

AUG 15
2012

UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000

Stronger Together

Side letter yields new clout on outsourcing

Outsourcing task force gears up

Members volunteer to help expose wasteful contracts, save jobs

A new task force created by the June side letter is beginning to focus on private vendor contracts that can be eliminated so that the cost savings can help preserve member pay and state jobs.

More than 100 member volunteers began investigating state contracts to support the work of the task force and Local 1000's anti-outsourcing campaign.

The task force, which consists of Local 1000 members and representatives of the state departments of Finance, Human Resources and General Services, met for the first time on Aug. 1.

In the coming months, Local 1000 plans to ask the task force to investigate approximately \$2 billion in vendor contracts to look for situations where contractors can be replaced by state employees working at equal or less cost.

"This side letter requires the state—through our new task force—to make its most serious effort ever to cut outsourcing," said Margarita Maldonado, Local 1000 vice president for bargaining. "We believe this task force will be a powerful vehicle for reducing private contracting while benefiting taxpayers and our members."

Longtime campaign pays off

The task force is the latest advance in a campaign to reduce



"This side letter requires the state—through our new task force—to make its most serious effort ever to cut outsourcing."

—Margarita Maldonado
Local 1000 vice president
for bargaining

state outsourcing that goes back nearly six years. Since 2006, Local 1000 challenged more than 100 state contracts before the State Personnel Board (SPB)—winning 80 percent of the time—in cases where we argued that contractors were illegally doing work that could be performed at the same or less cost by state workers.

In many cases, these victories led directly to state workers being hired to perform work previously handled by private contractors. This includes two Southern California veterans homes where 70 food service employees were hired last year after a successful challenge.

Over the same time period, Local 1000 has supported legislation to make it easier to identify state outsourcing and reduce contracting. One Local 1000-sponsored bill, AB 740, which the governor signed into law late last year, requires state agencies to be accountable and

change their business practices after the SPB rules that a private vendor contract is illegal.

Members investigate contracts

To support the new task force, Local 1000 has trained staff as well as a network of longtime member activists. The ranks of those activists grew Aug. 3 when more than 100 members spent one day training to identify and document outsourcing, and then examine contracts for themselves.

"We really need front-line members to be our eyes and ears in their departments to start looking at contracts there," said Michael Bonner, an employee of the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) who helped conduct the training. "That work gives us a strong basis for researching and then challenging these contracts."

Proposition 32 “masquerades” as political reform



League of Women voters joins Local 1000 to fight against phony campaign finance reform

The longtime political reform group, the League of Women Voters, has joined with Local 1000 to help rally state employees to oppose Proposition 32, saying the ballot measure is designed to “deceive the public.”

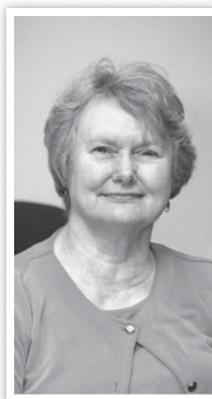
“The League of Women Voters has worked for years to support campaign finance reform, but Prop. 32 is a deceptive, one-sided attack, masquerading as campaign finance reform,” said Trudy Schafer of the League of Women Voters of California. “Prop. 32 is the work of special interests that are trying to help themselves and their buddies. Prop. 32 has nothing to do with campaign finance reform.”

Schafer joined Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker on Aug. 1 for a telephone town hall on Proposition 32 that was heard by about 2,400 of our members all over the state.

Proposition 32 would make it nearly impossible for unions to raise political money by banning payroll donations, the most common form of political fundraising by labor. Despite the claims of supporters, Proposition 32 would do virtually nothing to prevent billionaires, trade groups and other wealthy special interests from raising unlimited funds for political purposes.

“If Proposition 32 had passed earlier, our collective voice would have been silenced and our political strength would have been crippled,” Walker said. “We would have never been able to mount a campaign against Meg Whitman for governor in 2010.”

Walker noted that the wealthy supporters of Proposition 32 have twice unsuccessfully tried to pass similar ballot measures designed to cripple the ability of public employee unions to raise money for political purposes—Proposition 226 in 1998 and Proposition 75 in 2005.



“People may think that Prop. 32 is about campaign reform when it is really designed to silence one side of the political spectrum.”

—Trudy Schafer
League of Women
Voters of California

“Prop. 32 is much worse than either of those initiatives because it is so misleading to the public,” Schafer said. “People may think that Prop. 32 is about campaign reform when it is really designed to silence one side of the political spectrum but allow the other to continue operating at full strength.”

PROP 32 RECOMMENDED NO VOTE

- Misleads voters into thinking that the initiative is designed to reduce political spending
- Would only reduce political spending by labor unions, leaving wealthy investors, hedge funds and most companies untouched
- Would allow wealthy individuals to continue to donate unlimited amounts of money to shadowy Super PACS

Resource Center

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

Website

seiu1000.org

Connect with Local 1000

Facebook
facebook.com/seiu1000

YouTube
youtube.com/seiu1000

Twitter
twitter.com/seiu1000

