

MAY 26, 2010

# UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000  
**SEIU**  
Stronger Together

## Budget revise: unbalanced, unfair Gov's proposal "a non-starter"

Even though Gov. Schwarzenegger's revised budget proposal received widespread media coverage and has been cited as fact in numerous department memos, political experts consider it only one of many proposals as debate over the budget deficit heats up.

Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg called the governor's proposal for \$4.3 billion in cuts to education, \$2.1 billion in cuts to state employee compensation and elimination of several state programs "a non-starter."

Assembly Budget Chair Bob Blumenfield said the governor's proposal "is not a credible plan" and vowed to put together "a real budget plan."

Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker said the governor's proposal is "skewed" and called for new revenues that require corporations to pay "their fair share."



A response from Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker

### "Use a balanced approach that is fair to all Californians"

We understand the urgency of the state's continuing budget crisis and state employees are anxious to do their part again this year, but we will resist any attempt to pass a budget without a balanced approach.

Our bargaining teams have always been prepared to do what makes sense; we proved that in 2009 when we offered contract proposals that would have saved the state more than \$350 million.

***"Slashing vital programs while ignoring billions in uncollected taxes, wasteful outsourcing and corporate loopholes is not the answer."***

—Yvonne Walker

Gov. Schwarzenegger's latest budget proposal is skewed—eliminating essential public services without bringing in needed revenue or demanding everyone pay their fair share of taxes.

Instead of eliminating our social safety net, the governor should be closing corporate tax loopholes. Last year, the state adopted \$2 billion in corporate tax breaks that add to the deficit without evidence of creating new jobs. In these hard times, corporations should pay their fair share, just like the rest of California.

#### CONSIDER THIS:

California corporations' tax obligation dropped from 15 percent of the state budget in 1980 to 11 percent last year.

Instead of idly standing by as multinational oil companies make record profits, California needs to do what every other oil producing state does—collect a severance tax on oil production. If we imposed this fee, economists say California would bring in \$1 billion a year in new revenue.

And, instead of slashing essential state services, the governor should devote more resources to collecting the billions in taxes that go uncollected each year.

The governor also needs to take direct aim at the state's \$10 billion expenditure for private vendor contracts by eliminating hundreds of contracts for work that can be done by state workers at a fraction of the cost.

For years, Gov. Schwarzenegger has used the budget process to promote an ill-advised political agenda and to gut services Californians depend on; his May 14 budget revision is another example.

This budget proposal sends us a message: this November, state employees and, indeed all Californians, need to elect a governor who has the nerve to stand up to corporate special interests, who will be creative and who work with us to keep California running.

## Resource Center

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

## Website

[seiu1000.org](http://seiu1000.org)

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# Why your vote matters

## Elect legislators that support the state services we provide

It may be cliché to say that every vote matters. But for California state employees, it's also an important truth. Votes by state workers in the June and November elections can directly affect our wages, benefits and working conditions. And state workers are in a position where our votes can save the services we provide and make a favorable change for the lives of our families.

Every vote matters in 2010 because all of our hard work at the bargaining table in 2009 was undone because we could not obtain enough votes in the Legislature to pass our contract bill.



Even though Local 1000's bargaining team spent nine months hashing out a contract that was signed by the Department of Personnel Administration, our agreement died because it failed – by three votes – to gain the required two thirds “super majority” support from the state Assembly.

With another three votes in the Legislature, our contract bill would have passed and we would have avoided three furlough days. With another three votes our families would not have endured a 15 percent pay cut ... nor would we be facing the threat of having our wages cut to the federal minimum in the event a budget is not passed by the June 30 deadline.

The governor's May 14 budget revision included a new pay cut proposal – also totaling 15 percent – that could also be avoided by changing just a few seats in the Legislature.

Three votes can determine if the department where you work is gutted. Three votes can determine if the service you provide is slashed. Three votes can determine if your pension is attacked. Three votes can determine if you still have a job.

To see how you can help elect legislators who support state services and the workers who provide them, go to [seiu1000.org/politics-legislation](http://seiu1000.org/politics-legislation). There you can see a list of candidates that we have endorsed in the June primary, including key targeted races that can help us acquire those three vital votes.

# Know Your Rights

## California State Workers & Political Activity

## 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, 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 time and may display and distribute it on your own time.
- ☒ Engage in political fundraising activities on your own time.
- ☒ Participate in voter registration activities on your own time in non-work areas of your worksite.
- ☒ Display bumper stickers and license plate frames on your personal vehicle bearing a political message and park in state parking lots.
- ☒ Wear political buttons, stickers and T-shirts at work, providing your job has no direct contact with the public.

## 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)