

Vote to elect Cathy Hackett to fix CalPERS

Ballots for the final open seat on the CalPERS Board of Administration were mailed last week and should arrive at most members' homes this week.

The election at CalPERS comes on the heels of widespread reports of insider deals at CalPERS and a 25 percent drop in the value of the pension funds' investments.

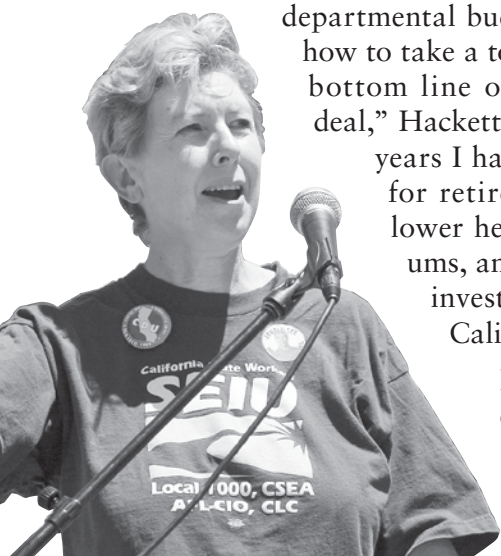
This is why Local 1000 endorses Cathy Hackett, who has pledged to:

- Improve oversight of investment managers and agents;
- Stop insider deals;
- Invest for long-term stability, not risky schemes; and
- Maintain quality, affordable health insurance for members.

"I have experience negotiating both health care and retirement issues along with wages and working conditions," Hackett said.

"I have prepared multi-billion dollar departmental budgets and know how to take a tough look at the bottom line of any financial deal," Hackett said. "Over the years I have worked hard for retirement security, lower healthcare premiums, and smart pension investments that help California grow."

Return ballot envelopes must be postmarked by Dec. 4.



Members get fast answers at new Resource Center

The newly launched Local 1000 Resource Center has been very popular and successful in addressing the concerns of our members.

A single toll-free number, 866-471-SEIU (7348), connects members with a well-trained, knowledgeable member resource representative who will answer questions and, when necessary, refer them to Local 1000's professional staff for representation or other issues.

In its first week and a half of operation, the state-of-the-art call center handled 2,458 calls from members. Nearly 75 percent of the queries from members were resolved in the first call. Calls are being answered quickly – wait times average only 10 seconds.

Popular call topics include:

- Columbus Day grievances
- departmental layoffs
- furloughs and litigation

Many callers were curious about the new resource center and were seeking information about available services, according to Tracy Peake, center coordinator.

Local 1000 Resource Center

866-471-SEIU (7348)

- ✓ contract information
- ✓ representational issues
- ✓ discount admissions
- ✓ legislative updates
- ✓ member benefits
- ✓ meeting dates and times

Open Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

YOUR UNION CONTRACT PROTECTIONS

What to do when your supervisor asks for a meeting

When your supervisor calls you into a meeting – with or without prior notice – proper action can lead to more positive outcomes. Articles 2.6 and 2.7 of your union contract grant stewards and employees reasonable time off for meetings and to confer on representational issues in the workplace.

If you are called into a meeting:

- Ask what the meeting is about, and if there is anything you can do to prepare.
- Always ask for representation. “If this discussion/meeting could in any way lead to my being disciplined, terminated, or cause an effect on my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my Union Representative be present at this time.” If you do not have representation at the meeting, contact your steward or a Local 1000 staff person immediately after the meeting.
- Do not refuse to attend the meeting, and do not leave the meeting until it is over.
- Take notes.
- Answer questions honestly. If appropriate to the question, answer with a *Yes* or *No*. Or use phrases such as: *I do not know* or *I do not recall* or even *I’ll have to check on that and get back to you*. If you feel uncomfortable about some of the questions, you can ask that you be allowed to write them down and answer after you have had a chance to confer with a union representative.
- If the meeting is recorded, ask for copies of the tape to be provided within 24 hours.
- You have the right to request to record the meeting with your own recording device. Should management refuse to allow you representation, you should request to record management’s denial of your right to representation. You may not record the meeting secretly, and if management refuses to allow you to record and directs the meeting to proceed, you must continue the meeting.
- If the meeting is investigatory in nature, ask for a date when they expect to complete the investigation.
- Ask for time off pursuant to Article 2.7 for all future meetings with Local 1000 stewards and/or staff.

How to take Action

Contact your Local 1000 steward if you feel your rights have been violated. Your steward will work with you and management to determine the best course of action, up to and including filing a grievance. For more information regarding Article 2 – Employee Time Off For Representation, review your contract by visiting

Gov admits furloughs saved state no money

Lawsuit: Special fund workers lost pay for no economic benefit to state coffers

Gov. Schwarzenegger’s private lawyers admitted in court papers that more than 1,000 workers at five state agencies were furloughed despite achieving no economic gains for the state – a clear abuse of power.

The admission, which Schwarzenegger’s legal team included in a court filing in Local 1000’s challenge to the furloughs of workers not paid through the General Fund, marks the first time that the governor has conceded that the 14 percent pay cut endured by thousands of these state workers did not help the state close its budget deficit.

That case is scheduled for hearing in Alameda County Superior Court on Nov. 16. As of press time, the outcome is not yet known. **To get the latest information go to seiu1000.org**

The court filing includes a declaration from Alene Shimazu of the Department of Personnel Administration in which she admits that employees of the California State Teachers Retirement Fund, the California Housing Finance Agency, the California School Finance Authority, California Horse Racing Board and the California Health Facilities Finance Authority were furloughed for no economic reason.

Local 1000’s suit maintains that thousands more workers should be exempt from furloughs at dozens of agencies that are either self-funded, depend on special funds, or primarily receive federal money.

Furloughs force long waits at DMV offices

Because of Gov. Schwarzenegger’s mandatory furlough scheme, the average walk-in customer at DMV offices must wait an additional 18 minutes, according to a state Senate report.

The report, released Nov. 1 by the Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes, also notes that the cuts in DMV service have not saved any General Fund money because DMV is largely self funded.

“This is no surprise to those of us who see customers every day,” said DMV worker Roland Becht of San Diego. “The furloughs just mean that everyone crowds into DMV offices on other days and we have to work overtime to serve our customers.”

The average wait time has grown from 27 minutes to 45 minutes, stated the report, which also notes that the furlough-induced slowdown “reverses a successful 2004 effort by the Schwarzenegger administration to shrink average wait times from nearly an hour to less than 30 minutes.”

To read the full report, go to seiu1000.org



Local 1000 Resource Center

visit our website seiu1000.org

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Monday – Friday, 7 a.m – 7 p.m.

Watch Early Edition Wednesdays at 7 a.m. at seiu1000.org

