Revenue measure to help save vital education, public safety programs

After years of cutting, initiative aims to put state on solid fiscal footing

For the past four years, the state has been forced to cut more and more vital programs that help California’s working families because there was no new stream of revenue during a bad economy.

Proposition 30, the Schools & Local Public Safety Protection Act on the November ballot, aims to help put the state on a more solid fiscal footing by funding education and public safety programs through new revenues.

“Proposition 30 raises funds for programs that are absolutely critical. It also makes the budgeting process more predictable.”

—Yvonne R. Walker, President

“For years we have argued that California cannot cut its way out of the budget crisis forever without doing long-term damage to residents,” said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. “Proposition 30 is a big step in the right direction because it raises funds for programs that are absolutely critical—schools and public safety. It also makes the budgeting process more predictable.”

Proposition 30 temporarily raises income taxes on the state’s highest earners—those making $500,000 or more per year—and would temporarily raise the sales tax one quarter of one percent. The sales tax rate would still be lower than sales taxes were last year.

If Proposition 30 fails to pass in November, the state will be forced to cut an additional $6 billion from schools and public safety programs, which would create more pressure to reduce other vital state services that Californians depend on.

Why I'm stepping up

“I am phone banking tonight because the outcome of this election will determine the state’s level of fiscal strength as well as the level of our union’s collective political power,” said Bargaining Unit 14 member Kevin Greenlese while phone banking.

During this crucial election season, we need more than votes—we need volunteers like Kevin Greenlese, who are talking to colleagues, friends and family about the importance of Proposition 30 and how its passage protects vital state services.

Local 1000 members up and down the state are stepping up to phone bank and walk precincts now through Election Day.

Here’s how you can volunteer:

• Speak with your union representative.
• Visit seiu1000.org to view and sign up on the calendar.
• Call the Member Resource Center at 866.471.SEIU (7348).
Making a difference in our community

A community landmark is becoming vital once again for kids and families as Local 1000 members and staff volunteer at a neighborhood ballpark to restore it to become the next “field of dreams.”

The group replaced the entire infield with fresh dirt, repaired and repainted bleachers and wooden structures, and performed much needed weeding and clean up.

“We’re transforming this ground into a safer and cleaner place for neighborhood kids to play on and families to enjoy,” said Lo Williams, Bargaining Unit 4 member leader. “And these state workers don’t think twice when community effort is needed—they just act.”

Although the field has produced national Little League champions in the past, it has since fallen into disrepair. The formerly weed-choked lot will be green again and ready to ‘play ball’—Ernest Lehr, the chair of the neighborhood association and a retired state worker, expressed his gratitude for the effort, “Somebody (Local 1000) who has the capacity to bring these people together and help us out with a major project is just incredible and we really appreciate it.”

Throughout the years, members and staff have regularly volunteered to clean up parks, creeks and build houses with Habitat for Humanity. “Local 1000 members are doing this to give back. We, as state workers, are not just a part of California’s infrastructure—we are very much a part of California’s communities. We are your neighbors,” said Bargaining Unit 1 member leader Barbara Alves.

Volunteers were also joined by Local 1000 vice presidents Margaret Maldonado and Tamekia Robinson. “We are connecting with our members—at work, and where they live—and partnering to bring change to California in every community,” Maldonado said.

“State workers are not just a part of California’s infrastructure … we are your neighbors.”

—Barbara Alves
Bargaining Unit 1 member leader

Become a Local 1000 volunteer!
Join your fellow state workers who are making a difference in their communities.
Visit the Member Strength web page at seiu1000.me/OwzBGK