must be continually pressured to accept that unions are here to stay. I want to ensure that unity and solidarity remain the cornerstones of all union activities. These are the principles and forces that lead to great outcomes for our members.

**Jayne Fogarty.** Town of Yarmouth. I have been a member since 1985. Many things have changed, including how our chapter does things. Now that I am chapter president, we have gone from having only three union negotiators to having six at negotiations with management. We have stewards for every department. I represent over 100 members from six town departments. Negotiating for so many different departments is difficult, but we maintain the same attitude. We are here for the majority of the members to negotiate contracts that benefit all — not just a few. So far, we have been quite successful.

As a member of the Executive Board, I am hoping to bring the same tenacity to Local 888 as I do to my own chapter. We need strength and resilience to be successful! That's why I support the Strength in Unity slate

**Fred Simmons,** City of Haverhill, custodians chapter. I've been an active union member since 1981. I've climbed through the ranks now with SEIU Local 888, and I've been an executive board member since 2003. I always will work for union members first. If you look at the work I've done helping members of Local 888 it speaks for itself.

*For more on the executive board, see next page*



### Take our Union Back slate

**Elisa Zanini.** City of Boston. Hi, my name is Elisa Zanini ( Za-ni-ni). I have lived in the West Roxbury neighborhood of Boston for about 27 years and 21 years in the same home. I currently work for the City of Boston in the City Clerk's Office as an Administrative Secretary. I returned to work March 25, 2019 full-time after a 25 year hiatus, raising 3 children, while working part-time waitressing, coaching gymnastics, cheerleading and hockey and volunteering numerous hours in my community. I coached all my kids in their respective sports and was heavily involved in the Needham/Wellesley AYF and Cheer, on the board for 2 years and also coached my son for Parkway Youth Hockey and on the board for 2 years. I also volunteered thousands of hours at St. Joseph's Elementary School, Monsignor Haddad Middle School and St. Joseph's Parish, where I served as a chair for the St. Joseph's Auction. Prior

### It's Your Union: Make Sure Your Voice Is Heard. Vote Today!

- **Vote online** with your unique electronic credential (search your email in-box for "ElectionBuddy") or
- **Request a mail-in ballot** from the Union Hall at [myunion@seiu888.org](mailto:myunion@seiu888.org) and/or call (617) 241-3300.

## Executive Board

### Strength in Unity slate

**David Reno.** City of Boston. Boston Police Department Dispatchers: I am standing for reelection to the Executive Board.

We are at a New Frontier. We face a pandemic, a new President of the United States, a new Congress, and a new SEIU President and Executive Board.

While fear can divide us, a common union can unite us, United we Win. Divided we Die.

Continuing, I propose:

- A quarterly meeting for non-Boston members, on Zoom or in person,
- A monthly Skype Gripe where members can alert us to issues before they become major, i.e., the COVID 19 at Holyoke Soldiers' Home,
- An authors talk where writers may share their visions followed by a Q & A.
- A members blog, Read or Live, to inform members of news from many sources,
- A series of seminars on governments: Federal, Commonwealth, local.

Testimonial: "This fellow knows a lot" — Doris Kearns Goodwin, historian and author.

**Damali Simmonds.** City of Boston. I was born and raised a resident of Boston. For the past nine years, I have worked for the Boston Water & Sewer Commission and have been a member of SEIU Local 888. Throughout those years I have learned that if you want to change things for the better, you must speak up and be a part of it.

. That's why I became involved with the union as a member of our chapter negotiation team, an E-Board member, steward, and on my chapter's Health & Safety Committee. I believe that if we all want the same thing, we should be united in doing so. If re-elected to the E-Board, I will continue my dedication to fighting for the needs of members and this organization. I will do what it takes to ensure that our voices are heard. Thank you for your support! Please vote Strength in Unity!



### Strength in Unity slate

**LaToya Weaver.** City of Boston/Boston Centers for Youth and Families. I am currently a BCYF Steward and SEIU Local 888's Executive Board Member.

I have been actively involved in SEIU Local 888 for the last 19 years, and have participated in union trainings and activities for the last 15 years.

As an Executive Board member for the last 4 years, I have worked to Unite, Organize, and Mobilize Local 888's members to have a TRUE VOICE in our Union.

I am proud to be a part of the Strength in Unity Slate and I am looking for your support to continue to be a VOICE for the members.



## Board of Trustees

### Strength in Unity slate

**John Kallmerten.** Massachusetts State Lottery Commission.

I've been a member of SEIU 888 at the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission since 1994. I'm currently a Senior Software Engineer leading on point of sale terminal development. For many years, I volunteered as a steward. Since 2018, I've served as the MSLC Chapter President. I also currently serve as Chair for the Health & Welfare Committee at the Lottery and as a Trustee on the SEIU Local 888 Executive Board.

My goal is to continue serving as a Trustee with the Strength in Unity team. I'm excited to work with an energetic, tech-savvy, well-educated, forward-looking group in order to ensure fiscal responsibility, aid the local to adapt during difficult times, provide fiscal transparency to members, and ensure that the bylaws of SEIU Local 888 are strictly adhered to. Please vote for the Strength in Unity slate!

**Justin Lawler.** I've been a member of SEIU 888 at UMass Lowell since 2007. I currently serve as the Associate Director of Campus Recreation helping our university community live happier and healthier lives. I have volunteered my time on the UMass Lowell SEIU 888 leadership team for the past five years; first as Vice President, and most recently as the Secretary for Membership. Additionally, I've served as Trustee for SEIU Local 888 since 2020.

I'm excited to run for the Trustee position on the "Strength in Unity" slate in the upcoming election. As a trustee, I believe it is essential to maintain fiscal responsibility, provide transparency for our members, and continuously uphold the values and mission of SEIU Local 888. I humbly ask for your support.

### Take our Union Back slate

**Lorna Pleas-Heron.** City of Boston.

Over 25 years I have worked hard for my Local Union Brothers and Sisters. Stretching our voices throughout Massachusetts — most-importantly to Local and National Presidents of SEIU within conferences, AFRAM, throughout our State's and Nation's Capital.

I am honored to step up once again and run this time as a TRUSTEE to assure that our local hears the voices of all members. Bringing member issues to the front of the room, to ensure that the rest of us are not lost within the movement. It has always been my passion to speak up and out for the unjust. Not being afraid to be the odd voice in a crowd, so that order, process, and leadership is held accountable. Also, to be that voice representing members like myself who feel they have no voice — especially to be that ear hearing, listening, understanding, and advocating for the membership. In Solidarity.

### Strength in Unity slate

**Kevin Nascimento.** I respectfully seek your vote for Trustee on Local 888's Executive Board. I'm a Brockton librarian and a public servant for 15 years. Besides that, I'm a father, husband, a naturalized immigrant, a caring member of my community, and an agent of change. We all possess this characteristic but rarely recognize it. Too frequently, we limit ourselves and believe what we have to say or do may not be sufficient to change a situation or outcome. But nothing could be further from the truth. You and I are indispensable parts driving the change train forward. As Local 888's current Secretary-Treasurer, I'm proud to say we've fought -- and continue to fight tough battles, like the Janus Supreme Court decision and a pandemic oblivious to skin color. Nonetheless, our resolution remains strong and determined. The people will be victorious. Vote Strength in Unity.

