

### MASSIVE HOSPITAL STRIKE IN SEATTLE



Striking nurses and frontline caregivers at seven Swedish-Providence hospitals in the greater Seattle area got a big dose of union solidarity Jan. 29 when more than 1,000 strikers and their supporters marched through downtown Seattle and rallied together. About 7,800 registered nurses, caregivers and staff — members of Service Employees International Union 1199NW, conducted a three-day unfair labor practice strike starting Jan. 28. After almost 10 months of bargaining, they went on strike for safer working conditions for themselves and their patients, and for better pay. It was the largest healthcare strike in recent history. When they tried to return to work on Jan. 31, hundreds of nurses and other caregivers were locked out. A Swedish-Providence spokesperson told KOMO News that the medical center had a five-day contract with replacement workers and was honoring those contracts, with scabs still working. At press time on Feb. 4, all union members were back to work, but no new bargaining dates had been set.

## Wheeler fails to get labor council endorsement

The Northwest Oregon Labor Council (NOLC) on Jan. 27 tabled a motion to endorse the re-election of Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler after failing to reach a two-thirds' majority vote of delegates.

NOLC's Executive Board brought a recommendation to endorse Wheeler to the monthly delegates' meeting on Jan. 27. The motion failed on a voice vote, then failed on a standing vote of approximately 55 delegates. A motion for a roll-call vote was approved by delegates, but labor council officials didn't have affiliates' per-capita information at the meeting. The number of votes to which a local union is entitled on a roll-call vote is determined by the per capita tax they pay to the council.

A motion to table the endorsement request until the February 24 meeting passed unanimously.

Wheeler is completing his first term as Portland mayor. Eleven candidates have filed to run against him, none of whom are very well known. A primary election for the office, which is

non-partisan, will be held on May 19. If no candidate receives a simple majority vote, a runoff election of the top two candidates will be held on Nov. 3.

Several Executive Board endorsement recommendations for the May primary were approved by delegates. They include: **Lori Stegmann** for re-election as Multnomah County commissioner; **Michael Schmidt** for Multnomah County District Attorney; **Bob Stacey** for re-election as Metro councilor; **Nafisa Fai** for Washington County commissioner; **Theresa Kohlhoff** for Lake Oswego mayor; **Jim Bernard** for re-election as Clackamas County chair; and **Ken Humberston** for re-election as Clackamas County com-

missioner.

In addition, delegates endorsed the re-election of three other county commissioners, but the endorsements are contingent upon them completing a questionnaire and meeting with the Executive Board. The three are Clackamas County Commissioner **Martha Schrader**, and Multnomah County Commissioners **Jessica Vega Peterson** and **Sharon Meieran**.

NOLC also will recommend that the Oregon AFL-CIO endorse Laurie Wimmer for State Representative in House District 36. Wimmer, a lobbyist for the Oregon Education Association, is running for the seat vacated by Jennifer Williamson, who is running for secretary of state.

**Bakers Local 114**

**YOUR  
UNION  
CATERER**

Union-Catering.com • 503-730-7040 • steve@spinpdx.com



## Stronger together

Join forces with the financial group that's served Taft-Hartley clients for more than 60 years

Trust, efficiency and experience are essential when you choose a financial organization to service your plan. Which is why you should rely on the proven expertise of Union Bank®. Our clients in labor value our specialized collection and disbursement services, tailored to serve their specific needs — from a customized lockbox that improves the employer remittance process to state-of-the-art electronic disbursement origination and processing. We'll help you design a plan to streamline your banking experience, increase efficiency, and reduce costs. So when your organization needs a trusted resource, work with a partner that understands labor inside and out.

Let's talk strength: [unionbank.com/labor](http://unionbank.com/labor)

**Garrett Bell, Managing Director**  
Labor Industry Division Manager  
213-236-4078

**Armand Antonian, Director** Southern  
California, Southwest, Midwest  
213-236-5046

**Gina Camacho, Vice President**  
Northern California, Pacific Northwest,  
East Coast  
213-236-7987



A member of MUFG, a global financial group