

MAY 30  
2012

# UNION UPDATE



# Our vote... Our future...



## Let's get out and vote!

This is it - our last chance to make an impact in the upcoming primary election. On Tuesday, Californians will decide who appears on the November ballot.

Local 1000 members and staff have been phone banking and precinct walking to get the word out – that this is the most important primary election in a decade, and we must elect candidates who value state workers and the vital services we provide.

This weekend, Local 1000 will be working all over the state to reach voters and educate them about labor-friendly candidates. So far, 600 volunteers have reached 40,000 households across California.

“This is the first big milestone of the 2012 election cycle – and it is important we start strong and make sure that the candidates on November’s ballot are responsive to California’s

working families and respect the work our members do every day,” said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. “Because of redistricting, open primaries and term limits, there are going to be a lot more new people in the Legislature. The leaders we elect now will be making decisions that affect our families for the next decade.”

Political volunteering is not the only crucial part in this election; state workers must cast their ballot. The candidates who are elected into office will make crucial decisions that will affect us all. For every Local 1000 member who does not vote – state workers lose a voice.



*“We need to make sure we get candidates elected who are going to support the needs of working families.”*

—Eric Wiesenthal.

Eric Wiesenthal, a program analyst for the Department of Social Services, spends his Saturdays speaking with other voters while precinct walking in support of Local 1000’s endorsed candidates.

“It’s really important to vote in the primary election on June 5 and to make sure your voice is heard,” Wiesenthal said. “We need to make sure we get candidates elected who are going to support the needs of working families.”

To volunteer, go to  
[seiu1000.me/Jmu0yp](http://seiu1000.me/Jmu0yp)

For information regarding endorsements and election background, go to  
[seiu1000.org/election-2012](http://seiu1000.org/election-2012)

# Member fight leads to back pay

## Resource Center wins \$54,000 per diem pay for 27 CDCR employees

What began as a simple fight by one state worker who was not receiving her promised per diem pay, led to a victory for 27 people who will each receive nearly \$2,000.

"I was frustrated, but I had no idea that this was bigger than just me," said Vanessa Huerta, a California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation (CDCR) employee in Los Angeles County. "When I went to my union, they not only helped me—my rep found 26 other people who also weren't getting their pay. Our union fought for us and won."

Earlier this year, Huerta, who has worked five years for CDCR, was involuntary transferred from the state prison in Lancaster to a Board of Parole office in Glendale. As part of the transfer agreement Local 1000

negotiated with CDCR because of realignment, Huerta is entitled to \$90 a day for accepting the involuntary transfer.

"I worked on this alone for a month before I called the union, and I felt like I was getting nowhere—nobody here had a clue," Huerta said. "I was honestly reluctant to get hold of the union. I was between a rock and a hard place."

### Rep pressures CDCR

One phone call to the Member Resource Center and everything began to change. Fresno area Union Resource Center representative Richard Hall took her case. He assembled the necessary paperwork and started pressing supervisors and managers all over the state about her missing pay.



**"Our union fought for us and won."**

**-Vanessa Huerta**

Hall also discovered that 26 other transferred employees were entitled to—but not receiving—\$90 a day.

"Richard Hall is a professional—he was able to put pressure in all the right places," said Huerta, who received her back pay last week. "I'm ecstatic about my experience with the union."

If you are a CDCR employee who has questions about pay related to involuntary transfers, call the Member Resource Center **866.471.SEIU** (7348).

### Resource Center

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

### Website

[seiu1000.org](http://seiu1000.org)

### Connect with Local 1000

**Facebook**  
[facebook.com/seiu1000](https://facebook.com/seiu1000)

**YouTube**  
[youtube.com/seiu1000](https://youtube.com/seiu1000)

**Twitter**  
[twitter.com/seiu1000](https://twitter.com/seiu1000)



## Know Your Rights

# Your right to participate in politics

State employees have the same rights to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed to all citizens of the United States under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. These rights include participation in political speech and activities on behalf of candidates (*ballot initiatives are not subject to these restrictions*) generally under the following guidelines:

### You may:

- Choose to exercise freedom of speech on your own time on and/or off the worksite.
- Possess political material at any place and time and may display and distribute it on your own time outside the worksite.
- Engage in political fundraising activities on your own time.
- Participate in voter registration activities on your own time.

- Display bumper stickers and license plate frames on your personal vehicle bearing a political message and park in state parking lots.

### Your Union Contract Protections

Local 1000's contract contains a number of articles that govern your rights as a state employee and your activities in the workplace. If you have questions about your contract or feel that your rights have been violated, contact your Local 1000 steward or call the Member Resource Center. Your steward will work with you and management, and consult your contract, to determine the best course of action, including whether or not to file a grievance.

More information, including a copy of your contract, is available online at **seiu1000.org**