

AUG 8
2012

UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000

Stronger Together

MEMBER PROFILE

From steward to supervisor back to steward

Richard Hall has been the boss & now he is happy Local 1000 'has my back' again



Richard Hall has seen both sides of union representation as a state employee – and he likes the view of the table as a Local 1000 steward the best.

After years of working as a supervising nurse in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), Hall requested a demotion last year to return to work as a front-line nurse. He also quickly returned to being a steward and enjoys representation so much that in April, he was granted union leave to work full-time for the Union Resource Center's (URC) Fresno office. URC union

"When I was a supervisor, I felt totally alone. As a union member, I feel like there are 95,000 people who have my back."

—Richard Hall
CDCR nurse on leave as a union representative

representatives handle representation issues for members ranging from minor matters such as helping with benefit-related paperwork to major issues such as disciplinary hearings, grievances and unfair labor practice charges.

"I feel like I can do more good for people doing

representation on the union side than I could ever do working as a supervisor," Hall said. "My job is to help solve problems, to fix things and to make everyone's day go a little smoother. I feel like I am in a strong position to really help our members."

"I know the mind of the manager," Hall added. "I know what they are thinking. If you know their next move, you have an advantage over them."

Winning back pay for members

In May, he was able to win back pay for 27 CDCR employees who were not receiving extra payments for accepting transfers, including some who did not realize they were being shortchanged until Hall pressed their case. The victory helped validate his decision to work full-time on union representation.

"I speak the same language as the supervisors – I disagree with them, but I understand the world they operate in," Hall said. "This gives me kind of a 360 degree view of problems that is really helpful in representation."

A native of Long Beach who served in the Coast Guard on a helicopter rescue team, Hall loves to help people. After attending college, he began working for the state in 2003 and became a steward. He took a break to return to college and then he worked as an emergency room nurse. Since 2007, he has worked for the CDCR at prisons in Tehachapi and San Luis Obispo.

Hall spent more than three years as a supervisor – and he grew frustrated with his job and felt like he could not improve things. He asked for the demotion because the job stress was interfering with his family life.

"When I was a supervisor, I felt totally alone," Hall said. "As a union member, I feel like there are 95,000 people who have my back."

Resource Center

Monday-Friday
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
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Proposition 32

Special exemptions help billionaires but hurt working families

Proposition 32 supporters call their measure the “Stop Special Interest Money Now Act,” but they apparently don’t consider some of the biggest political donors in California to be special interests.

That’s because Proposition 32 was written to include special exemptions that would let wealthy tycoons, investment groups, limited liability corporations (LLCs) and trade groups continue to pour millions of dollars into campaigns and Super PACs. Therefore it’s no surprise that the top donors in support of Proposition 32 are some of the state’s largest political contributors.

Proposition 32 backers say this initiative is about campaign finance reform, but nonpartisan, good government groups say that Proposition 32 is intentionally deceptive. California Common Cause and the League of Women Voters said in a joint statement: “Proposition 32 claims to be ‘political reform’ but in reality was intentionally written to create special exemptions for billionaire businessmen and business special interests, giving them even more political power to write their own set of rules.”

In fact, the top 10 contributors in support of Proposition 32 include some of the biggest individual donors to political campaigns in California.

Wealthy donors untouched

For example, two top Proposition 32 contributors Andrew Jerrold “Jerry” Perenchio (the former chairman and CEO of Univision) and Charles T. Munger Jr., (the billionaire son of Berkshire Hathaway’s multi-billionaire Vice Chairman Charles Munger) were the state’s second- and third-largest political donors in the past decade, according to a San Francisco Chronicle / California Watch investigation.

From 2001 to 2011, Perenchio contributed nearly \$17 million to candidates and campaigns while Munger gave \$14 million in the same time period. Proposition 32 would place no restrictions on future contributions by either Perenchio or Munger or any other wealthy individual.

Intentional corporate loophole

Proposition 32 also exempts thousands of big businesses that aren’t technically “corporations” but rather are “limited liability corporations” (LLCs) or “real estate trusts” or other partnerships. Proposition 32 intentionally exempts Wall Street investment firms, hedge funds, developers, insurance companies and more than 1,000 major donors to California campaigns, according to the San Francisco Chronicle. Proposition 32 would also exempt business groups, such as the Washington-based Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, which donated \$72 million to California political campaigns between 2001 and 2011, and the California Chamber of Commerce, which gave \$10 million in the same period, according to the Chronicle.

“Prop. 32 will make it easier for the wealthy to buy elections because it restricts the ability of working families to pool resources together to fight for the middle class,” said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker.

Prop. 32 exempts big money donors

Proposition 32 claims to limit the ability of unions and corporations to collect money for politics through payroll deduction ... but look

Who is exempt from the so-called ‘Stop Special Interest Money Now Act’

- Billionaires and millionaires
- Investment groups
- Business and trade organizations
- Limited liability corporations (LLCs)
- Super PACs

**Proposition 32:
It’s NOT what it seems**