

SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

UNION UPDATE



Protect your family's future from well-funded political attacks

Right now we're in an all-out battle to protect the security of our families and our hard-earned benefits and pensions.

This is a battle being waged on many fronts. Public employees in other states have lost their rights to collective bargaining. In California several initiative petitions are being circulated that would reduce public employee pensions. Across the nation, public employees and their families are threatened with cuts to their wages and benefits.

"We're fighting a well-funded attack designed to break unions, reduce wages, cut benefits and leave the middle class with fewer rights, fewer protections and fewer options," warns Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. "If this can happen in other states—it can happen in California."

With COPE contributions we can win this battle

By pooling our resources through small voluntary contributions, Local 1000's Committee on Political Education (COPE) is raising the money it takes to defeat these attacks in the political arena.

Politicians make decisions that influence our ability to organize and negotiate contracts. As state employees, it's crucial we are part of the political process so we can protect our interests.

"Local 1000 members have people power—the ability of lots of small contributors who, together, can make a big difference."

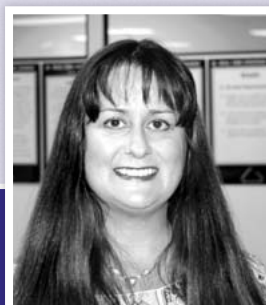
—Yvonne R. Walker
Local 1000 President

"We must make sure the 2012 election is focused on the issues of working families," Walker said.

Nationally, we need to elect leaders who will fight for middle-class jobs instead of backing corporate bailouts and tax breaks for wealthy special interests. In California, we need to continue electing lawmakers who support state employees and respect the work we do.

"Big business is collecting record profits and putting its money toward an anti-union agenda," Walker said. "Local 1000 members have people power—the ability of lots of small contributors who, together, can make a big difference."

Why do you give to COPE?



"Contributing to COPE is not about partisan politics—it's about the middle class having a voice to protect our wages, benefits and working conditions."

—Carey Wilson, Disability Evaluation Analyst, DSS

Learn more about how you can participate in the Local 1000 Committee on Political Education

Visit seiu1000.org/COPE

Resource Center

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

Website

seiu1000.org

Connect with Local 1000

Facebook

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What does the Committee on Political Education do for us?

In addition to endorsing candidates and initiatives, the Committee on Political Education (COPE) helps us fight back against anti-union groups, protect our collective bargaining rights, our wages and our benefits.

COPE Committee

The all-volunteer COPE committee is comprised of Local 1000 members. Their mission is to support initiatives, ballot measures and candidates that improve the lives of Local 1000 members and working families, and oppose initiatives and ballot measures that work to do the opposite.

Union dues and politics

State and federal law puts limitations on how union dues can be used for politics, and COPE is how we can have a voice to counter the special interests of billionaires and corporations who can spend as much as they want on political campaigns.

When you contribute to COPE we can:

- Elect candidates who value state workers and the services we provide
- Fight political attacks in the form of furloughs, minimum wage and threats to our pensions and job security
- Support adequate funding for state services
- Improve pay and benefits

Learn more at
seiu1000.org/COPE

BILLS TO FIGHT OUTSOURCING MOVING TO GOV'S DESK

Four-year campaign to expose wasteful 'hidden branch of government'

In the culmination of a four-year campaign by Local 1000 members upset over the illegal outsourcing of state work, two bills to increase accountability in the use of private contractors are moving through the final phases of the legislative process.

"This legislation will shine a light on the hidden branch of California government – private contractors," said SEIU Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. "Finally, taxpayers will be able to see how their money is spent on unnecessary contracts for work that can be done more efficiently by state workers."

Two bills coming up for a vote

As of press time, two bills dealing with the state's misuse of private contractors were close to passage by both houses of the Legislature and, if passed, will be sent to the governor for his signature.

"We need state employees to urge the governor to sign these bills," Walker said.

Here's what the two bills would do:

AB 172 (Eng) would increase transparency in the state's use of private vendor contracts by placing all contracts over \$5,000 and outsourcing audits in a searchable, online database that is accessible to everyone.

AB 740 (Blumenfield) would require state agencies to immediately discontinue a private vendor contract that is found to be illegal by the State Personnel Board (SPB) and prohibit that agency from entering into another contract for the same or similar services.

Members send 2,000 letters of support

Despite promises of increased government transparency, former Gov. Schwarzenegger vetoed an earlier version of AB 172 in 2010. Gov. Brown said during his election campaign that he wants to end wasteful state contracts.

More than 2,000 Local 1000-represented workers have sent letters to their state senators asking them to support these bills. Members can ask the governor to sign these bills by going online to seiu1000.seiu.org/page/speakout/fall2011bills

"Each of these bills will protect the jobs of state workers by exposing the unnecessary expense of paying private contractors," said Marie Harder, a Department of Public Health employee and a leader in Local 1000's outsourcing fight. "The Eng bill will allow members of the public to see for themselves how much money is wasted on unneeded contracts while the Blumenfield bill puts teeth into the regulatory process so that bad contracts are discontinued."

