

JULY 6, 2011

UNION UPDATE



BUDGET: ‘Far from what Californians deserve’

Tireless efforts by Local 1000 members and staff—both in the 2010 elections and in the halls of the State Capitol—proved crucial in helping shape a 2011-2012 budget that has only limited impact on Local 1000 members’ jobs and the services we provide.

“Even though this budget is only a short-term solution, it shows that standing up for yourself and your fellow state workers can make a difference in the governor’s office and the Legislature,” said Marie Harder, a senior information systems analyst at the California Department of Public Services. “I got involved in both the (2010) primary and general elections and I know it made a difference in saving jobs and levels of service in my department.”

Even so, Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker was critical of the end result.

“The budget is far from what Californians deserve,” she said. “We had an opportunity to solve the state’s chronic budget crisis, but Republicans refused to make tough choices—every Californian should be outraged.”

Walker added that “Redistricting and our new open primary system will give us an opportunity (in the 2012 elections) to raise revenues needed to erase our structural deficit and win a two-thirds majority that will prevent legislative deadlock by a minority of legislators.”



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—Yvonne R. Walker
President, SEIU Local 1000

“The 2012 elections are our next opportunity to solve our budget crisis,” Walker said. “It will be a test of our democracy and how we fund public institutions that provide safety, education and crucial services to middle class families.”

SEE BUDGET DETAILS ON PAGE 2

OUTSOURCING VICTORY

CDE: “We won’t hire visiting educators”

The California Department of Education (CDE) won’t be outsourcing jobs to so-called visiting educators after withdrawing a request at the State Personnel Board (SPB) that, if approved, would have authorized the questionable hiring practice.

Local 1000 mobilized members and staff to ensure that a February 2010 victory stopping

the outsourcing continued past its June 2011 end date. Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker announced CDE’s decision to withdraw the request after working closely with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson. “We’re pleased that CDE will continue its commitment to using state employees to provide vital educational services,” Walker said.

Torlakson, a Local 1000-endorsed candidate in the November election, stated his opposition to the hiring of visiting educators at a Local 1000 town hall meeting.

“We are glad that our victory on this issue remains. In this economy it seems misguided that any department would outsource jobs at a higher cost,” said Miguel Cordova, Unit 21 bargaining chair.

Resource Center

Monday-Friday
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
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BUDGET DETAILS

Adopted from previously proposed budget:

- \$150 million cut each to University of California (UC), California State University (CSU)
- \$150 million cut to state courts
- \$200 million in Amazon online tax enforcement
- \$2.8 billion in deferrals to K-12 schools and community colleges
- \$300 million from \$12 per vehicle increase in DMV registration fee
- \$50 million from fire fee for rural homeowners
- \$1.7 billion from redevelopment agencies
- Higher tax receipts (now worth \$1.2 billion from May and June)

Rejected from previous proposal:

- Pension “reform”
- \$1.2 billion from selling state buildings
- \$900 million from raising a quarter-cent local sales tax
- \$1 billion from First 5 California commissions
- \$500 million cut in local law enforcement grants
- \$540 million deferral to University of California
- \$700 million in federal funds for Medi-Cal errors

New Additions:

- 1.06 percentage point sales tax swap that redirects money to local governments for Brown’s “realignment” plan rather than to the state. Sales tax rate will still fall one percent on July 1
- \$4 billion in higher projected revenues in 2011-12, with triggered cuts that will occur if revenues fail to materialize

Revenue shortfall would trigger additional cuts in three tiers:

Tier 0: If the state gets \$3 billion to \$4 billion of the projected revenue, the state will not impose additional cuts and roll over any balance of problems into the 2012-13 budget.

Tier 1: If the state gets \$2 billion to \$3 billion of the projected revenue, the state will impose about \$600 million of cuts and roll over the remainder into the 2012-13 budget. The \$600 million in cuts include a \$100 million cut to UC, a \$100 million cut to CSU, a \$100 million cut to Corrections and a \$200 million cut to Health and Human Services.

Tier 2: If the state gets \$0 to \$2 billion of the projected revenue, the state will also impose up to \$1.9 billion in cuts, including a \$1.5 billion reduction to schools that assumes seven fewer classroom days. It also includes a \$250 million elimination of school bus transportation (except for that which is federally mandated). Cuts will be proportionate to how much of the first \$2 billion in revenues the state gets. The state will also impose the Tier 1 cuts.