



# Painters & Allied Trades District Council 36

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**Luis F. Robles**

**Business Manager**

DRYWALL FINISHERS, FLOORLAYERS, GLAZIERS, PAINTERS, TRADESHOW & SIGNCRAFT

October 20, 2025

Re: Residential Minimum Wage (Council File 25-1138)

Dear Council Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

The members of the Painters and Allied Trades District Council 36 proudly help build, paint, and finish the homes and apartments that make up Los Angeles. We write to express our strong support for establishing a minimum wage for residential construction workers in our city.

Residential construction has become a low-wage sector, even as the cost of living continues to skyrocket. Many of the workers finishing Los Angeles' housing developments are paid less than \$20 an hour, without benefits or job protections. These aren't "unskilled" jobs—they require training, attention to safety, and craftsmanship. Yet too many workers are exploited by a system that rewards the lowest bid over fair pay and quality work - and often even live on the street.

A construction worker minimum wage is not just a matter of fairness—it's smart policy. A minimum wage would build a stronger local workforce by ensuring that the people doing these jobs can make enough to live and work in this city. Right now, 1 out of every 12 homeless workers in Los Angeles is somebody working in the construction industry. That's simply not right.

Home construction should be a career that can support a family, not a route to low pay and exploitation.

It would save taxpayers money, since workers earning a living wage rely less on public assistance and contribute more to local tax revenue. This is a huge deal, since right now California taxpayers pay \$3 billion per year in public benefits to underpaid construction workers.

Los Angeles is facing a housing and affordability crisis—but that crisis will not be solved by keeping construction workers in poverty. Paying workers a fair wage and enforcing standards will help attract the workforce needed to actually build the homes we need.

We urge you to approve this study. The housing crisis is the greatest crisis facing our city today—and we owe it to the residents of Los Angeles to study one of the most promising potential solutions to the housing crisis.

Sincerely,

Luis F. Robles  
Business Manager