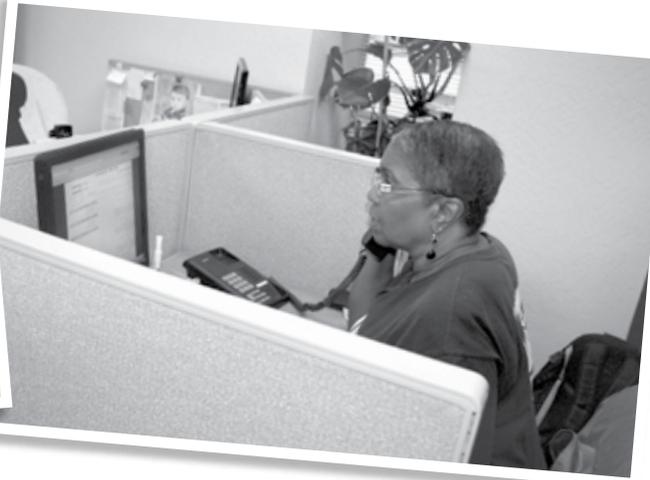


SEPTEMBER 23, 2010

# UNION UPDATE



## Members move into campaign mode

### Attacks on state employees spur member activism

Local 1000 members have begun phone banking and walking precincts to help elect a new governor and legislators who will support state employees and the services we provide.

“Furloughs were just the beginning,” said Ana Jaime, a Department of Veterans Affairs employee who phone banked for the first time last Monday. “If we don’t elect a governor who cares about government services, it’s going to get a lot worse. This is not a choice—we need to win this election if we want to survive.”

***“I want a governor who will respect me and the work I do.”***

**Tisha Ragland**  
State Compensation  
Insurance Fund



Many members are driven to volunteer by two years of attacks by government leaders in Sacramento.

“I’m a state employee and I’m tired of being attacked by politicians,” said Mary Tiab of the California Department of Education. “It’s time for us to stand up and elect leaders who will support our work – and believe in us.”

“We need a governor who cares about this state and understands how government works,” said Janet Aguirre, a Department of Mental Health employee who is a newcomer to phone banking. “I’m sick and tired of political leaders who put down state government and don’t take the time to even understand the importance of the services we provide.”

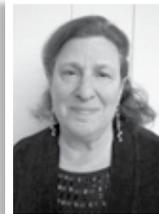
Nicholas Winebrenner, an Employment Development Department employee, said he first became politically active during the 2008 election.

“We really need to finish the job we began two years ago,” Winebrenner said. “We won some important races. But we really need a legislative majority that favors state services and a governor who cares about the working families we serve instead of just catering to rich campaign donors.”

“The furloughs really got to me,” said Tisha Ragland, a SCIF employee who phone banked for the first time last week. “With all the talk about minimum wage and outsourcing jobs, I want a governor who will respect me and the work I do – not someone who uses the airwaves to blame me for things I can’t control.”

***“I have to be here and volunteer if I want to change anything.”***

**Margi Park**  
Department of Education



“We’re electing a new governor and we’re electing a new boss in my department. For me, this is the one opportunity we get every four years to make a difference,” said Margi Park of the Department of Education. “I have to be here and volunteer if I want to change anything.”

To volunteer, call the Local 1000 Resource Center at **866.471.SEIU (7348)** or go to **seiu1000.org/election-2010**

## 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

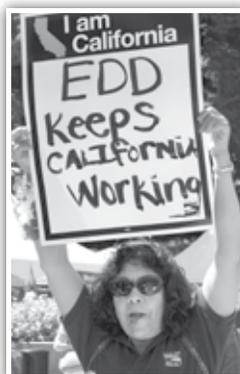
twitter.com/seiu1000



# Don't blame workers for state's financial mess

## Research counters misleading attacks on state workers

Public sector employees have unfairly become the focal point in an economic catastrophe not of their making. Even "Saturday Night Live" skewered public employees for a cheap laugh. But, while fans of late night television may chuckle, it's no joke that in California, the public sector is under a magnifying glass that ignores the big picture. But as Labor Day approaches, it is important to remember the important role that public sector employees play.



The "Great Recession" is hurting all of us, and the revenue crisis in state and local government requires real solutions. But the overheated rhetoric about public employees misses the mark.

### Efficient government

The facts fly in the face of those who call the public sector "bloated." Among states, California is ranked number 48 in the proportion of public employees to private sector workers. About 70,000 public sector jobs already have been eliminated over the past several years in the state. In fact, our state and local governments have experienced proportionately more job loss than other states. It would be misguided to cut even more.

**Editor's note:** For the past two years, there has been a steady drumbeat in the news media of politicians and others attacking state workers and blaming us for California's fiscal woes. In the September 4 *Sacramento Bee* article below, UC-Berkeley researchers Ken Jacobs and Stephanie Kalmin point out evidence showing that California state employees are not responsible for this mess and, in fact, we're more efficient than most states.

Let's remember that financial institutions brought down the economy, not sanitation workers, nurses or bus drivers.

### Low pay, steady work

These and other public servants signed on to their jobs, often accepting lower wages in exchange for steady work, health benefits and future retirement funds. In hindsight, this was not a bad move, considering how much the stock market has played havoc with 401(k)s and other private investment accounts.

Many public sector jobs – teachers, nurses and firefighters – require high levels of training and skills. Once you control for workers' training, experience and education, California public sector workers earn 8 percent less on average than their private sector counterparts.

### Lower benefit costs

Even considering benefit costs, total compensation for public sector workers is lower on average than compensation in the private sector for similar skill levels.

By scapegoating the state's public sector and its employees, we are shooting ourselves in the foot.

To read the entire article, go to <http://ow.ly/2EguS>

## Voting by mail is quick and easy

**Any registered voter may vote using a vote-by-mail ballot.**

**To request a vote-by-mail ballot, follow either of these steps:**

### One-time vote-by-mail

Registered voters may apply for a vote-by-mail ballot for an upcoming election at any time. If you apply by mail, your application must be received no later than 7 days before an election; otherwise you will need to apply in person at your county elections office to get a vote-by-mail ballot for that election.

### Permanent vote-by-mail

Any registered voter may become a permanent vote-by-mail voter. You will automatically receive a vote-by-mail ballot for each election. To become permanent, you must complete an application available from your county elections official or from the Secretary of State's Office website.



Get vote-by-mail information from the California Secretary of State's Office at [http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_m.htm#vote-by-mail](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_m.htm#vote-by-mail)