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UNION UPDATE



Critical Election for State Employees

Elections hold key to power

Primaries set stage for next decade of legislation and services

The 2012 election season will be one of the most important and unpredictable in many years. More than half the assembly seats are open due to redistricting and open primaries. At the same time, we face a ballot initiative that would silence our union's political voice; another would increase revenues to ensure vital state services are funded. More than ever, Local 1000 members stand to win—or lose—based upon their commitment to projecting political power.

"The leaders we elect this year will likely be the leaders we live with for most of the next decade," said Tamekia N. Robinson, Local 1000 vice president for organizing/representation. "Even with term limits, many of the leaders we elect this year will continue in other elected positions in the future."

Open primaries, open seats

Our political action is important—an unusually high percentage of legislative seats are open due to redistricting, term limits and open primaries. Political analysts say 42 of 80 Assembly seats may have a new legislator after November. Right now, we have a chance to elect a two-thirds majority of labor-friendly lawmakers—a threshold necessary for passage of spending bills.

Critical fall initiatives

The November ballot is expected to have at least three ballot measures with a direct impact on Local 1000 members. The so-called Paycheck Deception initiative,

which would effectively silence our union politically, has already qualified. There is also expected to be at least one measure to cut public employee pensions. The governor and SEIU are also promoting a proposition to raise revenue for schools and vital services.

Register to vote, vote by mail

We need members to step up in three different ways. First, register to vote. Second, help us by reaching out to other voters, especially those who vote early by mail. Third, help Local 1000 and our allies ensure that voters who support state services cast their ballots. Register online at seiu1000.me/GH5CbV.

Phone voters, walk precincts

In May, and this fall, you can help by phoning voters to identify those who support state workers and our allies in the legislature. You can also help us by walking precincts on weekends to talk to voters about issues and why the election is so important. Volunteer online at seiu1000.me/GNhGBR.

Candidate endorsements

For the past two months, members of Local 1000 and other SEIU locals have been attending open meetings with candidates who are seeking our endorsement. After each meeting, our members met and voted on endorsement recommendations. For a list of candidates who have already received an endorsement go to seiu1000.me/GMT6pR.



Politics matters to every state employee

By Yvonne R. Walker, Local 1000 president

This June, and especially in November, we need every single Local 1000 member to join us in building a strong political voice. We must act together by sharing our message broadly, and by voting wisely to protect our union rights and to elect legislators who value the vital services we perform for all Californians.

As state workers, our fate has always been linked to the political process—for better or worse. The benefits and protections that we enjoy now came as a result of past political struggles. The same is true for many of the problems we've experienced.

The California civil service system

was created in 1930 after voters approved an initiative backed by state employees and our allies. Before that time, state employees served at the whim of elected leaders.

A few years later, voters approved an initiative, also supported by state employees, to create CalPERS and

give public employees a pension system. In 2005, we banded together with other public employee unions to defeat Arnold Schwarzenegger's package of anti-labor initiatives in a special election.

Virtually all of our improvements in pay, working conditions and benefits came about—directly or indirectly—because of political action in the initiative process.

I'm asking you to join me by taking action in this most important of political seasons.

Member action reverses DMV decision

DMV office reopens in West Covina after Local 1000 partners with political ally

As a result of political pressure by members and our allies, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) reopened a Los Angeles County field office that was closed in 2010.

"This victory is a testament to the determination of our members at DMV and their ability to build political alliances to save that office," Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker said. "Our members refused to give up."

The DMV closed the office in West Covina in November 2010, transferring workers to other DMV offices in Southern California. Our members pressed the DMV to reconsider. Our campaign gained the support of Assemblymember Roger Hernandez, who represents West Covina and the surrounding San Gabriel Valley communities.

"This victory is a testament to the determination of our members at DMV and their ability to build political alliances to save that office."

— Yvonne R. Walker
Local 1000 president

In January, the DMV reversed course and announced it would reopen the office. The West Covina office reopened on Feb. 6 with 35 workers represented by Local 1000 there.



From the left: Assemblymember Roger Hernandez, DMV steward Maria Armenta, Coordinator Ted Burnett and DLC 706 President Sandra Garcia

On the day of the reopening, DMV employees were met by Assemblymember Hernandez who praised the crucial effort by Local 1000 members and explained how the reopening would not have occurred had they not stepped up. He personally thanked those involved and presented our DMV members with a certificate of recognition that praised their "...tireless efforts in providing quality public service to the San Gabriel Valley community."

Maria Armenta, a steward at the West Covina office, said the victory was possible only through organizing political alliances.

"This was a tough political victory that we did not accomplish alone," Armenta said. "We were successful because we brought in allies and made this a political issue DMV could not ignore. It stands as proof that state employees must be involved in politics."

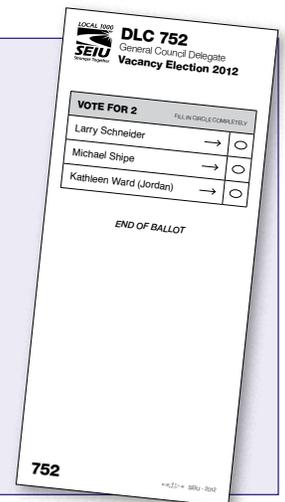
Need a delegate replacement ballot?

Elections continue for CSEA general council & SEIU convention

If you have not yet received your delegate ballot in the mail, call the Member Resource Center at **866.471.SEIU** (7348) and request a replacement ballot for delegate elections for the SEIU International Convention and the CSEA General Council.

A Local 1000 representative will ask you for your District Labor Council (DLC) number and will verify

your membership status and home address. The deadline for receipt of the return ballot is 5 p.m., April 13 at 1321 Howe Ave., Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95825.



UNION INFORMATION

Resource Center

Monday-Friday
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
866.471.SEIU (7348)

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