

Spring 2024

LABOUR LINK NEWSLETTER



Intro from chair - welcome Lynsey Tod!

Welcome to the first 2024 edition of the regional Labour Link round-up. It's my continued pleasure as chair to celebrate and promote the achievements of our members, sharing good news stories and highlighting our wins.

This edition will contain news on by-elections, our latest endorsements for parliamentary seats, promoting training opportunities, and more! I'd like to welcome our new Political Officer Lynsey Tod to her post. Lynsey has an exceptional amount of knowledge and awareness of the trade union/Labour Party link having worked for numerous MPs and I can't say how fortunate enough we are to be working with her.

As ever, if you have any queries about Labour Link, you can reach me on robert.parkinson@leicester.gov.uk. Enjoy the read!

Robert Parkinson, Chair East Midlands Labour Link

CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

At the time of writing the 200-odd 'non battleground seats' remain yet to be announced, however UNISON endorsed several UNISON members for these seats, encouragingly with a particular number of young unison members applying.

We wish them all the very best of luck in their selections.

In the latest round of 'key seat' nominations, UNISON endorsed Michelle Welsh for Sherwood Forest, Leonie Mathers for Rushcliffe and Julia Long for Ashfield.



WINNING IN WELLINGBOROUGH

UNISON backed Gen Kitchen won the Wellingborough by-election, with a historic swing away from the Tories to Labour. I'd like to thank all those who campaigned for Gen and supported the trade union campaign days myself and others helped to pull together. The regularity of the swing away from the Tories to Labour in these by-elections is extremely encouraging for the prospect of Labour returning to power, however we shouldn't take things for granted.



LABOUR UNIONS ROADSHOW

Following our huge presence in the Wellingborough by-election our Labour Unions roadshow will resume to support target seat candidates in earnest, starting with a joint East/West Mids campaign day in Burton to support UNISON young member Jacob Collier on Sunday 24th March. If you'd like to be added to the regional trade union campaigns WhatsApp group please email your name and mobile number to Robert Parkinson: robert.parkinson@leicester.gov.uk



LABOUR LINK OFFICER TRAINING

On the weekend of 11 and 12 May there will be Branch Labour Link training as part of the Branch Officer training weekend, being held in Leicester. It's for existing Labour Link officers, people who are keen to know more about the role, and members who want to hear more about UNISON's plans for the upcoming general election.

If you'd like to register for this training please contact your branch and take a look at the registration link: eastmidlands.unison.org.uk/training-branch-officers/

REGIONAL LABOUR LINK FORUM 2024

On Saturday 2 March we will be having our annual general meeting aka. Labour Link Forum. Here we shall hear from our Regional Secretary Chris Jenkinson and Political Officer Lynsey Tod talking about union priorities when it comes to helping secure a Labour government.

We shall also be joined by an all-star panel during the afternoon panel: Steve Yemm, Mansfield's Parliamentary Candidate, Gary Godden, Candidate for Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Julian Cooke, UNISON Labour Link National Officer and Margaret Greer, UNISON National Race Equality Officer.