

# Our challenge ahead: avoid deeper cuts

## Brown asks members to prod Republican legislators to let people vote

By Yvonne Walker: President, Local 1000

For years Local 1000 has been a leader in efforts to keep California afloat by promoting responsible budget solutions. But responsible solutions are being blocked by a legislative minority. Our job is to move their votes.

The budget battle in California is part of a larger national struggle over the future of the middle class. This is our own version of the fight middle class families are facing in Wisconsin, Ohio and New Hampshire, and we need to be squarely on the side of all working families, not just those we represent.

Gov. Jerry Brown has supported balancing cuts with allowing voters to extend existing taxes. If Californians want to save our schools, our libraries, our public safety system, and the important services we provide, we need corporations to pay their fair share.

### 11,235 town hall listeners

On April 5, the governor joined me in a telephone town hall with 11,235 of our members. He was frank about the state's fiscal situation and what we need to do to fix it.

"We've got a big problem," Brown said. "I want to let the people vote on this budget, but our efforts are being thwarted ... Your members can talk to their neighbors. Talk to their legislators. Make friends with a Republican (legislator). Go in and talk to them. Let them know who you are and the work you do."

We have a governor who respects state employees, appreciates the work that we do, and is willing to work with us. But that is not enough.

If we fail to achieve \$13.5 billion in tax extensions, there will be far deeper cuts to the programs that we administer, to schools, to public safety, and to services for the neediest Californians.

As I stated before, we must increase our pressure on the legislative minority and help achieve a long-term budget solution.



### Corporate responsibility

At a time when middle class Californians are forced to get by with less and feeling the impact of cuts already made, corporations are not paying their fair share. It's an unfair burden on the middle class and must be addressed before more California working families are harmed by additional cuts in services.

We are forced to cut schools and public safety at a time when the corporate tax rate is only half of what it was in 1981. As Gov. Brown pointed out, that's just wrong and something has to be done.

The state needs to rein in the corporate tax loopholes and take control of the tax structure. For example, California could collect about \$1 billion a year if our state required online retailers to pay sales tax.

We need a government and a tax system that puts the middle class first, not one that allows some corporations to pay little or nothing.

It's up to us to not only take on this fight but to win this battle for California.

See a video of Brown's town hall with members, go to [seiu1000.org](http://seiu1000.org)

APRIL 13, 2011

UNION UPDATE

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# Assembly committee backs contracting bills

## Members urge crackdown on wasteful outsourcing

A key Assembly committee passed two Local 1000-sponsored bills designed to curb wasteful outsourcing, including a bill to force agencies to cut pricey private contractors when state employees can do the same work for less.

“These two bills would make the state more efficient by getting rid of wasteful contracts and shining a light on a branch of government that has largely remained hidden from public view—contractors,” said Margarita Maldonado, chair of Bargaining Unit 1, who testified in support of each bill.

The Committee on Business, Professions and Consumer Protection voted 8-0 to approve AB 740, which would require state departments to immediately sever contracts that are disapproved by the State Personnel Board (SPB). Departments, which often currently ignore SPB decisions or delay implementation of rulings, would risk the rejection of future contracts for the same or similar services under the bill by Assemblymember Bob Blumenfeld, D-Woodland Hills.

The same committee also voted 6-2 to approve AB 172, which would require the state to track outsourcing contracts. Departments would also be required to post the reports on a user friendly website, so the public can see how tax dollars are spent.

Additionally, the bill sponsored by Assemblymember Mike Eng, D-Monterey Park, would make contractors who fail to provide this information to state agencies ineligible for any future contracts that provide personal services or consulting, and



Bargaining Unit 1 Chair Margarita Maldonado testifies at the state Capitol on April 15.

would cease payment for any ongoing contracts until the information is provided.

“Both of these bills will improve government operations and save the state money by making it easier to eliminate costly private vendors,” Maldonado said. “This is work that state employees can do more economically than contractors. These bills protect our jobs and taxpayer funds at the same time.”

Both bills will now go before the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

## Local 1000 election process

Election ballots for Local 1000 offices, including president and other statewide positions, will be mailed to all members by April 20. The deadline for returning ballots is May 20. Please read the ballot instructions carefully to ensure that your vote is counted.

Ballot count is scheduled for May 21 at 9 a.m., 1321 Howe Ave, Suite 200, Sacramento.

Observers are welcome.

Unofficial election results will be posted on [seiu1000.org](http://seiu1000.org) on May 23.