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# UNION UPDATE



# Final preparations for contract negotiations

## Proposals being finalized; bargaining begins April 10

Local 1000's bargaining team – more than 200 member-elected representatives – worked through the weekend to review the results of bargaining surveys and develop conceptual proposals that will drive our upcoming contract negotiations with the state, which are slated to begin April 10.

"Our work this weekend culminates nearly two years of preparation to achieve a fair contract," said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. "We've trained our bargaining representatives extensively and worked to build an army of members to stand up in support of their efforts."

Protecting retirement security, preserving medical benefits, an end to furloughs and a wage increase were among the key priorities expressed by members. Our Bargaining Unit Negotiation Committee (BUNC) further analyzed survey results – including member comments - to develop proposals specific to each of our nine bargaining units.

"We just completed more than 200 meetings attended by thousands of members," said Brenda Modkins, chair of Bargaining Unit 1. "Our aggressive effort to reach out and listen gives us a clear understanding of member priorities."

### Stay informed – show your support

Comprehensive coverage of our negotiations with the state begins April 8. To follow the bargaining team's progress, log on to [seiu1000.org](http://seiu1000.org) and click on the "Bargaining Central" link.



*"Our aggressive effort to reach out and listen gives us a clear understanding of member priorities."*

—Brenda Modkins  
Unit 1 Bargaining Chair



*"We're bargaining for a contract that benefits all Local 1000-represented employees."*

—John Kern  
Unit 3 Bargaining Chair



*"We're creating proposals that preserve our past contract victories and that improve wages, benefits and working conditions."*

—Sophia Perkins  
Unit 4 Bargaining Chair

## Tentative Bargaining Timetable



Local 1000's Bargaining Unit Negotiating Committee - 63 state employees elected by their fellow members - will go to the bargaining table beginning **April 10**.

- April 10** Day of Action
- April 10 – 25** Bargaining
- April 29 – May 10** Worksite meetings
- May 14 – 31** Bargaining

**Federal budget sequestration**

# Members tell Congress to restore vital funding

## Automatic federal cuts hurt California families & state services

Local 1000 members have joined a national effort to urge Congress to back away from a 2011 federal fiscal deal that has resulted in \$630 million in program cuts to our state that directly hurt California families.

The so-called sequestration agreement of 2011 has forced the federal government to make drastic automatic cuts to a wide range of services that help California families including such programs as job training for veterans, Head Start for little kids, financial aid for college students and support services for the elderly and disabled.

The sequestration cuts of \$85 billion nationally took effect March 1 as part of a 2011 fiscal agreement to reduce the federal deficit. Congress has refused to consider President Obama's compromise.

## Feds fund 32 percent of state budget

Federal funding is the single largest source—32 percent—of general revenue in California. With all the program cuts our state has had to endure in recent years, this loss of federal funding will result in a shortfall in the state's budget—and a loss of jobs and vital services.

“Congress must make education a priority, and more importantly, make a priority of the extraordinary needs of innocent children who rely upon special education services to gain the necessary skills to live a sustainable and productive life in everyday society,” said Beatriz Sanchez, a Department of Social Services employee who participated in the campaign.

“Congress needs to do the same thing California voters did last fall with Prop. 30 and adopt a solution that balances revenues with cuts,” said Sanchez.



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**California Health Benefit Exchange**

## Fed health care act yields state jobs

### Benefit exchange to add more than 400 positions

Local 1000's longtime support for a national health care program is helping our members directly—with at least 400 new office jobs for the new state agency that will implement the federal legislation.

The new Bargaining Unit 4 jobs in the program technician classification are part of the newly formed California Health Benefit Exchange that was created as a result of the Affordable Care Act of 2010.

The goal of the health care legislation, which was supported heavily by SEIU at the national and state levels, is to make health care insurance available to nearly all American workers. In California, these new state jobs are part of the implementation of the program.

working Americans. During the 2008 election cycle, it was SEIU's top priority and led to our union's strong support for Obama. Even though our members all have health insurance because of our union contract, Local 1000 has long supported health care for all.

“We worked for years to elect a president and members of Congress who support expanding health care, and now we are seeing how it is paying off for California,” said Sophia Perkins, chair of Bargaining Unit 4. “Our commitment to helping California families get health insurance has paid off. Now, we are seeing hundreds of new state jobs that will help employers and workers find the best possible health care options. This is win-win solution for everyone involved.”

### National effort, state results

For more than 20 years, SEIU has been a leader in national efforts to expand affordable health care to all

For more information on these new positions, go to [seiu1000.me/11gfjrB](http://seiu1000.me/11gfjrB)