

## **BUILDING MEMBER POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**

United Farm Workers  
18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Convention  
August 22-24, 2008  
Fresno, California

**WHEREAS**, elected, political representatives in our local areas where farm workers live and work don't represent the interests of farm workers in environmental, housing, labor and health decisions; and

**WHEREAS**; local representation should support the workforce of the industry that is the main driving force behind the local economy, and

**WHEREAS**; few citizens know who or what our school board members are or County Board of Supervisors are responsible for, despite their powers to hire and fire principals, increase the minimum wage, require employers to provide basic worker protections and manage millions of taxpayer dollars.

**WHEREAS**; California's sun lures thousands of tourists to bask in its warmth, yet, fourteen farm workers have died from the same sun since the election of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

**WHEREAS**; despite our Unions victory in passing heat regulations in 2005 to protect workers from the heat, some employers continue to not provide shade, water or rest breaks and as a result, farm workers continue to die.

**WHEREAS**; it is estimated that more than 1 million new Latino voters have been registered this year.

**WHEREAS**; the current President enjoys eating Mexican tacos at political fundraisers but failed to address the real need for immigration reform.

**WHEREAS**; farm workers helped to elect a majority on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, who are farm worker champions, where, in 2004, Jane Parker ran for the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, lost by 200 votes and ran again in 2008 and won by 463 votes with the help of farm workers

**WHEREAS**; member participation and development in electoral campaigns is vital to our political strength,

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**; we will identify statewide regions and local counties where UFW members, former and current staff can serve as elected officials to ensure that farm workers interests are at the forefront of all policy decisions.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**; we will continue to register our family members, friends and neighbors and get out the vote for a new President who is committed to comprehensive immigration reform. Everybody, regardless of legal status, can help encourage others to vote. "Con la Union de Campesinos Tendremos Papeles" with the support of the next president of the United States

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, when a comprehensive immigration reform is passed, the UFW will begin to prepare a program for members to obtain United States citizenship; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the United Farm Workers, sitting in convention continue to voluntarily collect money from our members through a check off system which will be used to further our political and legislative agenda; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that every member who contributes to the United Farm Workers Civic Education Committee (CEC) will receive a quarterly bulletin to outline the UFW's federal and state legislative and political activities, report key victories achieved, provide a clear accounting of CEC expenditures; provide information on upcoming events where member participation is welcomed; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**; that all Secretarios de Accion Civica will be regularly called upon to plan and execute campaign training, political updates and town hall meetings to keep the members in their respective companies informed and involved.