



Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

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Freddie N. Simpson
President

Perry K. Geller
Secretary-Treasurer

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Thanks to your help, Election 2006 was a resounding victory for the Democratic Party and our BMWED key race endorsed candidates listed in the last issue of the *Journal*. Democrats won a decisive majority in the House and a one-vote majority in the Senate. Of the 36 Governors' races, the Republicans lost 20. Only one of our endorsed candidates (Phil Angelides – CA Gubernatorial) was not elected.

At this writing votes are still being counted in close House races, however, the outcome of these races won't affect the Democrats' majority in Congress. Right now Democrats hold 232 seats and Republicans hold 199 seats, excluding four House seats where the outcome is not called.

For the first time since 1994 Democrats control the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate. More important, we now control the legislative agenda. The days of anti-labor committee chairmen are over. We are also excellently positioned for the 2008 Presidential election. Remember, it is the President that appoints the heads of agencies such as the Surface Transportation Board, the Federal Railroad Administration, the National Mediation Board and Amtrak.

The Democratic victories on November 7 were a result not only of commitments from the Democratic National Committee, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the Democratic Senatorial Committee, and huge sums of PAC dollars, but more important, from a whole lot of work from a whole lot of GOTV activists like you who tirelessly worked the phones, knocked on doors, and talked with members about the importance of their votes. The Teamsters, the AFL-CIO, and the Change to Win organizations came together with a well-organized strategic plan in place long before the first campaign speech was ever delivered.

On behalf of National Division President Simpson, I thank you, the unsung heroes, for your dedicated and tireless help. It made a tremendous difference, and you should be very proud that the voice of working families was heard loud and clear.

In solidarity,

Danny Gates

Director of Government Affairs