

**Subject:** Support Higher Wages for Residential Construction Workers

Dear Partners,

Los Angeles is facing a dual crisis: a severe housing shortage and a shortage of construction workers. The city needs **50,000 additional workers** to meet its housing goals. Yet low wages, immigration raids, misclassification, and wage theft are driving workers out of the industry.

Today, the residential construction industry is dominated by large firms that subcontract nearly every aspect of a project—sometimes involving up to forty subcontractors and more than one hundred specialized tasks. This race-to-the-bottom system rewards contractors who cut corners, exploit workers, and sacrifice quality. We cannot afford a “Hurricane Katrina” style approach that imports workers from out of state, only for them to take their income elsewhere. Los Angeles needs a long-term, local workforce that invests in and sustains our communities.

The consequences are clear: the median construction worker in Los Angeles makes just **\$35,400 per year (adjusted for cost of living)**—the second lowest in the country.

That’s why the Western States Carpenters believe the city must prioritize building a stable, local workforce—one that can afford to **live, work, and thrive in the city they help build.**

This starts by establishing a **minimum wage and health benefits** for residential construction workers on qualifying projects.

Help us ensure a fairer, stronger Los Angeles. Tell your councilmember you support higher wages for residential construction workers.

Learn more and sign up to support: [www.constructionworkerminimumwage.com/get-involved](http://www.constructionworkerminimumwage.com/get-involved)

In Solidarity,

Trina Traylor

Los Angeles Black Worker Center