

Big business launches another attack on us

Wealthy right-wing interests want to silence our political voice

California's public employees—middle class working families—are coming under greater attack after a U.S. Supreme Court decision removed all limits to corporate political donations, a ruling that gives them an unprecedented ability to spend their mega-profits to influence the electoral process.

As if the Supreme Court decision wasn't enough, a new initiative has been launched that would drastically affect labor's ability to pool dollars and create a strong voice in political decisions affecting our jobs, families and communities.

"If this initiative is successful, there would be no progressive force in California," said Yvonne Walker, Local 1000 president. "Without a progressive voice, our jobs and the services we provide to California are at risk. Our pay, our benefits and retirement security are all vulnerable, while Wall Street and the wealthy continue to spend record amounts of money to support their political agenda."

The so-called "Paycheck Deception" initiative would take away our right to gather voluntary contributions to the Local 1000 political action fund and pool our money to create a strong voice in political decisions that affect us. Because of the Supreme Court ruling, Californians Against Special Interests have already banked more than a million dollars in contributions, including a number of six-figure checks from wealthy, out-of-state donors.

Attacks on our pensions, collective bargaining

No less than three other initiatives – two attacking our pensions and one outlawing our right to collective bargaining – have been launched. Attacks on our pensions are being fueled by a million-dollar grant from an anonymous out-of-state foundation.

According to the non-partisan Center for Responsive Politics, business interests already dominate political spending by a margin of 15 to 1 over organized labor.

"Big business wants to make it almost impossible for working people to compete with corporate power and money," said Yvonne Walker, Local 1000 president. "They're spending their mega-profits to game the system and create a new set of rules."



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—Yvonne Walker, Local 1000 president

Keep our voice strong!

The Committee for Political Education (COPE) is our political action fund. By pooling our resources through small, regular and voluntary contributions, Local 1000 makes our voice heard to protect the interests of working families.

Our political action fund supports or opposes ballot initiatives that directly affect us and candidates who support state employees. It helps get out the vote and builds public support for working families. Our goal is to hold all politicians accountable to do what's right for the middle class.

Your small investment can make a difference:

- For 10 cents per day - \$3/month
- For 16 cents per day - \$5/month
- For 33 cents per day - \$10/month

Join COPE today – contact your Local 1000 organizer

JULY 27, 2011

UNION UPDATE

Join the Fight for a Fair Economy

Attend a worksite meeting to learn more about building power for the middle class

Local 1000's campaign to raise awareness about the fundamental imbalance of power in America is gaining strength as thousands of members are learning about its devastating impact on working families. They're attending worksite meetings and carrying the message to their families, friends and in their communities.

Our Fight for a Fair Economy focuses on policies that lead to more and better jobs and benefits, on building support for vital services provided by Local 1000 members, on defending our pensions, and demanding that corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

"The rich are getting much richer while the rest of us go to work every day and fight for their leftovers," said Yvonne Walker, Local 1000 president. Since 1981, after-tax income has tripled for the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans, while it has barely exceeded inflation for most of the rest of

us. "It's outrageous that Wall Street is buoyed by near-record corporate profits while economic recovery has bypassed most Americans," Walker said.

This is what the battle is about: Across our great nation—middle class, working families are stepping up to fight for the future of America. We are fighting against a very organized attack designed to break unions, reduce wages and leave working, middle class families, with fewer rights, fewer protections and fewer options.

"No one has to tell California state employees that we're under attack," Walker added. "The truth is, there are very powerful groups that want to push down wages and roll back benefits all across the nation—and they'll win unless we work together and stop them."

Resource Center

Monday-Friday
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
866.471.SEIU (7348)

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**TAKE
ACTION!**

Attend a worksite meeting — ask your Local 1000 organizer.

For more information: visit seiu1000.org and click on "Fight for A Fair Economy"