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LIUNA Looks Toward Third Member Survey in Its Presidential Endorsement Process

*Standing Apart, Union of Workers Who Build America Continues with Member Outreach
and Input in Search For a Candidate Committed to Nation's Basics*

Washington, DC (February 15, 2008) – LIUNA – the Laborers' International Union of North America – will look toward a third survey of its members as it continues outreach efforts in its Presidential endorsement process.

The union – with a half-million collective bargaining members predominantly in the construction industry -- has instituted a member-driven process including two independent surveys, more than a quarter-million robo calls and text messages to members urging participation in primaries so far, nearly 1 million email and direct mail messages about the issues that matter and online feedback opportunities.

In each survey so far, members have generally reflected the candidate preferences of Democratic voters nationally. LIUNA will not endorse a candidate until one reaches 60 percent support. While no candidate has yet reached that threshold, members have clearly indicated support for a Democrat in the White House and agreement on the issues that matter: creating good jobs, health care and retirement security.

Members will be surveyed a third time in the near future.

“When we endorse a candidate, it will be a membership endorsement that carries the full power and strength of our members. Our goal is to engage members so they in turn can engage candidates around important issues,” LIUNA General President Terence O’Sullivan said. “Our members are on the forefront of the construction industry – an economic powerhouse of 10 million workers who produce 5 percent of the nation’s economic output – and they are looking for a “Build America” candidate, one who will put their everyday issues first, including the creation of good, family-supporting jobs with health care and a commitment to taking care of America’s basics by rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure.”

As LIUNA members decide on a candidate, the union will continue ramping up member outreach and mobilization efforts with a primary turnout effort in Wisconsin that includes automated calls and text messages.

The effort is part of the Union’s 2008 election program which includes:

- Outreach around issues that matter to the men and women who build America, including good jobs, a strong economy and investment in the nation’s basics, such as its highways, bridges, transit systems and dams.

- Use of all available tools, such as membership surveys to gauge presidential preferences and concerns, and member outreach and information via robo calls, targeted mailings, text messaging and websites.
- The strongest voter registration and volunteer activism program in the union's history.

In his call to Wisconsin LIUNA members, O'Sullivan will urge their participation in the primary saying, "Everyday you do the work of building America and now is your chance to be heard." Text messages to members will reiterate the importance of their involvement.

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