

JUNE 16, 2010

# UNION UPDATE



# Local 1000 responds to possibility of minimum wage



## A message from Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker

**If a state budget is not adopted by June 30, the California Superior Court has granted the governor the authority to temporarily impose federal minimum wage (which will be reflected in the Aug. 1 paycheck for most state employees). The 3rd District Court of Appeal will hear our challenge to this ruling on June 21.**

Local 1000 is sponsoring continuous appropriation legislation that would ensure state workers receive full salaries until a budget is adopted. The Assembly passed our bill – AB 1699 – by a two-thirds majority on June 3; it goes to the state Senate next.

Additionally, our bargaining teams are ready to return to the table to negotiate an agreement that works for us and for the state, provides certainty and security, and doesn't put the whole burden of this crisis on our backs.

It is important that all workers represented by Local 1000 take the possibility of minimum wage very seriously.

If minimum wage is imposed, we will post to [seiu1000.org](http://seiu1000.org) a list of resources and tips to help

workers weather this crisis, including advice on dealing with creditors. There will be letter templates Local 1000 members can send to banks, utilities and credit card companies, plus lists of social service agencies, financial counselors and credit unions.

I encourage you to take steps to protect yourself and your family from this potential fiscal abuse by the governor.

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***“The Assembly passed a continuous appropriation for state employee wages.”***

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Since July 2008, we have been on the roller coaster of this governor's whims. It's been tough and it will probably get tougher. It is important for all of us to stand united as we fight for our families, our future and for California.

In solidarity,

**Yvonne R. Walker**  
President, SEIU Local 1000

## 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)



YOUR QUESTIONS  
ANSWERED

The following is a list of this week's top questions members have asked the Local 1000 Resource Center staff.

**Q Where can I find the minimum wage resources mentioned in President Walker's letter to members?**

The minimum wage resources will be on the website if the governor cuts our pay to minimum wage.

**Q I hear we're having a rally at the state Capitol. What's this about?**

Thousands of Local 1000 members are expected at the Capitol on June 30 to impress on legislators the value of state services and the employees who provide those services. We'll be demanding a balanced budget and an end to using state employees as budget pawns.

**Q I've been told my pension calculation will no longer be based on my highest salary year. Is this true?**

No. Pension calculations are based on the highest salary year (or highest three years for employees hired since Jan. 1, 2007). Any changes to the current pension plan must go through the bargaining process. **See article 17.1 G of our contract for more information.**

**Q I am on State Disability Insurance (SDI). Do I still have benefits and for how long?**

You and defined dependents have SDI benefits – including full health, dental and vision – for a maximum of 26 weeks. **Read article 9.17.2 of our contract for more information, or go to [edd.ca.gov/disability](http://edd.ca.gov/disability)**

**Q What is the Dignity Clause in our contract?**

This contract provision is an agreement between Local 1000 and the state that all employees will be treated with dignity. It reads: *The state is committed to providing a workplace where all employees, regardless of their classification or pay status, are treated by supervisors and managers in a manner that maintains generally accepted standards of human dignity and courtesy. Employees alleging they have not been treated accordingly may process a complaint up to the department head or designee.* **You can find the Dignity Clause in Article 5.11 of our contract. This article is not supported by the grievance process.**

## Pro-worker candidates win primary races

### Candidates pledge to support state services & workers

Local 1000 backed candidates won in most primary races June 8, including victories in the four races targeted by member volunteers.

In elections for state office, Local 1000-endorsed candidates were victorious in 75 of 80 races. The member endorsement process chose candidates who were willing to pledge support for state services and the workers who provide those services.

In two of four closely targeted races, the primary vote total was so close that ballots may be recounted, but both Local 1000 candidates won in the official tallies released June 9 by the California Secretary of State's office.

In Assembly District 5 (suburban Sacramento), Dr. Richard Pan won comfortably with 44 percent of the vote in a four-way Democratic primary race. He now faces a tough fight in the fall in a Republican-leaning district currently represented by a termed-out Republican – Roger Niello – who led opposition to our contract bill in 2009.

In Assembly District 9 (Sacramento), Roger Dickinson narrowly won with 35.2 percent of the vote in a five-way race. His 33-vote victory margin will likely be subjected to a recount.

In Assembly District 30, Fran Florez won with 56.6 percent of the vote. The area includes parts of Kern, Kings and Fresno counties. The seat has switched back and forth between Republicans and Democrats in recent years and is currently held by a Republican who voted against our contract bill.

Mary Salas won with 50.6 percent of the vote in a hard-fought battle for state Senate District 40, which includes Imperial and parts of Riverside and San Diego counties. Her 335-vote victory also may be subject to a recount.

