

# Political activism yields results in Legislature

**In the 2011 legislative session, Local 1000 members were engaged in the political process at an unprecedented level—and the results are showing**

Because of member influence in the Capitol, the Legislature passed three bills that were priorities for state workers. In addition, our influence was crucial in our ability to resist cuts to our retirement security and limit the impact of budget cuts on our members.

“Although it was a very tough budget year, Local 1000 members showed our strength and effectiveness at every level of the legislative process,” said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker.

Local 1000 members and staff testified more than 100 times at legislative hearings, and our teams conducted 106 visits with legislators in Sacramento and in local district offices. Our members have also sent more than 4,000 emails and letters in support of specific pieces of legislation important to state employees.

## Outsourcing exposed

Currently, we have two bills designed to protect our jobs from outsourcing that have passed both houses of the Legislature and await the governor’s signature.

These bills—AB 172 (Eng) and AB 740 (Blumenfeld)—are part of an ongoing campaign begun in 2007 by Local 1000 members upset over the illegal outsourcing of state work.

AB 172 would create a searchable database of state contracts that would empower the public to see how much taxpayer money is wasted on pricey private vendors for work that can be done at a lower cost by state employees.

**Luz Hernandez, a registered nurse at Napa State Hospital, testified on worker safety at an Assembly committee last month**



AB 740 would put teeth into State Personnel Board rulings against illegal outsourcing contracts by forcing state departments to drop contracts that are determined to violate state law.

In June, Gov. Jerry Brown signed another Local 1000-sponsored bill—AB 1263 (Williams)—which prohibits members of the board of directors of the State Compensation Insurance Fund (SCIF) from lobbying the board for two years after leaving SCIF.

## Protecting our pensions

Local 1000’s legislative team worked with allies to fend off several proposals in the Legislature designed to cut retirement benefits to state employees and to curtail our political power. These bills, similar to legislation passed in Wisconsin and other states this year, never got off the ground in California because of Local 1000’s strong working relationship with the governor and key legislators.

**“Although it was a very tough budget year, Local 1000 members showed our strength and effectiveness at every level of the legislative process.”**

—Yvonne R. Walker  
President, Local 1000

“Our work protecting our retirement security is far from over,” Walker cautioned.

“The attacks on our pensions and our ability to organize may continue through the initiative process in the 2012 elections,” Walker said. “We have been successful but the battle may be moving to the ballot box.”

## TAKE ACTION

Tell Gov. Brown to sign our bills to protect state jobs from wasteful outsourcing. Go to: [seiu1000.seiu.org/outourcing-bills](http://seiu1000.seiu.org/outourcing-bills)

## Resource Center

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

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

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## Member FAQs

Some of the most frequently asked questions from members calling our Member Resource Center

**Q: When does the Personal Leave Program (PLP) end?**

**A:** The PLP ends on Oct. 31, 2011. On Nov. 1, 2011, you will see a 4.62 percent increase in your pay, which should be reflected in your Dec. 1 paycheck. You can use or bank your accrued PLP time until June 30, 2013; PLP time must be used before June 30, 2013. For more information, see Section 8 of your contract.

**Q: What is the current mileage reimbursement rate when I use my personal vehicle for state business?**

**A:** You may claim and be reimbursed at the Federal Standard Mileage Rate of 55.5 cents per mile. To qualify for this reimbursement, you must seek prior authorization. For more information, see Article 12 of your contract.

**Q: Can I have access to view my official personnel file?**

**A:** Yes. You or a designated representative may review your official personnel file during regular office hours and, if you desire, make a copy of the material in that file. If your file is not located at your worksite, arrangements can be made to allow you to view and copy the file. For more information, see Article 13 of your contract.

**Q: Am I entitled to have two Personal Development Days (PDD) during this current fiscal year?**

**A:** Yes. Your contract provides all employees two PDD per fiscal year (July 1-June 30) for activities that promote personal or professional growth. Activities may be chosen at the employee's discretion and no reporting of the activity is required. PDD time - which can be used in one-hour increments - should be requested in the same manner as vacation or annual leave. PDD time can't be accumulated (it has no cash value) and must be used before the end of the fiscal year. For more information, see Articles 11 and 13 of your contract.

**Q: Can the state permanently change my work shift without any notice?**

**A:** No. Your contract prohibits permanent changes to your work shift without at least 15 calendar days notice. For temporary changes in workweek hours and workday, five working days notice is required unless the change is due to an unforeseen operational need or made at the request of the employee. For more information, see article 19 of your contract.

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YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

## Have a QUESTION?

Call the Member Resource Center

866.471.SEIU (7348)