

Paycheck Deception

2012 ballot measure designed to attack workers' strengths, silence union voices

A group is on track to place an initiative on the fall 2012 ballot that would gut union strength and make it nearly impossible for labor to compete in elections.

The ballot initiative is specifically designed to make it nearly impossible for members of an employee organization, including Local 1000, to raise money and pool their resources for political campaigns. If passed by voters, the measure would further skew the political landscape in favor of big corporations and business interests.

The new initiative would not only prevent expenditures of any union dues in political campaigns, it would prohibit any in-kind contributions such as union members volunteering to phone bank or walk precincts.

"This misleading initiative was put on the ballot by wealthy interests who aren't satisfied that they can spend unlimited money on campaigns—they also must weaken the collective strength of working people," said Yvonne R. Walker, Local 1000 president. "This initiative would effectively silence labor from supporting candidates or positions that benefit working families."

Big money gets bigger

In 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that it is illegal to limit political donations by corporations. This helped wealthy special interests gain more power in an environment where they already outspend labor by a 3-1 margin in direct contributions and a 15-1 margin



Even your ability to phone bank would be restricted by this initiative.



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—Yvonne Walker
 President, Local 1000

in indirect ("soft money") contributions.

The initiative's backers include oil and real estate interests, wealthy investors, CEOs and a retired bank chairman. The measure's title—"Stop Special Interest Money Now Act" is misleading because it implies that it affects all sides. In reality, the measure does very little to limit donations from business interests and corporate political action committees while it cripples public employee groups.

No union dues in campaigns

Californians rejected two similar measures, in 1998 and 2005, to silence the voices of teachers, nurses, firefighters and other working people. A third effort, called "Paycheck Protection 2010," failed to qualify for the ballot. Supporters of this new attack have submitted more than 800,000 signatures in an effort to comply with the 500,000 valid voter signatures to qualify for the ballot.

Well-heeled donors

"Even the title of the initiative—the so-called 'Stop Special Interest Money Now Act' is part of the big lie," said Nikki Linnerman, a member of Local 1000's Committee on Political Education. "It should be called the 'Special Interest Monopoly Now Act' because it disenfranchises the middle class. This initiative is designed to give the wealthiest 1 percent even more political power at the expense of working families."

UNION INFORMATION

Resource Center

Monday-Friday
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
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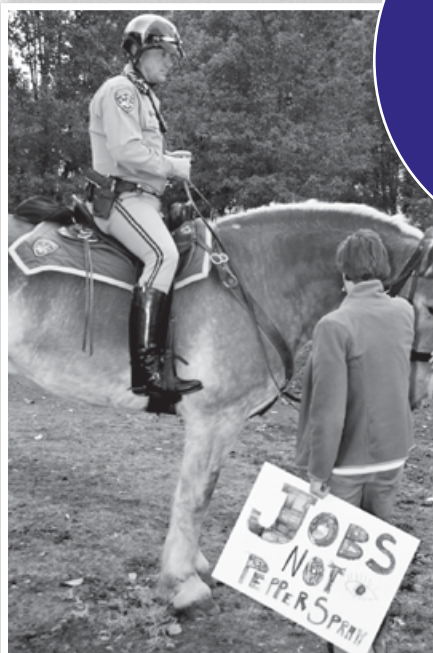
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Local 1000 joins in days of action to 'Put America Back to Work'

Local 1000 members joined a broad national coalition to hold two days of demonstrations last month demanding that elected leaders adopt policies to create jobs, rebuild infrastructure and reduce economic inequality for the 99 percent of Americans who are not millionaires.

On Nov. 17, more than 300 people, ranging from Local 1000 members to college students and members of other unions, joined in a peaceful protest on a Highway 99 pedestrian overpass in support of policies to

strengthen the middle class. Then on Nov. 19 at Cesar Chavez Park in Sacramento, Local 1000 members joined with high school students, religious leaders and members of Occupy Sacramento in the 'Put America Back to Work' rally.

Local 1000 members have also participated in other related events in other parts of the state, including some sponsored by the Occupy movement or other SEIU locals.

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