

APRIL 28, 2010

UNION UPDATE

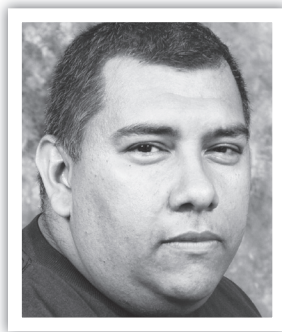
LOCAL 1000
SEIU
Stronger Together

Politics matter

One Gov. candidate seeks to cut 40,000 jobs

Every election season some members question why Local 1000 gets involved in politics. Elected state leaders have a direct impact on the wages and working conditions of state employees. And Local 1000 members have had a direct impact on elections. The answer is simple: politics matter to every state worker.

Take the governor's race, one candidate has promised to cut 40,000 state workers and another has vowed to "curb public employee union power once and for all."



"...do we want to see more officials like Gov. Schwarzenegger, who tried to cut our wages down to the federal minimum of \$6.55 an hour and illegally imposed three furlough days?"

—Miguel Cordova,
Department of Education

"We have the opportunity to elect our bosses – the governor and the Legislature – and we need to use this opportunity elect leaders who support state services and the workers who provide them," Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker said. "No one knows state government better than our members. It's our responsibility to elect leaders who will help us improve the operations of the state."

Take the election of Alyson Huber for example. Huber won Assembly District 10 by only 474 votes in 2008 after Local 1000 members canvassed the suburbs of Sacramento for weeks on her behalf.

Politically motivated furloughs

The governor sets the budget and appoints the top officials in charge of most agencies where we work, as well as the head of the Department of Personnel Administration, which negotiates our contract. For our contract to take effect, the Legislature must pass a bill that is then signed by the governor.



"...if you don't stand up and voice your opinion it's as if you don't have one. One person really can make a difference."

—Robyn Herrera
Lanterman Developmental Center

"If we have learned anything over the past two years, it is the importance of electing a governor and legislators who value us and believe in the services we provide," said Dianne Bradford of San Diego, a nursing home inspector for the Department of Health Care Services "Furloughs were an unnecessary political decision that harmed tens of thousands of us."

"When election time comes in June and November, do we want to see more officials like Gov. Schwarzenegger, who tried to cut our wages down to the federal minimum of \$6.55 an hour and illegally imposed three furlough days?" asked Miguel Cordova, a Department of Education employee. "Or do we support candidates like Jerry Brown, John Chiang and Bill Lockyer, who each have refused to implement furloughs in their departments?"

Fight future cuts

Bradford and Cordova are among the many Local 1000 members who volunteer time to elect public officials who support state services.

"It's up to us to be politically active," said Robyn Herrera, an orientation and mobility specialist at Lanterman Developmental Center in Pomona. "Some people don't see the direct link – if you don't stand up and voice your opinion, it's as if you don't have one. One person really can make a difference."

To volunteer go to seiu1000.org and click "Politics and Legislation"

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Ask Nancy



Answering member questions on new state legislation

In January, Local 1000 introduced a new feature at **seiu1000.org** – “Ask Nancy” – in which Legislative Director Nancy Farias answers member questions about legislation and issues in the Capitol. Here is a sample of some recent questions. If you have a question, send it to **AskNancy@seiu1000.org**

Reduce outsourcing

What is Local 1000 doing this year about contracting out?

—Ed, San Francisco

Dear Ed:

Local 1000 is sponsoring AB 2494, a bill that requires state agencies to immediately discontinue a contract disapproved by the State Personal Board. We’re also sponsoring AB 1899 which requires greater transparency in private vendor contracts. Lastly, Local 1000’s legal team and researchers regularly work with rank and file members to legally challenge illegal contracts – with a success rate of 80 percent.

is very clear on pay cuts – the governor can’t unilaterally reduce our salaries. Our Local 1000 contract, California Government Code, California state law (the Dills Act), the state constitution, and the U.S. constitution all preclude a unilateral pay cut of union-represented employees. Any changes to salary, working hours or retirement must be negotiated with employee unions and approved by the Legislature. Local 1000 will fight any pay cuts for state employees.

Proposed pay cuts

Can the governor really cut my pay by 5 percent and increase my PERS contribution by 5 percent?

—Cash Strapped, Los Angeles

Dear Cash Strapped:

The short answer is no. The difference between the governor’s announcement on furloughs last year and the proposed pay cut this year is that the furloughs were implemented by executive order (which Local 1000 has successfully challenged in court). However, the law

Employee salaries

What do you know about AB 1699 (funding for state employee salaries)?

—Ray, Sacramento

Dear Ray:

Local 1000 is sponsoring AB 1699 which would provide a continuous appropriation for state employee salaries even if a final budget has not been approved. AB 1699 is the only way to ensure that state employees get paid in full and on-time in the event of a late budget. Without AB 1699, courts have ruled that the governor can cut state employee pay to federal minimum wage – \$7.25 an hour – until a budget is adopted.