

## **GENERAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

We are standing at a crossroads, and every election matters. The next two years of special and midterm elections present an opportunity to restore a balance of power in favor of the American worker as opposed to millionaires and corporations. The truth is simple: if we want to protect union jobs, defend pensions, strengthen health care, and secure fair wages, we must elect leaders who stand up for workers. Our Union has always believed that democracy works best when working families stand up, get involved, and vote. Because when union members vote, working people win. That is why it is critically important for Democrats to take control of the House and Senate in the upcoming election cycles.

As history has demonstrated, when Democrats are in control, legislation is passed that benefits working class people, such as raising the minimum wage, expanding access to affordable healthcare, and protecting workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain. These are all issues that directly impact the livelihoods of union members and the working class as a whole. As we have seen, even a small or partial shift in power can have a significant impact on our working conditions throughout the country.

A Democrat-controlled Congress is more likely to prioritize policies that support job creation, invest in infrastructure, and promote economic growth that benefits all Americans, not just the wealthy few. Under

Democratic control, we saw the passage of the CHIPS Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, both of which benefited working people through massive investments in infrastructure, clean energy and apprenticeship training programs. Having Democrats back in power also means a greater focus on addressing income inequality, ensuring fair treatment of workers, and protecting social safety net programs that provide vital support for those in need.

Throughout 2025, we have witnessed the expansion of global trade and significant uncertainty driven by rising costs and evolving trade policies. While we have also seen significant large scale capital investments and changes that are fueling a manufacturing resurgence in certain sectors, these changes are creating some negative implications for American workers.

One of the major challenges that workers face in the manufacturing sector is the rise of automation and artificial intelligence. These advancements have led to job displacement and a decrease in demand for traditional manufacturing skills. Additionally, the ongoing trade war with China and other countries has created uncertainty for many workers and businesses, which has led to fluctuations in demand and supply chains.

Despite these challenges, there are opportunities for unions to advocate for workers and play a major role in shaping the future of trade and manufacturing. By continuing to negotiate fair wages, benefits, and working conditions, we can help protect workers from the negative

impacts of globalization and automation. We must continue to promote policies and advance candidates that support domestic manufacturing and create jobs for American workers. We must push back against corporations and candidates that prioritize profits over people. We must strive to ensure that we continue to have a system of checks and balances in our government to protect against an imbalance of power. Government works best when the ideas of both parties are debated and considered. Single party control creates a dangerous atmosphere that is ripe for abuse. That is why the upcoming special and midterm elections are so important to restoring a balance of power and safeguarding our rights.

I am optimistic about both the future of our Union and the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we have the power to create positive change and build a better future for our members. Let us close out 2025 by continuing to stand together and electing leaders that prioritize economic stability for our members and their families over profits and corporate greed. That is why I encourage you to vote Democrat in the upcoming special and midterm elections. Our collective future depends on it.