

Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition

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14 February 2012

To all trade union branches and regional bodies in Greater London

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing on behalf of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) to ask for your support.

TUSC is standing a list of candidates in the London-wide 'top-up' list section of the elections for the Greater London Assembly on 3 May 2012. We are doing so because we believe that ordinary Londoners should have the choice of an alternative to the consensus in favour of public spending cuts, privatisation and pay freezes advocated by all the three main parties. Recent statements by Labour Party leaders that in government they would not reverse Tory/Lib Dem spending cuts confirms that they do not offer working-class people an alternative and cannot be a viable opposition to the attacks on our communities and our public services.

I have been selected to head the TUSC list in the GLA election. Other candidates selected so far include Ian Leahair, FBU national executive, Steve Hedley, RMT London regional organiser, Joe Simpson, assistant secretary POA and Martin Powell-Davies, NUT national executive member for London. A full list is available on our website: <http://www.tusc.org.uk/>

TUSC believes that there is a real chance to get a candidate elected to the GLA who will stand up to be a voice for ordinary people against the deafening consensus of politics as usual.

There are three parts of the GLA elections: (1) A vote for the Mayor; (2) a vote in each GLA constituency, on the basis of 'first past the post'; and (3) a vote in the London-wide 'top-up' list section, on the basis of proportional representation.

TUSC is only standing candidates in the third part. If we win over 5% of the vote across London (about 150,000 votes) we should get at least one candidate elected. This would make a real difference to the public debates that take place in the GLA and in the wider public media, ensuring that the views of trade union members and ordinary working-class people struggling against austerity are put forward and challenging other parties that support cuts to pay and public services, outsourcing and privatisation.

As a very new political organisation we have to work extra hard to get across our message of resistance to cuts, respect for working class communities and investment to build a future for ordinary people. We are asking for your help to take the message to every workplace and home in London that there is an alternative to capitalist austerity. We also need to raise funds to allow us to compete with established party machines.

We therefore ask for your support and any financial assistance that you could give would be greatly appreciated.

Yours in solidarity,

Alex Gordon

**Lead candidate for the TUSC list in the London-wide election for the GLA
and President, National Union of Rail, Maritime & Transport Workers (RMT)**

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Donations can be sent to TUSC at 17 Colebert House, Colebert Avenue, London E1 4JP (cheques payable to Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition) or via the PayPal facility on the TUSC website www.tusc.org.uk/donate.php

Attachment: Letter from Ian Leahair, Ben Sprung (FBU) and Steve Hedley, John Reid (RMT) (all in personal capacity) calling for support for anti-cuts candidates in the GLA elections.