

LIUNA!

Feel the Power

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION DELIVERS FOR LIUNA WORKING MEN AND WOMEN



When President Biden and Vice President Harris took office, our country faced unprecedented crises. From the raging pandemic, economic turmoil, ongoing climate change, and persistent racial injustice, the President and Vice President promised to move quickly, tackle these crises head-on, and deliver results for working families.

Since taking office, President Biden and Vice President Harris:

★ **Created LIUNA Jobs with Passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will create hundreds of thousands of good union jobs, provide clean drinking water, upgrade our roads, airports, transit, and rail, and invest in new electric vehicle infrastructure. The legislation invests \$1.2 trillion, which more than doubles existing funding and represents the single largest investment in transportation since the interstate highway system was built. This historic investment in America's infrastructure includes strong prevailing wage standards for construction work that will ensure family-supporting union jobs.

The federal government has already announced over \$110 billion in investment that is headed to states, Tribes, territories and local governments with over 4,300 specific projects identified for funding.

★ **Appointed a LIUNA Member to Lead the Department of Labor and Acted Aggressively to Protect Workers**

President Biden appointed card-carrying Laborer, Marty Walsh, to lead the US Department of Labor, as well as appointing Laborer Jessica Looman to head the DOL Wage and Hour Division. Under Marty's leadership and with the President's support, the DOL is aggressively enforcing

prevailing wage laws and ensuring that construction workers are not short-changed of their hard-earned pay. The agency plans to increase the number of labor enforcement investigators to launch a large-scale anti-misclassification effort and implement a federal debarment policy for all employers who illegally oppose unions. Under this Administration, employers who violate labor laws, participate in wage theft, or misclassify employees as independent contractors, will be punished.

DOL has also proposed a historic update to protect and strengthen Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rules that will:

- Ramp up enforcement on law-breaking contractors
- Stop wage theft and misclassification
- Implement anti-retaliation protections
- Modernize the process for setting wages to strengthen the wage floor
- Return to the more fair and accurate three-step method in setting wages (a wage rate will be considered prevailing if it was paid to at least 30 percent of workers)

These updates are ground-breaking and monumental.

★ **Protected Pensions, Retirement Security for Millions of Workers**

President Biden's action on a final rule through the American Rescue Plan's Special Financial Assistance will protect the retirement security of millions of Americans including LIUNA retirees, beneficiaries, and members. The White House plan will provide a life-saving transfusion of federal investment for union members' multiemployer pensions; saving some funds from insolvency caused by forces outside of their control, and ensuring that pension promises will be met. With the support of this Administration, millions of retirees—including thousands of LIUNA retirees—and beneficiaries can breathe a sigh of relief, knowing that they will still receive their full pensions and be able to retire in dignity after a lifetime of hard work.

★ **Rescinded Use of IRAPS, Protecting LIUNA Apprenticeship**

At the direction of President Biden, the Department of Labor completely rescinded the Trump regulations that allowed for the creation of private industry-controlled apprenticeships called IRAPs. With tens of thousands of letters and emails, Laborers waged a successful effort during the last Administration to block these shoddy programs from being used in construction. IRAPs were, however, approved for other industries. As long as these IRAPs existed there would have been a risk in the future of changes that would allow them to undermine our LIUNA Registered Apprenticeships in the construction sector.

★ **Mandated Worker Friendly PLAs on Federal Projects**

President Biden issued an Executive Order requiring project labor agreements (PLAs) on federal infrastructure projects. The PLA requirement will help LIUNA members and all workers both union and non-union by setting good wages, promoting strong health and safety standards, and ensuring that large-scale federal projects are completed on time and with the highest degree of quality and efficiency.

★ **Tackled Inflation and Ensured Investment in Clean Energy and Manufacturing Creates Good Prevailing Wage Jobs**

President Biden and Congressional Democrats made historic progress fighting inflation and creating good jobs with passage of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and the CHIPS Act.

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 will help reduce inflation by paying down our national debt, lowering energy costs, and lowering healthcare costs. The legislation also invests in energy and for the first-time requires Davis-Bacon prevailing wages and apprenticeship for private developers to qualify for boosted federal energy incentives on wind, solar, advanced nuclear, carbon capture, and energy storage construction projects.

The CHIPS Act addresses long-standing underinvestment in our nation's manufacturing and research and development capabilities, and strengthens our technology infrastructure. Federal incentives in CHIPS also require prevailing wages when building semiconductor manufacturing plants - ensuring that the hundreds of thousands of construction jobs created will provide middle-class family-sustaining wages.

★ **Raised Wages for LIUNA Service Contract Workers**

Thousands of LIUNA members working under service contracts for the federal government, including many supporting the U.S. military, will benefit from a new \$15 per hour wage floor ordered by the Biden Administration. The wage will also be indexed to inflation, so that every year after 2022, wages will be automatically adjusted to reflect changes in the cost of living.

★ **Got Americans Back to Work, Provided Relief to American Families with Children**

President Biden has added 6.4 million jobs – the most ever in one year—and managed the fastest growing economy in decades. Recent weekly unemployment claims are down near a level not seen since 1969.

President Biden also passed the American Rescue Plan, which led to a drop in the child poverty rate and a reduction in the unemployment rate down to 3.9%—four years faster than projected.

★ **Committed to Creating Union Jobs in the Clean Energy Industry**

The Biden Administration is deploying more wind and solar energy than ever before, addressing the long-lasting negative effects of legacy pollution and advancing environmental justice in underserved communities, and ensuring that the government encourages the industry to create good union construction jobs to get the work done.

In addition, the Biden Administration and a coalition of state and local governments launched an effort to upgrade and modernize building standards. Covering nearly 20 percent of buildings in our country, this is a bold initiative that will begin addressing the challenge of improving building energy efficiency, affordability and safety, while contributing to economic growth and the creation of good union jobs.

