



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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Brothers and Sisters of the United Association:

Another election cycle has run its course. With each election, the importance only grows as we seek to translate political wins into improving the lives of our UA families. This year was no different. Across the country our membership engaged at the local, state and federal level. Thank you for being a part of the political process ensuring that our voices are heard by those running for elected office.

The 2018 midterm elections have shown us an America still divided. While the division between both parties continues to widen, the UA has diligently tried to navigate that divide and work in a bipartisan manner to ensure that no matter which party is in power, we can still successfully advocate for the issues important to our union.

After being elected as your General President, I made it my priority to focus on state and local elections which often have a greater impact on our membership than other races. To date, we have gained allies with nine governorships in the key states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, Kansas and Maine in 2018, as well as Virginia and New Jersey in 2017. There were perhaps no bigger symbolic victories than in Wisconsin and Illinois where we defeated two of the most anti-union governors in our country. We also defended critical incumbent allies in New York, California, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Oregon and Maryland.

In the United States Senate, we knew our friends and allies faced a difficult path to victory as many of them represented red states in which Trump won handily. While we gained a tremendous ally in Jackie Rosen in Nevada, allies such as Claire McCaskill, Heidi Heitkamp and Joe Donnelly were all pro-energy Senators who lost their re-election. Fortunately, endangered incumbents, Joe Manchin and Jon Tester, were able to hold on ensuring their continued help moving energy policy and infrastructure projects forward.

The biggest change in our nation's capital will occur in the House of Representatives where the democrats were able to gain control. Many of the candidates backed by the UA will now move into key leadership and committee roles. Gone will be the days of non-stop amendments by anti-labor forces to ban prevailing wage and project labor agreements on federally funded infrastructure projects. The International, along with our local unions, played a major role in successful races in New York, California, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Minnesota, Texas and Kansas. Many of these newly elected representatives are moderate Democrats who tend to be our best allies when it comes to energy policy and working with both sides of the aisle. Even with





significant wins by democratic candidates across the country, the majority of our strongest pro-UA republican allies such as Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-1), Guy Reschentaler (PA-14), Kevin Joyce (OH-13), Peter King (NY-2), Rodney Davis (IL-13) and Mike Bost (IL-12), won re-election.

One of our biggest wins was Abby Finkenauer (IA-1), who grew up in a UA family. We couldn't ask for a better ally to represent our membership in Washington, DC than someone who grew up knowing first-hand the issues that impact our membership. We're extremely proud of Abby and look forward to working with her for many years to come.

These victories would not have been possible without the collaboration between the International and local unions. By working together, we maximized financial resources and provided the boots on the ground so critical to grassroots campaigns.

This cycle we began to reshape the way we ran our political program to ensure we worked more effectively and efficiently. Not only did we invest in pro-UA candidates across the country, we invested in our membership to empower them with the information and tools needed to make an informed decision. According to our membership survey, there was a desire to hear more about politics from the International. Whether it was digital advertising, television, radio or traditional mail, we did more than has ever been done to engage membership. Our online digital campaign alone resulted in over 30 million views by UA members.

At the end of the day, our ultimate goal is to create job opportunities and to protect UA families through politics. The evidence is clear - where we are strong politically, we have strong market share. However, we don't have the luxury of being able to only work with one political party. We have worked strategically to create and foster relationships on both sides of the aisle. Not only does this represent where our membership is politically; it also puts us in the best position to be successful no matter which political party is in power.

This process is far from over. As we move forward, we will continue to build on the successes of 2018 while seeking to continue to engage membership around politics.

Thank you for all that you have done this election cycle and thank you for all that you do for the United Association.

Fraternally yours,

Mark McManus
General President