

SEPTEMBER 29, 2010

# UNION UPDATE



# Our votes matter

## Elect a governor and legislators who will stand up for state services

As we elect our next boss, whom do you trust to be our governor? Our legislators?

Facing furloughs, pension cuts, threats of minimum wage and political attacks on many fronts, the phrase "politics matter" has never been more important to California state workers.

"I've been with the California Highway Patrol for 14 years and it's continually getting worse with every governor we've had," says Suzette Gunter. "I'm getting involved in the election to change that."

As we work to protect vital state services, our jobs and our benefits, every vote matters. We can take back California by electing a governor and legislators who value us... and we must protect our right to a contract that provides security for our families and ourselves.

"This is the time for us to change our future and the direction we want to go as state workers," says Fran Pass, chair of Bargaining Unit 4. "We have an opportunity to vote in our own boss."



***"For California—and especially for state workers—it's important who our next governor is."***

—Gail Hannon  
Employment Development Department

## Channel 1000 hosts candidate forum Oct. 6



**We're working to elect candidates who are on record supporting state workers and the services we provide. To help you at the ballot box this November, Channel 1000 will host an online candidate forum at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 6.**

The live broadcast will feature several Local 1000-endorsed candidates from all over the state answering members' questions on the budget, pensions and whether they support Local 1000 backed legislation. Members will have a chance to send in their questions during

the show and have the candidates answer them live.

"This is a great opportunity for our members to get a clearer understanding of the goals each of these candidates have," said Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker. "These candi-

dates will be held accountable for what they say to our members."

Members interested in submitting questions before the show can do so at **facebook.com/seiu1000** or via email at **channel1000@seiu1000.org**

## 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](http://facebook.com/seiu1000)

YouTube  
[youtube.com/seiu1000](http://youtube.com/seiu1000)

Twitter  
[twitter.com/seiu1000](http://twitter.com/seiu1000)



# Volunteering is just as important as voting

**It's not enough for us to simply vote for candidates who support state employees and state services...**

We need to volunteer our time and encourage voters to support candidates who value state employees.

"As state workers, we are in a unique position because we can elect our bosses," said Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker. "But a great responsibility comes with that – we need to elect leaders who understand the importance of the work we do and value the workers who keep the state running."

In the next two months we need an unprecedented effort from the 95,000 workers we represent to elect a governor who will work with us. In addition, we need to elect legislators who will support our contract bill and other legislation impacting state employees. We also need to elect constitutional officers, such as the state controller, attorney general and insurance commissioner who will stand up for state employees.



**Here's how you can get started:**

**Call 866.471.SEIU (7348) or log on to [seiu1000.org/election-2010](http://seiu1000.org/election-2010)**

# 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)

# Know Your Rights

## Your right to participate in politics

State employees have 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, 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.

**\*Ballot initiatives are not subject to these restrictions.**

## 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, management, and 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](http://seiu1000.org)