Keeping up the pressure

Local 1000 members calling, precinct walking for a responsible budget

Local 1000 members continue to volunteer their time and energy to communicate the importance of a well-balanced California budget by phone banking and precinct walking. After vetoing the Legislature’s hastily prepared budget bill on June 16, Gov. Brown continues to press for a balanced approach that includes tax extensions and program cuts.

“We must keep up the pressure,” says Local 1000 president Yvonne Walker. “It is critical that we continue our efforts to encourage voters and avoid the devastating impact of a cuts-only budget.” Tax extensions would fill most of the remaining $9.6 billion deficit.

Brown’s budget proposal is stalled for the lack of four Republican votes. Through weekly phone banking and precinct walking, members are reaching out to targeted Republican districts to move the message of a responsible state budget. “It’s important for us to get involved because we elected a good man to governorship and he is trying to make some positive change,” says John Pace, senior information systems analyst for CalPERS. “Gov. Brown isn’t pro-Democrat or pro-Republican, he’s pro-good administration.”

“I’m taking action because our state is under attack… this is the fight for our future and our children’s future.”

—Blayne Thalken
Legal Secretary
Department of Justice

John Pace is just one of the hundreds of members who are taking action and talking to voters. Pace dedicates every Thursday afternoon to phone banking. To date, almost 5,000 volunteer shifts have yielded over 160,000 calls by phone banking and more than 25,000 doors visited through precinct walking.

“I’m taking action because our state is under attack … this is the fight for our future and our children’s future,” says Blayne Thalken, legal secretary for Department of Justice.

“People don’t realize just how important it is to pressure legislators to do the right thing.”

How to volunteer

Call your legislator through the Stand Up for California hotline at 866.864.8567, and let them know how important a responsible budget is to you.

- Phone bank Monday thru Thursday
- Precinct walk with fellow Californians on Saturdays

Schedules available at seiu1000.org or by calling the Member Resource Center at 866.471.SEIU (7348)
Contracts now available

Members can get copies three ways

Your Local 1000 contract—ratified by a vote of the members in November 2010—is now being distributed to members in worksites up and down the state. The contract, which guarantees a wide range of rights and benefits to state employees, is available in printed form or in digital format on a portable flash drive. Members can also download a copy from the Local 1000 website.

Local 1000’s bargaining team won a number of key provisions, including protection against the imposition of minimum wage, ending the three furlough days members endured each month, and a three percent wage increase added to the top of each pay range, effective July 1, 2013.

Below are a list of the key provisions contained in your new contract; for a full copy of the contract, attend a worksite meeting, contact your union steward or your Local 1000 organizer. You can also find it online at seiu1000.org

Six key contract provisions

Salaries (Article 11.1)

• All employees shall have their maximum salary ranges increased by three percent on July 1, 2013; this proposal does not impact BU 3 employees in CDCR who work an academic calendar or seasonal clerks.

• All BU 3 employees in CDCR who work an academic calendar shall have a three percent salary differential after working at step six or higher for a minimum of 12 qualifying pay periods. This increase shall be considered PERS-able, subject to approval by the CalPERS board.

• Seasonal clerks shall receive a $0.50 per hour raise July 1, 2013.

Training and Education (Article 13)

• Two additional professional development leave days that can be used in the same manner as vacation and annual leave.

Personal Leave Program (PLP) 2010

• Employees will accumulate one personal leave day (eight hours) per month for 12 months following ratification of the agreement. In exchange, employee pay will be reduced by 4.62%.

• Employees will be allowed to use or bank this time until June 30, 2013. PLP must be used by June 30, 2013.

• This PLP leave must be used prior to the use of vacation, annual leave and any other leaves (except sick leave, furlough leave and personal necessity leave).

Overtime (Article 19.2)

• Leave time shall not count for the purposes of calculating a workweek leading to the payment of overtime.

• For Units 15, 17 & 20, employees who are mandated to work overtime in a week in which they took approved leave (except for sick leave) shall receive premium overtime pay.

Holidays (Article 7.1)

• Lincoln’s Birthday and Columbus Day are no longer paid holidays off.

• Employees who work on January 1, the last Monday in May, July 4, the first Monday in September, Thanksgiving Day or Christmas will be paid 1.5 times the employee’s regular rate of pay, and up to eight hours of holiday credit for all hours worked on these six holidays. This does not apply to the five remaining holidays.

Retirement (Article 17)

• The employees’ contribution will increase by an additional 3%.

• Current employees will maintain their current retirement formula. (Miscellaneous and Industrial, 2% at age 55; or Safety 2.5% at age 55)

• Employees hired after January 15, 2011 and after participating in the Alternate Retirement Plan (ARP) program, shall be subject to the new retirement formula. (Miscellaneous and Industrial, 2% at age 60; Safety 2% at age 55)

How to get your copy:

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■ Contact your Union steward
■ Ask your Local 1000 organizer
■ Download a digital copy at seiu1000.org