

APR 4
2012

UNION UPDATE



Sign on for a responsible budget

Members take action by collecting signatures for initiative to balance budget

All across California, Local 1000 members and staff are gathering signatures from voters to help ensure that the governor's compromise proposal to increase state revenues appears on the November ballot.

The Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012 asks the richest Californians to pay their fair share to help fund public education and vital public services, pay down the debt we owe to schools, and help the state avoid more draconian cuts.

The initiative, which is supported by a wide coalition, is a crucial component in an effort by the governor and Local 1000 to not rely exclusively on cuts to balance the budget.

"For years we have argued for a responsible approach to balancing the state budget that relies on a mix of cuts, efficiencies and new revenues," Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker said. "This initiative is a big step in the right direction. We have learned that we cannot just cut our way to fiscal stability without jeopardizing services that California's families rely on. This is a balanced solution."

No new income tax for the middle class

The Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act does not raise income taxes on the middle class. The measure raises income taxes on the top 1 percent of the highest earners by 3 percent, with smaller increases on those who are not as wealthy. However, if you are an individual making less than \$250,000 or your family makes less than \$500,000, you will pay no additional income tax.

The new measure would also partially restore sales tax funding that expired last year. The sales tax would

increase one quarter of one percent per dollar – or just a penny for every four dollars spent.

Revenue increase will expire

All of these revenue increases under the initiative are temporary, with the income tax provisions lasting seven years and the sales tax provisions lasting four years.

The new revenues are an investment in California's future, with most of the money going to schools to avoid further cuts and restore some programs. The initiative also protects public safety in our communities by guaranteeing that the costs of realigning some criminal justice programs from the state to the county level will be funded.

How you can sign on

Last week, Local 1000 members and staff launched our collection effort by fanning out to get signatures and talk to state employees about the importance of this initiative to California.

Local 1000 is trying to collect 12,000 signatures by April 27 as part of a broader effort with other SEIU locals and allies. In order to qualify for the November ballot, supporters of the Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act need to obtain 807,000 valid signatures.

"We're out collecting signatures every day because this is important for California," said Regina Whitney, a Department of Justice employee in San Francisco. "After several years of massive cuts, this initiative helps balance California's budget without raising income taxes on those hit hardest by the recession. We can't afford to fail to qualify this initiative in April and pass it into law in November."

Only registered voters can sign the petition. If you need to register to vote, you can download a registration form at seiu1000.org

If you have questions regarding the Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012, contact the Local 1000 Member Resource Center at **866-471-SEIU** (7348).

UNION INFORMATION

Resource Center

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

Website

seiu1000.org

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Member Strength Corner

Fight or Flight?

Teresa Hubbard stayed at SCIF to make a difference



"I can't imagine running from injustice," said Teresa Hubbard, who works at the State Compensation Insurance Fund (SCIF). In December 2011, Hubbard was all set to take the transition package offered to employees as an incentive to leave SCIF, but she decided to stay when she realized her coworkers would lose an advocate. "The decision wasn't about me at that point. I couldn't leave SCIF knowing that someone was counting on me somewhere."

"I couldn't leave SCIF knowing that someone was counting on me somewhere."

– **Teresa Hubbard**
SCIF, Vacaville

In 2005, Teresa worked at SCIF alongside Vice President Tamekia Robinson, who was the only steward at that time, and encouraged members to attend union meetings. "It's important to realize that others want to

stand and fight with you; never think you are alone," Robinson said. When the threat of furloughs and a 14 percent cut in pay arose, Teresa became scared and knew she needed to get involved as a steward like Tamekia. "I quickly learned that participation is the key, and people need to get involved to make a change," Hubbard said. Currently, she represents the members of DLC 747 as Chief Steward and encourages others to become involved.

Teresa is no stranger to activism. Growing up in a large family in Oakland, Teresa's dad would take her to strikes and taught her to never cross the picket line. From there, it was a natural progression from her family, to her children, to her coworkers to be a constant advocate.

Teresa wants to engage her fellow members at SCIF. "We have to change the conversation; we have to show people how they benefit from Local 1000 and that we cannot lose what we have gained," Teresa said. "I want to tell everyone the same thing I tell my children, 'You have to make a decision on what you want the rest of your life to look like. You have to make that first step, or no one else will follow.'"

Department of Mental Health

Members demand to be heard by DMH administration

DMH has no plan for a safe or successful transition of its state hospitals

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) is moving quickly to cut millions from their budget through staff and program reductions at the state hospitals — without real consideration of employee input or legislative oversight. The department began sending State Restriction of Appointment (SROA) notices to employees last month.

After DMH announced these reductions, Local 1000 members and staff immediately took action and launched efforts on several fronts to address these cuts.

"DMH did this without thinking through the impact to our members and the services we provide," said Margarita Maldonado, Local

1000 vice president. "Without any time to waste, we formed a DMH Transition Team and engaged in discussions with DMH's administration and the legislature."

"DMH has been unwilling to work with us to determine the best way to make this transition."

— **Anna Ramirez**
Nurse, Metropolitan State Hospital

Layoffs vs. private contractors

Discussions with DMH have continued, but it is clear that no coherent plan for a successful transition exists. The department's solution

so far are layoffs and major program cuts while ignoring other cost saving options, including reducing the department's dependence on costly private medical staff.

"DMH has been unwilling to work with us to determine the best way to make this transition," said Anna Ramirez, a DMH nurse at Metropolitan State Hospital. "This is incredibly frustrating for our members and their families."

Members taking action

DMH members and allies can fight back by participating in our online survey and emailing their legislators. To take action, go to seiu1000.org and click on the DMH Transition icon.