

# LIUNA! NY

A COLLABORATION OF THE  
**NEW YORK STATE LABORERS and  
MASON TENDERS' DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**25K in NYC**  
**40K in NYS**



## LAUNCHED IN AUGUST 2016

New York State Laborers and the Mason Tenders' District Council announced a partnership to endorse candidates that support the unionized construction industry.



## STRONGER TOGETHER

The LIUNA-NY partnership represents 25,000 people in New York City and 40,000 people in New York State, who work in the booming construction market.



## JURISDICTION

The LIUNA-NY partnership consists of a total of 24 Local Unions and 5 District Councils across the New England and Eastern New York Regions.



## OUR TARGET MISSION

LIUNA-NY focuses on advancing the industry through aggressive organizing, legislative advocacy and robust education campaigns.

### 1. COMPETITIVE CONTRACTS

Union contractors are offering “blended rate” workforces. This workforce encompasses increasing the number of lower-paid, apprentices on a job with highly skilled journeymen, resulting in a lower overall hourly rate for a specific trade.

### 2. INCREASE ORGANIZING EFFORTS

LIUNA-NY has depoliticized and bolstered organizing efforts – seeking to bring in a new class of skilled and experienced labor from the non-union sector to work on safer work sites, for better pay and benefits.

### 3. STRATEGIC CAMPAIGNS

The unionized construction industry has engaged in several strategic campaign efforts to educate elected officials about the realities of the industry as well as advocate for policies that change the industry's landscape.  
*(421a program and safety legislation, which requires rigorous safety and training standards)*







### 4. CAPITAL STRATEGIES

Capital Strategies is the use of pension fund investments to impact developer's choices. Before LIUNA-NY, the NYC pension fund policies included responsible contractor language that was only relevant when they were the majority stakeholder on a project. LIUNA-NY applied trustee and political pressure, and created language that fundamentally changes how pension funds are regulated.

**WILL YOU FIGHT WITH US?** We are looking for partners that will go beyond just co-sponsoring legislation. We need advocates willing to be fighters for the middle class. LIUNA-NY's advocacy efforts must produce results for the 40,000 members that we represent.

# THE SITUATION WE FACE

**IN RECENT YEARS, THE UNIONIZED CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY HAS FACED TREMENDOUS CHALLENGES:**

-  LOSING MARKET SHARE IN RESIDENTIAL/ AFFORDABLE HOUSING
-  TREMENDOUS AND ROBUST COMPETITION FROM THE NON UNION SECTOR
-  LACK OF COMMITMENT FROM DECISION MAKERS ON ESTABLISHING STANDARDS
-  LOSING HONORABLE DEVELOPERS OPTING FOR NON UNION DEVELOPMENT
-  INCREASED CAMPAIGNS THAT MISLEAD AND UNDERMINE THE BUILDING TRADES
-  THE UNFORTUNATE GROWTH OF THE OPEN SHOP MODEL

These factors have resulted in a significant decrease in our union market share. If New York City – the most progressive capital in the world – doesn't stand up and fight this reality will hurt New York and its residents. The increase of non union irresponsible contractors is creating an unsafe environment resulting in poor quality construction. The booming construction industry must be leveraged as a tool to ensure that we grow our middle class in New York. The construction workforce and responsible contractors need advocates that understand the unique community benefits our industry provides.

## WE FIGHT FOR AN INDUSTRY THAT PROMOTES:

- MIDDLE CLASS WAGES
- ADVANCED SAFETY STANDARDS
- APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING
- LOCAL JOB CREATION
- DIVERSITY

LIUNA-NY believes that public subsidies come with public responsibilities. If projects are being funded by public dollars they should come with certain standards that the public wants. The unionized construction industry is dedicated to building the middle class by providing its workforce with an appropriate wage, healthcare, retirement security and training programs.

## WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST

**1**

### **IRRESPONSIBLE CONTRACTORS**

Unscrupulous contractors look to increase their bottom line on the backs of middle class workers. They put profits before workers' lives, and they cut corners while workers suffer from a dangerous lack of training, low wages, wage theft, unsafe work conditions, injuries, and even fatalities.

**2**

### **OPEN SHOP**

The Open Shop model has been on the rise for years. It refers to a developer cherry picking union and nonunion tradesmen (laborer, carpenter, operating engineer, etc.) for a particular job within their massive portfolios.

Larger developers are known to deliberately pick certain trades for jobs as a strategy to create consternation and division among the unionized construction trades. It suffocates this industry because it changes a developer's profit model.

**3**

### **MYTHS + MISINFORMATION**

Groups opposed to advancing the unionized construction industry have disingenuously touted misinformation to damage the unionized construction industry's reputation. This includes:

- A lack of diversity in the unionized construction industry
- Requiring safety training will put people out of work, and
- Ensuring that stringent safety training will only expand the market share of union contractors.

**4**

### **REBNY**

REBNY has made a major effort to be more influential in developing districts in New York City. REBNY will target city council members as they see NYC Council committees, such as land use, particularly useful in land use votes and rezoning.

REBNY continues to allocate significant private funds to multiple candidate in the City Council races to ensure they have control over in-district land use decisions.