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UNION UPDATE



The fiscal cliff affects all Californians

Impact to state budget threatens vital services, jobs

The national discussion surrounding the so-called “fiscal cliff”—tax increases and automatic cuts in the federal budget—will have a real impact on vital state services unless Congress adopts policies that support middle-class jobs.

Federal funds contribute nearly 36 cents of every dollar to California’s state budget. More than a half-billion dollars will stop flowing to the state if the nation’s lawmakers fail to act, affecting programs in education, health care and job assistance.

Local 1000 members are joining with allies from all over America to urge members of Congress to adopt economic policies that support middle-class families and job growth.

At the same time, we’re lobbying members of Congress aggressively through SEIU’s offices in Washington, D.C. They are focusing on maintaining middle-class tax cuts while letting rates rise for the wealthy.



“The conversation our country needs to have is how to get more Americans back to work, not whether millionaires should continue to receive special tax breaks,” said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker.

How America got on the cliff

The impasse of the federal deficit reduction and spending has created a situation referred to as “sequestration” or the “fiscal cliff.” As part of a 2011 fiscal agreement, the president and both houses of Congress agreed to automatic cuts in January 2013 if a deficit reduction compromise could not be reached.

Sequestration refers to the automatic cuts that would be implemented if no deal is reached—roughly 7.6 percent to mandatory programs and 8.2 percent to discretionary programs. At the same time, there will be a 2 percent increase in employee payroll taxes unless Congress acts.

Call your U.S. representative to protect vital services; prevent tax increases

In California, Local 1000 members are calling their U.S. representatives to ensure their support for a budget compromise that does not allow middle-class tax cuts to expire, does not further reduce vital services, and instead focuses on putting Americans back to work.

“In the November election, voters rejected cutting health care and education to pay for tax breaks for the rich,” said Kim Cowart, chair of Bargain-

ing Unit 17 and a nurse at Napa State Hospital. “I called my representative, Mike Thompson, to tell him not to give into pressure from wealthy special interests and their high-priced lobbyists.”

“Join me in making sure that Congress’ priorities include a stable economy, more jobs, and tax policies that will strengthen America’s middle class,” said Yvonne R. Walker, Local 1000 president.

Make your voice heard: contact your representative today. Call 866-426-2631.

Political victories set stage for 2013

Local 1000 working to maximize results in new capitol landscape

On Dec. 3, 48 new members of the California Legislature were officially sworn into office – creating a new political landscape in the Capitol and new challenges in 2013 and the decade beyond.

“Our hard work in the election was just the first step. Our political victories set the stage for a great many opportunities to work with the legislature on issues that affect our members and California’s working families,” said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker.

This new crop of legislators will be making key decisions on the programs and services that we provide to Californians, creating legislation that affects state workers and their families. They will also vote on our contract at the conclusion of bargaining, which takes place in the first half of 2013.

“We’ll turn our focus to building relationships with lawmakers and holding them accountable.”

—Yvonne R. Walker
President, Local 1000



Changes in term limits mean that we’ll be working with those legislators for the next 10 to 12 years.

“We’ll continue the momentum created by an army of member leaders and activists and turn our focus to building relationships with the state’s lawmakers and holding them accountable to their commitment to state services and the workers who provide them,” Walker said.

Resource Center

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

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seiu1000.org

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Member leaders and staff gather to prepare for 2013

Facing budget battles, contract bargaining and a changing state government, more than 500 Local 1000 member leaders and professional staff are gathering this week to prepare for the year ahead.

“We’re gearing up in advance of the major challenges we’ll face in 2013,” said Yvonne R. Walker, Local 1000 president. “The plans we develop will advance us in the workplace, in our communities and at the Capitol.”

In December 2011, Local 1000 set goals and strategies that focused on an important political year – adding new revenue to California’s budget with the passage of Prop.

30; preventing special interests from silencing our political voice by defeating Prop. 32; and, electing a new slate of legislators who value state services and those who provide them.

“We built an army of dedicated activists in 2012, and we look forward to engaging even more members who will lead our efforts in 2013,” Walker said.



Local 1000 Purpose Statement

The purpose of Local 1000 is to have the power necessary to give our members—and all Californians—the opportunity to have a good life, live in sustainable communities and enjoy the fruits of social and economic justice.

We will achieve this by engaging and developing our members and by creating strategic alliances with key leaders and organizations who share our purpose and values.