

OCT 8
2014

UNION UPDATE



Local 1000-endorsed Theresa Taylor wins CalPERS Board seat

Members voted to ensure retirement security and affordable health care

Theresa Taylor, the Local 1000-endorsed candidate, has won a seat on the CalPERS Board of Administration, earning 55 percent of the votes counted—a nearly 20-point margin over the next opponent.

“I want to congratulate Theresa Taylor on her election to the CalPERS Board. Theresa is dedicated to ensuring retirement security and affordable health care benefits for all state workers, and we are delighted to have such a strong voice for workers on the Board,” said Yvonne R. Walker, Local 1000 president.

Members made the difference

Just under 24,000 CalPERS members voted, a 20 percent increase over the previous election. “I also want to thank Local 1000 members who stepped up and voted for Theresa and campaigned on her

behalf. And although the results are preliminary right now, your efforts really made a difference. Your commitment really made a difference. You should be very proud,” Walker said.

Taylor is a long-time member leader of Local 1000. A 20-year state employee working at the Franchise

Tax Board, she is the president of District Labor Council 786 and has been active in every major Local 1000 campaign in the past decade.

“I want to make sure the stability and security we’ve earned will be there when we need it most,” said Taylor.

“This victory shows what we can do when members step

up. Together we made sure that there is a strong voice on the CalPERS Board who will stand with working families,” said President Walker. “Let’s carry this momentum forward to the general election.”

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—Yvonne R. Walker, Local 1000 President

Has your mail ballot arrived?

Make sure your voice is heard on Election Day

On Oct. 6, California’s Secretary of State began mailing out millions of ballots for the upcoming general election on Nov. 4. If you are registered to vote by mail, it is important that you fill out your ballot and mail it in time to be counted.

Vote-by-mail ballots must be received by a state or county election official no later than the close of the polls at 8:00 p.m. on November 4. If you forget to mail it, you can drop off your ballot at any polling place in your county or to your county elections office on Election Day before 8:00 p.m.

Registered voters may apply for a vote-by-mail ballot (permanently or on a one-time basis) for an upcoming election. For the Nov. 4 election, your vote-by-mail application must be submitted online or arrive at your county elections office no later than Oct. 28.

Still need to register?

Your vote is your power. It’s never been easier to register to vote in California—anyone with a driver’s license can register online. You need to re-register to vote if you’ve moved to a new permanent address, changed your name or, changed your political party affiliation.

In order to vote in the Nov. 4 election, your registration must be postmarked or submitted electronically no later than Oct. 20.

Request a mail ballot or register to vote online:
sos.ca.gov/elections



New Law: Governor signs AB 1340

State Hospitals Employees Act

Members organizing, coalition building turns tragedy into change

Culminating years of organizing and coalition building that was triggered by tragedy, Gov. Jerry Brown signed AB 1340, the Local 1000-sponsored State Hospitals Employees Act.

The new law requires every California state hospital to establish an "Enhanced Treatment Unit" for aggressive patients that pose a danger to themselves, other patients or hospital staff. These units are secure areas in facilities where patients with histories of violence are able to receive care.

In the fall of 2010, Donna Gross, a Psychiatric Technician at Napa State Hospital, was strangled to death by a patient with a history of aggressive behavior. In 2011, Local 1000 published the report "Violence in California's Mental Health Hospitals" detailing the rise in the number of patients in

the state's mental health facilities with violent histories and offering recommendations on how to make facilities safer.

"The death of Donna Gross really sparked in our members sadness and outrage. But we took those emotions and turned them into motivation to learn the facts, get organized around the issue, and reach out to other unions representing workers in state hospitals to make a change. No hospital employee should work in fear of being assaulted or worse," said Kim Cowart, Registered Nurse and chair of Bargaining Unit 17.

Led by Local 1000, the "Safety First" coalition included California Association of Psychiatric Technicians, the Union of American Physicians and Dentists, and the American Federation of State County & Municipal Employees,

"No hospital employee should work in fear of being assaulted or worse."



—Kim Cowart, Registered Nurse, Chair of Bargaining Unit 17

Local 2620. This coalition shared research, demonstrated for safety reform and lobbied the legislature to get AB 1340 passed.

"The passage of AB 1340 is validation of Local 1000's work on the vital issue of worker safety," said Cowart. "We're proud to play a big part in increasing the safety of our members working in the state's hospitals. Now it's up to us to see that the provisions of the new law get implemented and to raise our voices if they're not."

Resource Center

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

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Monday thru
Friday from
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