

ROOFERtoROOFER

by International President Kinsey M. Robinson

Make Your Vote Count on November 6th

Once again we are in the midst of a presidential election. Although neither candidate, President Barack Obama or Mitt Romney, will be able to accomplish everything that union Roofers and Waterproofers and their families need, there is a stark difference when it comes to which candidate will support union workers.

President Obama has helped union Roofers and Waterproofers by steadfastly supporting project labor agreements (PLAs), he has insisted on the inclusion of the Davis-Bacon Act for all federally financed construction and he has pushed Congress to pass legislation that would rebuild the country's infrastructure, providing thousands of badly needed jobs for building tradesmen and women.

At the Building and Construction Trades Department conference this spring, President Obama stated, "I believe our economy is stronger when workers are getting paid good wages and good benefits." "Because the right to organize and negotiate a fair pay for hard work should be the right of every American—from the CEO in the corner office to the worker in the hard hat who built that office." Our President is not afraid to show his support for unions.

On the other hand, Mitt Romney has bashed unions with every opportunity. So that there is no doubt in anyone's mind where Romney stands on unions, I quote from his speech to delegates at the Associated Building & Contractors convention: "One of the first things I'll do—actually on day one—is I will end the government's favoritism towards unions in contracting on federal projects and end project labor agreements, and I will fight to repeal the Davis-Bacon Act." He further declares his union-bashing opinions by stating he "will fight for right-to-work laws." There is no doubt left in my mind which candidate will stand with working men and women.

Traveling around the country this fall and speaking to Roofers and Waterproofers in various local unions, I've been told repeatedly that they want a government that protects hard-working Americans and an administration that

cares about the future of our children.

They want a President who places a high value on labor and on what we bring not only to the job, but to the economy and to our communities. They want a President who knows "as the middle class goes—so goes America." They want a

President who wants to resurrect the American dream where hard work and fair play is rewarded with decent wages and a secure future for our families. On November 6th I know I can count on my Brother and Sister Roofers and Waterproofers to cast their vote for a better way of life for working families.



"Your vote is a powerful tool. Make sure you and your family members are registered to vote."

Let me say a few words about state and local races, which are equally as important as federal elections.

When we elect candidates to public office, we are electing people who will decide whether union or non-union contractors get work. School boards decide who will build or re-roof the schools. Mayors and city councils award contracts for hospitals, public buildings and airports. State legislators pass budgets for state construction and the language they include in the budget will determine whether PLAs and prevailing wages are to be used.

Your vote is a powerful tool. Make sure you and your family members are registered to vote. Find out which candidates support union construction and help elect them. For Roofers and Waterproofers, elections are about JOBS—OUR JOBS.