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Construction union voices MAPS 3 support

BY BRYAN DEAN [Comments](#)  48

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A major union announced its support Friday for the MAPS 3 plan, four days before voters are scheduled to decide on the \$777 million proposal.

The Oklahoma State Building Trades Council, which represents 12 different unions for groups like bricklayers, electricians, plumbers and ironworkers, announced its support for MAPS 3 at the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 344 in Oklahoma City.

Darren Jones, president of the group, said the plan could not have come at a better time for construction workers sorely in need of jobs.

"It's going to supply jobs for Oklahomans in the construction trades and hopefully keep the jobs with Oklahoma contractors," Jones said.

Former Mayor Kirk Humphreys, who is among the leaders of the MAPS 3 campaign, thanked the group for its support and stressed the importance of people getting to the polls on Tuesday.

"I for one am thankful that when this is passed next Tuesday we are going to have a lot of work for a lot of good people," Humphreys said. "The message is we are all in this together."

The endorsement from the construction unions stands in stark contrast to the organized opposition to MAPS 3, which is led by the city's police and fire unions.

Police and fire union leaders claim the city needs to hire more firefighters and police officers before undertaking another MAPS program.

Also endorsing MAPS 3 is Gov. Brad Henry, who is starring along with other officials in a television advertisement in favor of MAPS.

"MAPS has provided a tremendous boost to Oklahoma City over the years, and I think it makes good sense to continue that momentum with a yes vote on Dec. 8," Henry said. "What's good for Oklahoma City is good for the state of Oklahoma as a whole, and that's why I'm supporting MAPS."

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