



International Union of Operating Engineers

Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations

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Operating Engineers endorse Obama

Washington, D.C., Sept. 9 – The 410,000-member International Union of Operating Engineers today endorsed Democrat Barack Obama for president.

The endorsement came following a survey conducted by the International Union of its more than 100 local unions throughout the U.S., which overwhelmingly supported the Obama candidacy.

In announcing the endorsement, IUOE General President Vincent J. Giblin said:

“From the perspective of the Operating Engineers, Barack Obama always has supported and is committed as president to promoting good-paying jobs for our members through strong federal investment in infrastructure projects; he is committed to protecting Davis-Bacon prevailing wage legislation, which also creates good-paying jobs for our members and levels the playing field for union contractors; he is committed to energy policies that encourage conservation and efficiency, and modernizing our energy infrastructure; he promises to continue tax breaks for employers who provide health care benefits for their workers, which is the foundation of our IUOE health & welfare funds that provide our members and their families excellent health care benefits.

“Generally speaking, the Obama-Biden ticket pledges tax rebates and tax cuts for all those earning less than \$250,000 per year, tax breaks for employers that keep jobs in the U.S. rather than sending them overseas, and access to medical care for all Americans.

“The Obama-Biden ticket offers America’s workers hope for needed relief from the ruinous economic policies of the Bush Administration over the past eight years that have produced massive job losses, unacceptable unemployment, stagnant wages, outrageous gas prices, record home foreclosures, constantly rising medical costs, and disastrous trade and budget deficits.

“Despite John McCain’s campaign rhetoric of bringing about change in Washington, he hasn’t changed a thing in his 27 years in the Senate, including his support over the past eight years of George Bush’s failed policies, which he has voted to endorse 92 percent of the time – and which he pledges to continue because „we’ve made great progress economically under George Bush.”

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the IUOE represents 410,000 men and women in the U.S. and Canada who run the heavy construction equipment to help build both nations, and who also operate and maintain commercial complexes and buildings, such as schools, hospitals, offices, powerhouses, sports arenas and the like, in both countries.