

Special legislative session starts today

Program cuts, revenue increases on table

Gov. Schwarzenegger's special legislative session to deal with the state's rapidly swelling budget deficit begins today amidst reports that the problem could be as much as \$27.8 billion by the end of the current fiscal year.

Local 1000 is analyzing the proposals coming from the administration and legislative leaders. At the same time, we're lobbying for responsible, revenue-enhancing solutions, building coalitions with other labor organizations and communicating directly with legislators to ensure vital state services don't suffer additional drastic cuts.

Responsible budgeting includes revenue enhancement

The Legislative Analyst's Office said last week a combination of cuts and revenue increases are essential for a balanced budget, a solution that was largely ignored by the governor and Legislature as they cobbled together this year's already failed budget.

Local 1000 has proposed budget solutions that could add billions to the state's bottom line, including eliminating wasteful outsourcing, collecting unpaid sales and income taxes, cutting prison costs and improving lottery revenue.

Furloughs will only save the state \$250 million, compared to a projected \$28 billion deficit.

We're fighting takeaways and taking action now

The governor has proposed 19 unpaid furlough days, elimination of two paid holidays, and new ways to calculate overtime and premium pay – in effect, a 5 percent pay cut. That proposal was also presented to our bargaining team last week.

We say “no” to furloughs, which would only save the state \$250 million a year, compared to the state's projected \$28 billion deficit. Eliminating outsourcing and collecting unpaid taxes will provide more effective budget relief.

You can make a difference – contact the governor and the Legislature and encourage them to make responsible budget decisions that include revenue enhancements. Just log on to seiu1000.org and click on “Fight the Furlough.”

Bargaining Update

State says “No, no, no”

Fiscal climate chills bargaining progress

State negotiators continued to reject our economic proposals and began telling our negotiators to “take it or leave it” on other contract articles in last week's bargaining sessions, which included all nine bargaining units along with four Master Table Sessions.

The state told our Engineering and Scientific Technicians (Unit 11) on Thursday to “take it or leave it” on a package containing 23 different proposals. The state's bargaining team also rejected all of our Unit 11 proposals for equity pay and then had the nerve to say they want a contract by Nov. 23.

“It's too early for the state to do this,” said Brad Willis, Unit 11 Bargaining Chair. “There are specific articles in that package that we still need to negotiate with the state.”

Earlier in the week, state negotiators presented a package of takeaways that mirrored the governor's legislative proposal calling for 19 furlough days, elimination of two paid holidays, as well as revisions in the calculation of overtime and premium pay.

On Friday, the state told our Medical and Social Services Specialists (Unit 20) that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) will not recognize existing contract language allowing Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) to have a post and bid shift system.

“The state cannot pick and choose which contract articles they honor,” said Unit 20 bargaining team member Margarita Garcia, an LVN at High Desert State Prison. “The whole contract applies. This could lead many LVNs to quit or transfer to other agencies which all have post and bid.”

For the most current news from contract negotiations, log on to seiu1000.org and click on the “Bargaining Updates” button – and watch the Channel 1000 News, available online 24/7.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

YOUR UNION CONTRACT PROTECTIONS

As our bargaining teams work to secure a fair contract, your rights to take action in support of Local 1000 are protected by California state law and provisions in our union contract. If you are ever prevented from exercising your right to participate in any way, contact your Local 1000 job steward.

Your protected rights to support your union

Express your union beliefs	Your right to support the union and to express pro-union opinions to other employees and to management. (Government Code section 3512 et seq. – “Dills Act”)
Wear your union colors	Your right to wear buttons and stickers, and to wear union clothing. (Dills Act)
Display union materials	Your right to post and display union materials inside your workspace. (Dills Act)
Distribute union materials	Your right to distribute union materials during non-work time. (Contract Article 2.4)
Post union materials	Your right to display union materials on appropriate bulletin boards. (Contract Article 2.4)
Attend union meetings	Your right to attend union meetings on non-work time. (Contract Article 2.5 and Dills Act)
Picket and demonstrate	Your right to picket or demonstrate in support of the union during non-work time. (Dills Act)

SEIU launches “100 Days for Change” campaign

Members, stewards encouraged to participate

SEIU is embarking on a “100 Days for Change” campaign to help president-elect Obama realize two of his major objectives: creation of affordable healthcare for all working families, and the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act, which would allow workers the freedom to form unions.

We have committed to assist in the passage of these important reforms – none of which can be accomplished without ground troops to organize in communities and targeted congressional districts, forming strategic alliances, and lobbying in Washington, D. C.

SEIU and Local 1000 will also use the campaign to ensure any new economic stimulus package includes help for state governments. One third of California’s budget dollars come from federal sources, making an enhanced connection to Washington vital.

“We elected a president that holds our interests in his heart, and now we need to work to make sure his election means something even bigger.” said Yvonne Walker, president of Local 1000.

You can learn more about this opportunity for change and download an application to participate by logging on to seiu1000.org and clicking on the “100 Days” banner.

“Value Us!”

We keep California healthy, safe & strong

Linda Currie

Classification: Water Resources Engineer Associate

Department: Water Resources

Years in Classification: 5

What I Do: I deliver water from Northern California to Southern California. I make sure water is made available for drinking, cooking and bathing for Southern California residents. I ensure the waterways for boating and commerce don’t dry out. I also ensure there is water in lakes that are used to fight fires. I am also in charge of keeping water drawings updated, scanning them, and making them available for electricians or mechanics.



“I make sure water is made available for drinking, cooking and bathing for Southern California residents.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL LOCAL 1000 TOLL FREE: (866) 471-SEIU (7348) or visit our website: www.seiu1000.org

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Bargaining Hotline (866) 621-8704

