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UNION UPDATE



Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act

Members sign on for gov's revenue ballot measure

Local 1000 surpasses 12,000-signature target, collection continues

Local 1000 members and staff have collected more than 15,000 signatures so far—surpassing our goal of 12,000—to help ensure that the governor's compromise proposal to increase state revenues appears on the November ballot.

Our members collected signatures from coworkers, friends and family members as part of a statewide campaign to obtain a total of 807,000 signatures from registered California voters to qualify the governor's revenue measure for 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.

Maintain state services

"I feel this initiative is important to maintain state services," said Judy Kong, an associate governmental program analyst at the Department of Toxic Substances Control in

Sacramento. "This initiative is a serious effort to balance the budget by raising revenue in a fair way. It is an unbalanced and wrong approach to just try to keep cutting the budget."

Widespread support

Crissy Montgomery collected signatures from fellow state employees and from students at American River College in the Sacramento area.

"It went really well – a lot of people understand that the state needs this money to keep funding vital programs in education and public safety," said Montgomery, a staff services analyst at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. "The more people I talked to, the easier it became for me to collect signatures. People



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— Judy Kong
Department of Toxic Substances Control

see that this is what we need to do in order keep vital programs working."

Sandra Wagner, a program technician at the Employment Development Department, started out with coworkers but also reached out to her social circle, including her Toastmasters group.

"I collected signatures because I want to see the schools fully funded," Wagner said. "I also know that if the state doesn't get this money, they will probably come after other programs – and the state workers who work there. I even got my boss to sign."

Our Voices, Our Choices

Take political action now

Members will make the difference in the June primary

When our opponents tried to push through an anti-worker agenda in 2005, they were stopped by thousands of volunteers including Local 1000 members. In 2010, when Meg Whitman spent \$160 million to elect herself governor and impose her will on public employees, she was stopped by an army of volunteers, including Local 1000 members. It's time for members to step up again.

"Because of open primaries and redistricting, this June primary will reshape the Legislature for years to come," said Local 1000 President Yvonne R.

Walker. "In 2009 we had a contract die in the Legislature – so we know the importance of electing legislators who support state services and the workers who provide them. If we are to succeed, it will be because thousands of our members took an active role in our state's future."

If you want to volunteer in the June primary election by making phone calls or walking precincts, go to seiu1000.org



Lo Williams (center) with Oak Park Little League team, the Rebels

Never give up, never quit— someone is looking up to you

Lo Williams goes to bat for Local 1000 members and kids in the community

As Lo Williams threw the ceremonial first pitch to the little league catcher behind the plate, the magnitude of the countless hours he spends volunteering set in—he had become the role model that he wished so hard for as a child. It was a gorgeous opening day for Oak Park Little League on April 7 in Sacramento, and every child had a smile on.

Raised in a large and struggling family in Los Angeles, Williams was often left to fend for himself in unsafe neighborhoods. The adults in his community were not the role models he needed as a child, which is why he now devotes much of his life to looking out for the children of others.

Children need help

“It made me mad growing up—the adults around me were supposed to be leaders. Every child I see out there is me—and every child needs to see the good in the adults around them,” Williams said.

An office technician in the State

Controller’s Office, Williams spends most of his personal time as a union activist and volunteering in programs that give children in Sacramento communities a place to go after school. Some of the programs include the Oak Park Little League, the baseball programs at John F. Kennedy and Valley high schools and the basketball programs at Sacramento and Valley high schools. Although he may come home at 9 p.m. most weeknights, he comes home with a smile on his face.

Fighting for OT pay

Williams became a union activist eight years ago by standing up to management when they required employees to work nights and did not pay them the overtime for which they qualified. The successful grievance restored six months of back pay for employees. Since that time, Lo has worked to create a mutually beneficial relationship between employees and management at his worksite by keeping the lines of communication open and healthy.

When he first became a union activist, Williams was not interested in politics and wasn’t convinced that the union’s political efforts accomplished anything for Local 1000 members. The more he became involved as a steward and district bargaining unit representative for Bargaining Unit 4, the more he came to realize that what happens at the Capitol affects all state employees.

Politics, community both matter

“We are all connected to that building and the people who work inside. We need to always be involved in the decisions that are made—whether we are there physically or represented by elected officials who share our interests,” Williams said. “We need to have a voice—a political voice.”

Williams sees Local 1000 growing by educating younger generations on the labor rights that people enjoy because of unions.

“The youth are Local 1000’s future. All you need is a few people who care, and get them involved. Come with an open heart, and don’t let anyone close it.”

Resource Center

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