SEIU 32 BJ’s members have worked hard to build political strength through electoral and legislative action. Members have helped elect candidates who understand the needs of working people. More importantly, we have held our elected officials accountable. We have fought hard and won legislation that has improved the lives of 32BJ members and all working people.

**Prevailing Wage Legislation**

SEIU 32BJ had a recent victory when a Prevailing Wage law was passed by the New York City Council. This legislation requires private developers to pay prevailing wages for working at projects in which the City provides at least $1 million in subsidies.

**Displaced Workers Protection**

In 2001, SEIU 32BJ won a huge victory. Now when a building in New York City changes owners or contractors, security officers and cleaners have the right to keep their jobs for at least 90 days.

**Setting Standards for Security**

Although security officers provide the first line of defense for residents and tenants in commercial and residential buildings, New York State requires only 8 hours of training before officers can start work. 32BJ helped pass a law that rewards companies that offer 40 hours of training to their security officers.

**Good Jobs & Affordable Housing**

The union successfully changed an affordable housing law in New York City to make sure that when developers receive tax incentives to develop affordable housing, jobs that pay good wages and provide benefits are also part of the deal.

**Paid Sick Days for all New Yorkers**

We recently won passage of a law in the New York City Council, guaranteeing that all workers are entitled to days off when they are sick. This law benefits 1 million hard-working New Yorkers.

**Raising Wage Standards for Working People**

32BJ engages in political activities that ensure that all elected officials at every level hear our voices. We help elect pro-working family candidates who fight to improve working conditions for working people. These officials help us win strong contracts by speaking out publicly in support of our goals.
Non-Legislative Examples of Political Power in NYC

**Support During Lockouts: Coop City and Flatbush Gardens**

Our relationship with Mayor Bloomberg and the politicians in the Bronx was key to winning at Co-op City and going back to work. At Flatbush Gardens, politicians who we had supported from Brooklyn and citywide offices were on the site with members almost every week of the 11 month lockout.

**Combatting Retaliation against Workers**

This year, elected officials came out in support of residential workers who had been fired for organizing at a building under the 421a tax abatement, and the workers’ jobs were reinstated.

**Support During Contract Campaigns**

During the Bronx residential contract campaign, a citywide elected official co-sponsored a tenant tele-town hall with us to win support from tenants before the potential strike. And in all of our contract campaigns, politicians have stood with us to help send a message to employers that they need to deal with us fairly.

**Prevailing Wage for NYC Security Officers**

Because of our political power, Bloomberg agreed to pay the 5,000 city security officers the prevailing wage, after the Comptroller set the first ever prevailing wage rate to our contract.

**Winning Good Jobs through Rezoning Fights: Yankee Stadium, Barclay’s Center, Midtown East, Chelsea Market, Wiley’s Point, and more**

In each of these rezoning efforts that faced neighborhood opposition, developers realized that without our support, they had no chance of making it through the rezoning process. Because of our political power, council members would not support rezoning unless the developers were working with us. We were able to use that leverage to get agreements with developers, and then testify in support of the projects.

Whether land is being rezoned for a new purpose or the city is selling land or putting city land up for development, we mobilize elected officials to make sure it goes to responsible parties. This sends a message to all employers, that the way they treat their workers can have a far-reaching impact on their ability to do business in New York.