



Founded 1889

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada

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Dear Brothers and Sisters of the United Association:

In just a few months, you'll head to the ballot box with the opportunity to set our nation's course for the next four years. More importantly, you'll have the opportunity to vote for candidates who will have the UA's back. That's why I'm writing to you today about our decision to endorse Vice President Joe Biden for President – and how we came to make that decision.

As you might know, two years ago we formed the UA Political Engagement Committee (PEC) to directly engage members across the country in the political process. The PEC is made up of Business Managers, Business Agents, Journeymen and Journeywomen, and Apprentices from all of our trades. Over the last few months, the PEC met virtually to discuss the two candidates for President and whether the UA should endorse or remain neutral. The PEC came up with four critical policy areas to help guide our decision: union rights, infrastructure, energy, and retirement security.

I'll be frank with you: there's no perfect candidate for the UA. We're not going to get someone in the White House who is with us on every single issue. But with Joe Biden in the White House we'll have a President who has a long history of standing with the building trades, and we'll have a seat at the table when important policy decisions are made.

Here are some of the most important factors that went into this decision:

- President Trump has led a systematic attack on union rights, threatening our very existence as a union. His Labor Secretary, Eugene Scalia, built his career representing corporations and is now leading the attack on our apprenticeship programs by creating so-called Industry Regulated Apprenticeship Programs (IRAPs). We've already had to mobilize once to beat back IRAPs in the construction industry, but the Trump Administration is poised to dismantle our ability to fight for fair wages and benefits if given another term.
- President Trump failed to keep his promise to deliver on a massive infrastructure package that would put UA members to work. Instead, he's privatized construction projects and cut funding for infrastructure critical to UA jobs. Vice President Biden has a \$1.3 trillion infrastructure proposal that will include prevailing wage and project labor agreements (PLAs), meaning our members will win more work and earn more money.
- President Trump has failed to take action to protect our hard-earned retirements, refusing to implement the reforms needed to help stabilize the system. Instead, he's helped Wall Street get richer on the backs of working families by loosening regulations that protect our pensions and retirement investments.





- Vice President Biden has a long history of standing with working families not just in Washington, but on the line, too. Biden joined striking UA members on the jobsite in Delaware and helped stop management from breaking up our project and arresting our members, even when they called in the State Troopers to try to force our hand. As President, he'll keep that same commitment and appoint labor-friendly judges and regulators to ensure pro-UA policies and to make sure the federal government works for us – not against us.
- When given the choice of running mate, President Trump chose one of the most anti-union governors in the country – Mike Pence. As governor, Pence made Indiana a Right to Work state decimating wages and repealed the state's prevailing wage laws. Vice President Joe Biden chose U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, a staunch ally of labor her entire career and close friend to the UA in Washington, DC and California, as his running mate.
- Vice President Biden has made strong commitments to an all-of-the-above energy approach, including investments in nuclear and natural gas. Under Obama-Biden, our country finally became energy independent. Biden has stated publicly that “fracking is not going to be on the chopping block,” too. Biden also has the track record to back it up: as our country neared a depression in 2008, the Obama-Biden Administration relied on UA members and fracking to literally save our economy.
- Vice President Biden has stated a commitment to providing much-needed relief for multiemployer pension plans from day one of his presidency. As Senator, Biden voted against raising the Medicare eligibility age and fought against efforts to tax employer contributions for health insurance and pension plans.

Brothers and Sisters, this election is going to be the most important election of our lifetimes. We're at a critical point in our nation's history: from defeating COVID-19, to rebuilding our economy, our world standing, and our infrastructure, the next President will not have an easy job. With Vice President Biden, we know we'll have a steady hand in the Oval Office to help us come out of this pandemic stronger than before.

If we don't step up to lead, the UA is going to get left behind. We just can't let that happen. Sitting on the sidelines is not the UA way. That's why the UA PEC undertook this extensive process to evaluate the candidates on the issues that matter to the UA. I hope this information is useful to as you as you consider the candidates and the issues that are most important to you and your family. You can also find more information, including the full breakdown of this decision process, in the next issue of the UA Journal. Or you can go to www.UAGetInvolved.org to read more about the candidates and see who needs our help this November.

Remember: vote like your job is on the line – because it is.

I hope you and your families continue to stay safe and healthy, and please know that the entire UA has your back during this uncertain time.

Fraternally,

Mark McManus
General President