

# ROOFERtoROOFER

by International President Kinsey M. Robinson

## Exercise Your Right to Vote on November 2nd

**M**id-term elections will be held Tuesday, November 2nd. In my opinion, there has never been a more important time to exercise your right to vote. Working men and women in the building and construction trades, along with the rest of middle-class America, have struggled for the last ten years. We've seen a decade of stagnant incomes, sluggish job growth, declining economic security and eight years of intense animosity towards unions from the George W. Bush administration.

Workers are unhappy with the pace of change. They are frustrated, and they have every right to be. Many states continue to grapple with double-digit unemployment. Rust Belt cities are waiting for promised clean-energy manufacturing jobs. Millions of Americans have been left to sit idle while their lives have been turned upside down. The response from Washington has not been strong enough to reverse the devastating job loss that began on former President Bush's watch in September 2007. When President Barack Obama took office, American was on the verge of a second Great Depression, a parting gift from Bush. It's going to take time to reverse all that has happened to our economy, but we're finally on the right track.

President Obama has shown that he is willing to fight for working families, and he has established an impressive record doing so. He began by appointing Hilda Solis, a strong pro-worker advocate, as Secretary of Labor. He used his authority as President to issue an executive order reestablishing use of PLAs on federally financed construction projects. He supports the aggressive use of the Davis-Bacon Act. He has pursued a bold legislative agenda that includes the largest economic stimulus in history and sweeping reform of Wall Street. And he supports cutting taxes for middle-class families. The Building and Construction Trades Department and its affiliated unions are working closely with the Obama Administration to jumpstart a new clean-energy industry, potentially generating millions of jobs installing solar panels and solar roof systems and building wind

turbines, nuclear plants and clean coal-generating facilities.

In November we need to support politicians who support President Obama's agenda for a better America. Study the candidates carefully. Do they stand for what you believe in? Do they have a pro-worker track record to back it up? There is too much at stake. We do not want to go back to the policies that took President Bill Clinton's surplus and in eight years turned it into record deficits...that saw people working harder and harder but falling further and further behind...that gave corporate special interests free rein to write their own rules, causing the greatest economic crisis in generations. What we do want is to resurrect the American dream, where hard work is rewarded with decent wages and a secure future for your family. Cast your vote on November 2nd.



### Enhancements to Prescription-Drug Program

On page 15 you will read how the National Roofers Union and Employers Joint Health and Welfare Trust Fund proposes to reduce prescription-drug costs and improve your health care. The national trend in 2010 for prescription-drug costs increased at a rate four times greater than the annual increase in hourly earnings. This has not been the case for your plan. Due to choices you made, our prescription-drug costs have actually decreased for two years in a row. How did you do that when drug costs have increased for most others by 10% each year? You did it by simply using more cost-effective generic and over-the-counter drugs whenever possible. Thank you for doing your part to keep these costs under control and our medical plan healthy.