

Collect \$8.5 billion in unpaid taxes before slashing services and raising taxes

Local 1000 has a solution different from the governor's proposal for deep budget cuts: collect \$8.5 billion in taxes that goes unpaid and uncollected each year.

"Across-the-board cuts in vital services are fiscally irresponsible when the state's chief executive isn't keeping our financial house in order," said Jim Hard, Local 1000 president. "Why should Californians suffer the budget knife when the state isn't collecting billions in unpaid taxes?"

In a press conference held last week, Hard illustrated a number of member-generated solutions to the budget crisis that the state should consider:

- Collect the \$6.5 billion in corporate and personal income taxes that the Legislative Analyst's Office says go unpaid each year.
- Collect another \$2 billion in sales and use taxes that go unpaid annually.
- Save \$126 million spent on outsourcing of information technology jobs when the work can be performed by state employees for half the price; and save more than \$100 million by releasing prison inmates on time.

Local 1000 will release a series of weekly "white papers" detailing additional budget solutions, with analysis provided by the Local 1000 research department. Those ideas will be distributed to the governor's office, legislators and their staffs, and public policy organizations across the state. A companion website will present Local 1000's budget alternatives and host a "blog" featuring news and comments. Log on to theCABottomline.org.



Local 1000 President Jim Hard shares member-generated budget solutions at last week's press conference.

Sampling of reductions in the Governor's proposed 2008-09 budget

Department	Major Proposed Reductions	Positions Affected
Board of Equalization	No major reductions - revenue-generating department	None
California Department of Corrections	\$378.9 million	5,854
Department of Developmental Services	\$367.4 million	TBD
Department of General Services	\$794,000	TBD
Department of Health Care Services	\$1.099 billion	TBD
Department of Justice	\$41.6 million	TBD
Department of Mental Health	\$70.1 million	TBD
Department of Motor Vehicles	\$73.5 million	39.4
Department of Public Health	\$19.7 million	TBD
Department of Social Services	\$621.2 million	TBD
Department of Transportation	Proposed budget lists no major reductions.	TBD
Department of Veteran's Affairs	\$19.2 million	116
Employment Development Department	\$246,000	2.3
Franchise Tax Board	No major reductions - revenue-generating department	None

Note: this list is not comprehensive; it illustrates reductions described in the Governor's January Budget Proposal. Reductions come from both the General Fund and other funds.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

YOUR UNION CONTRACT PROTECTIONS

Article 19.1 Hours of Work and Article 19.2 Overtime

Your union contract contains hundreds of provisions designed to protect your rights. Article 19.1 - Hours of Work describes the regular workweek and work shift. Article 19.2 - Overtime describes your right to overtime pay for working more than 40 hours in a regular workweek. Your Local 1000 contract guarantees:

- No more than a 40-hour workweek for full-time employees.
- A regular work shift of eight hours.
- No change in a permanent workweek or shift without at least 15 days prior notice and five days notice for a temporary change.
- Overtime pay when you work more than 40 hours in a regular workweek.
- Pay for overtime at 1.5 times the hourly rate. Credit for overtime in 15-minute intervals.
- Credit for 15 minutes of overtime when seven minutes of overtime is worked.
- Payment for overtime in cash or with compensatory time off (CTO).
- CTO can be taken in 15-minute intervals.
- Cash payment for overtime after a year if CTO is not granted.
- Accrual of up to 240 hours of CTO.
- Cash payment if CTO is in excess of 240 hours.

How to take Action

Contact your Local 1000 steward if you feel your rights have been violated. 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. For more information regarding Article 19.1 Hours of Work and Article 19.2 Overtime — as well as specific information pertaining to Bargaining Units 3, 17 and 21 — review the Local 1000 contract by visiting our website at www.seiu1000.org.

What people are saying about the budget proposal:

Local 1000 members and legislators alike are commenting on the governor's proposed 2008-2009 budget with a common voice. They're calling for common-sense solutions to the budget crisis; they're calling for options beyond slashing programs or raising taxes.

From the members...

"We could save millions if we coordinated all the state printing functions."

- Pedro Leon, Sheetfed Press Operator, Department of Justice

"Stop outsourcing. State employees often train information technology contractors, who are paid twice as much as we are."

- Janet Wolfe-Eshe, Asst. Information Systems Analyst, Department of Water Resources.

"If they cut our department any further we could not fulfill our legislative mandate to control invasive species. That would harm the state's water quality and potentially cost taxpayers a lot more."

- Ed Somera, Aquatic Pest Control Specialist, Department of Boating and Waterways

From legislators...

"The governor's call for across-the-board 10 percent cuts defies common sense. (It)... ignores the fact that some programs are more wasteful or less important than others. It turns a blind eye to loopholes that could be closed, misses efficiencies that could be achieved, and lacks new commitments that would grow the economy and provide jobs in California, such as reforming our outdated corporate tax apportionment system."

- Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, D-San Francisco, in *sacbee.com*

"This budget isn't particularly creative or courageous."

- Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, in the *Sacramento Bee*

"Now's the time for real leadership, but it looks like he's simply throwing in the towel."

- Sen. Dean Florez, D-Shafter, in the *Sacramento Bee*

"Across-the-board cuts is the least responsible way to balance the budget. This is like using a blunt hatchet instead of a sharp scalpel."

- Sen. Jenny Oropeza, D-Long Beach, in the *Sacramento Bee*

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

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