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UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000

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Gov. Brown's 2014 budget blueprint

May revision will determine if salary increase starts this year for Local 1000 members

Gov. Brown announced his proposed 2014-15 budget for the state of California on Jan. 10. While the budget is far from final, the proposal serves as an outline of the administration's priorities for the next fiscal year.

Those priorities most notably include fiscal stability, paying down debts while meeting the needs of working families and investing in programs and infrastructures that have been neglected during times of economic hardship. The budget proposal also shows that the governor remains cautiously optimistic on the state's fiscal future as the economy improves.

"There's a saying in politics that goes something like this: 'don't tell me what your priorities are. Show me your budget and I'll tell you what your priorities really are,' "Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker said. "Gov. Brown has made it clear from this budget that he intends to honor promises to California's working families – both Local 1000 members and our neighbors."

The governor's proposal is just that – a proposal. In the coming weeks and months, the Legislature will put forward their own proposals, and after debate and negotiations, they will emerge with a budget for the governor to sign.

Many of the most direct concerns for Local 1000 members will be answered in the May budget revision. Those issues include the question of whether the state's finances are projected to meet conditions that will "trigger" a 2014-2015 pay increase of 2 percent in July, followed by a 2.5 percent increase in the 2015-16 fiscal year, as negotiated in our 2013 contract.

While the governor's budget does project that the salary increases will occur on schedule, the final determination will be made in May.

"Local 1000 will closely monitor the budget as it evolves from this early proposal to reality to ensure the interests of our members and all working Californians are protected," Walker added.

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—Yvonne R. Walker, Local 1000 President

Highlights of Brown's budget proposal

State employee salaries

The budget assumes the state will be able to meet Local 1000's negotiated salary increases of 2 percent by July of 2014, followed by an increase of 2.5 percent in 2015. The final determination will be made after the May budget revision, which will include a more accurate picture of state revenues.

In-sourcing more work to members

The budget includes several proposals that transfer outsourced positions to state employees. Examples can be found in the departments of Health Care Services, Managed Health Care, Public Health, Child Support Services and Technology.

The budget includes the elimination of the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board by transferring its programs to the Department of Health Care Services. It also includes the transfer of the Drinking Water Program from the Department of Public Health to the State Water Resources Control Board.

Health care implementation

California is in the midst of implementing the Federal Affordable Care Act, which will provide coverage to millions of Californians. The governor's budget estimates that 1.4 million additional people will enroll in Medi-Cal and 1.9 million people will enroll in Covered California by the end of 2015-16.

In an effort to improve state hospital employee safety, \$8 million has been set aside for a new personal alarm system for workers at state mental hospitals.

STORY CONTINUES ON BACK PAGE

Campaign for program technicians moves forward



New strategic planning team looks to help program technicians in all departments

“Our goal is to develop more activists among the program technicians in every department to help push for classification changes.”

—Sophia Perkins, Program Technician & Chair of Bargaining Unit 4

A newly formed Local 1000 Program Technician committee is moving forward with a classification review process for the more than 3,300 program technicians in state service, with the goal of upgrading the classification specifications to more accurately reflect the important work our members perform.

The program technician (PT) classification is one of the most common positions in state service. Local 1000 represented program technicians work in nearly every state agency, in a broad diversity of roles and responsibilities.

“Program technicians represent the backbone of so many departments - ranging from DOJ to SCIF to EDD and others, yet the state classification has failed to keep up with their evolving duties,” said Margarita Maldonado, vice president for bargaining. “The work Program Techs do is vital and their service to the state deserves to be properly recognized and compensated.”

The newly formed Program Technician Strategic Planning Team is comprised of program technicians representing a variety of departments and geographical areas.

The team met for the first time in December and is already focused on how to connect and engage with the diverse PT workforce throughout the state.

“This is a member-driven campaign and we need feedback from program technicians throughout the state,” said Unit 4 Chair Sophia Perkins. “We’re building real grassroots power. Our goal is to develop more activists among the program technicians in every department to help push for classification changes.”

Resource Center

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Budget proposal highlights

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Employment Development Department (EDD)

While the dysfunction in Congress continues, Brown has included necessary resources in his budget proposal to improve the administration of unemployment insurance benefits for out-of-work Californians. However, federal funding issues could cause additional staffing problems at EDD.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)

While the proposed budget includes an increase in overall prison spending by 2.1 percent, it also projects a reduction in staff positions as the state continues to address compliance issues related to prison overcrowding litigation.

The budget proposal assumes the state will receive a two-year extension from the federal on government orders that CDCR reduce inmate population by about 8,500 prisoners by April 2014. If the extension is not granted, CDCR will transfer about \$81 million in rehabilitation dollars to fund the increased capacity.

Education

Brown’s budget proposal would increase funding for K-12 education by over \$9 billion, with a focus on investing in disadvantaged student populations (low-income, foster children and non-English learners).

Additionally, the Brown administration wants to reinvest in higher education with the goal of avoiding any increases in tuition and fees over the next four years.