The Administration's leadership and commitment to incentivize union jobs has already helped in securing the first-ever Project Labor Agreement between North America's Building Trades Unions and Orsted to construct U.S. offshore wind farms. The agreement will create thousands of good, family-supporting, middle-class jobs for LIUNA members and our fellow union tradesmen and tradeswomen.

★ **Acted on Wages and Union Rights for the Federal Workforce**

During his first days in office, President Biden ordered a rollback of previous Administration's attacks on federal workers' bargaining rights. His directive rescinds the previous administration's three anti-union orders, eliminates Schedule F, and marks a return of federal sector labor relations to the rule of law. The Administration has also adopted as official policy that the federal government should encourage union organizing and collective bargaining. The Administration also increased the minimum wage for federal workers from a low of \$7.25 to \$15 an hour.

In addition, the White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment released a report with nearly 70 recommendations to promote worker organizing for federal employees, and for workers employed by public and private-sector employers. The recommendations include ways to increase private sector workers' access to information on their existing right to join and/or organize a union and how to do so. The report also recommends creating preferences in federal grant and loan programs for employers with strong labor standards.

★ **Immigration**

President Biden announced—on day one—his commitment to provide a path to citizenship for millions of immigrant workers, including Dreamers and TPS recipients. His plans would keep us secure while still honoring our nation's tradition of keeping families together and welcoming those who have come to our great nation to work hard and seek better lives. Many immigrants, including thousands of LIUNA members who suffered from the previous Administration's revocation of TPS and termination of DACA, will have a path to citizenship if Congress enacts his proposals.

★ **Defended Voting Rights and Strengthened Our Democracy**

In America, voters decide elections but extremists are pushing an agenda to block the will of the people and to suppress voting. The Biden Administration has acted to defend our democracy and voting rights by issuing an executive order to protect the right to vote and ensure all eligible citizens can freely participate in the electoral process. President Biden is also committed to working with Congress to restore the Voting Rights Act.

★ **Bolstered Domestic Manufacturing**

President Biden increased the competitiveness of the U.S. economy by finalizing the most significant changes to Buy American in almost 70 years. He directed federal dollars to U.S. manufacturers by creating the first-ever Made in America Office.

Under his Made in America Executive Order, federal purchases will help to bolster domestic manufacturing and manufacturing supply chains, and support good-paying, union jobs.

★ **Advanced Racial Equity**

President Biden signed a Day One Executive Order on advancing equity and racial justice and a separate Executive Order to expand Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility across the federal government.

The Administration set a government-wide goal of increasing the share of federal contracts to small disadvantaged businesses, including those owned by people of color, by 50% by FY25, meaning an increase of \$100 billion to these firms over 5 years.

The Administration provided \$32B specifically for Tribal communities and Native people in American Rescue Plan and \$13B in direct investments in Tribal communities through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

★ **Saved Lives Through Historic Vaccination Effort**

The President set up a historic vaccination program that resulted in more than 200 million Americans fully vaccinated this year and has launched a program to provide free COVID tests to every household that requests them. Millions of teenagers and children are now vaccinated, and tens of millions of Americans are getting booster shots. The President also closed the racial equity gap in COVID vaccinations among adults. And, because the President prioritized school staff for vaccinations and of resources in the American Rescue Plan, about 96% of schools are open.

All these steps have and continue to save countless lives.

★ **Expanded Affordable Health Care**

President Biden increased the number of Americans with health care coverage to the highest number ever, lowered the co-pays that many Americans pay, and slashed premiums for millions—as a result of his actions, hundreds of thousands. The President implemented a ban on surprise billing, so after leaving the hospital, you can't get an extra \$2,000 charge for a consultation you didn't even know about.

Additional Resources

White House: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/>

Statement from President Joe Biden on Unemployment Insurance Claims

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/09/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-unemployment-insurance-claims-3/>

American Rescue Plan

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/american-rescue-plan/>

Child Tax Credit

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/child-tax-credit/>

DOL's Prevailing Wage Enforcement Is Poised to Boom

<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/daily-labor-report/punching-in-dols-prevailing-wage-enforcement-is-poised-to-boom>

Biden Administration Advances Expansion & Modernization of the Electric Grid

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/27/fact-sheet-biden-administration-advances-expansion-modernization-of-the-electric-grid/>

Executive Order on Increasing the Minimum Wage for Federal Contractors

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/04/27/executive-order-on-increasing-the-minimum-wage-for-federal-contractors/>

Statement by President Biden on 14.5 Million Americans Signing up for Health Insurance

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/01/27/statement-by-president-biden-on-14-5-million-americans-signing-up-for-health-insurance/>

The Biden Administration to Begin Distributing At-Home, Rapid COVID-19 Tests to Americans for Free

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/01/14/fact-sheet-the-biden-administration-to-begin-distributing-at-home-rapid-covid-19-tests-to-americans-for-free/>

The Biden Administration Blueprint for a Fair, Orderly and Humane Immigration System

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/01/27/statement-by-president-biden-on-14-5-million-americans-signing-up-for-health-insurance/>

Executive Order on America's Supply Chains

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/02/24/executive-order-on-americas-supply-chains/>

Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government/>

President Biden Signs Executive Order to Boost Quality of Federal Construction Projects

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/02/03/fact-sheet-president-biden-signs-executive-order-to-boost-quality-of-federal-construction-projects/>

White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment Report

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/02/07/white-house-task-force-on-worker-organizing-and-empowerment-report/>

For the first time in 40 years, US DOL Proposes Rulemaking for Davis-Bacon Act to Reflect Needs of Today's Construction Industry

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/whd/whd20220311>

White House: Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/07/executive-order-on-promoting-access-to-voting/>