

OCTOBER 27, 2010

# UNION UPDATE

## Guide to ballot measures that help or hurt state workers

**Props 24 & 25** ease the state budget process;

**Prop 26** would tighten funding for programs

These three propositions on the November ballot could mean far-reaching changes to the state's budgeting process and affect the livelihood of state workers. Propositions 24 and 25 would help state workers if passed by voters, while Proposition 26 would lead to more cuts to state programs and services. As a percentage of the total budget, taxes on corporations have dropped to less than 40 percent of total tax revenue from more than 50 percent in the 1980s; and each of these measures would affect the ability of government to raise revenues for vital state services.

### SUPPORT PROPOSITION 24

**This proposition repeals three new corporate tax breaks:** one that allows businesses to retroactively claim losses, another which permits the sharing of a tax credit with related businesses, and one that lets California businesses with out-of-state locations choose a more favorable calculation to lower their tax liability.

**Why we support it:** This measure does not increase taxes; it would only cancel corporate tax breaks that have not yet taken effect. Corporations should not get tax breaks that deprive the public of vital state services during ongoing budget deficits that require deep cuts in state services. If Proposition 24 fails, these tax breaks will add an estimated \$1.3 billion a year to the General Fund deficit.

### SUPPORT PROPOSITION 25

**Eliminates the required "super-majority" vote to pass the budget,** changing the current two-thirds vote requirement to a simple majority.

**Why we support it:** Eliminating the two-thirds vote for the budget would end the stranglehold a legislative minority now imposes during budget negotiations. Budget impasses have drained the General Fund, forced even deeper cuts in state services and left state workers vulnerable to political and financial attack.

### OPPOSE PROPOSITION 26

**This proposition will require a two-thirds vote** of the Legislature to levy certain fees that now require only a simple majority. If Proposition 26 passes, raising revenue will become even more difficult for the state.

**Why we oppose it:** The Legislature needs some flexibility to raise needed revenue. The stakes are high: According to an analysis by the non-partisan state Legislative Analyst's Office, passing Proposition 26 will likely cost the state "billions of dollars annually."

### Local 1000 positions on other ballot propositions:

<b>Prop 19:</b> Legalization of Marijuana	<b>NEUTRAL</b>
<b>Prop 20:</b> Redistricting of Congressional Districts	<b>OPPOSE</b>
<b>Prop 21:</b> Vehicle Surcharge to Fund State Parks	<b>SUPPORT</b>
<b>Prop 22:</b> Protection of Local Revenues from Raids by State	<b>OPPOSE</b>
<b>Prop 23:</b> Suspension of AB 32 Greenhouse Gas Regulation Legislation	<b>OPPOSE</b>
<b>Prop 27:</b> California Financial Accountability in Redistricting Act	<b>SUPPORT</b>

Learn more about Local 1000 positions on ballot propositions at [seiu1000.org/election-2010](http://seiu1000.org/election-2010)



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

### YouTube

[youtube.com/seiu1000](https://youtube.com/seiu1000)

### Twitter

[twitter.com/seiu1000](https://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 week we need an unprecedented effort from the 95,000 workers we represent to elect a governor who will work with us. 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 seven 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)