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2012

UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000
SEIU
Stronger Together

Members quiz legislative hopefuls

Open candidate town halls give opportunity to influence process

Local 1000 is joining with other SEIU locals to offer a series of “One Voice Town Hall” election meetings in cities up and down the state where candidates for public office make presentations and answer questions from our members.

The town halls are being held throughout February and March as part of an open endorsement process in which rank and file union members discuss the candidates and vote on recommendations to SEIU’s California State Council.

“Interacting personally with candidates is crucial,” said Sophia Perkins, a Department of Health Care Services employee who attended the first town hall on Jan. 18 in Sacramento. “It’s important to see who will best represent state employees and our families.”

Many legislative seats open

An unusually high percentage of legislative seats are open due to redistricting, term limits and open primaries.

Political analysts say 42 of 80 Assembly seats may have a new legislator after November. In the state Senate, there is a chance to elect a two-thirds majority of labor-friendly lawmakers – a threshold necessary for passage of spending bills such as our contract.

“State workers have a huge stake in this year’s elections,” said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. “We must mobilize our membership to defeat potentially



▲ Dee Dee Munson uses her first Local 1000 political meeting to chat with Congressional candidate Ami Bera.

devastating ballot initiatives and continue to elect a strong majority of legislators who value state services.”

Crucial ballot issues

The November ballot is expected to have at least three initiatives with a direct impact on Local 1000 members. One measure, which would effectively silence our union politically, has already qualified. There is also expected to be at least one measure to cut public employee pensions. The governor is also promoting a proposition to raise revenue for schools and vital state and local services.

The Jan. 18 town hall was the first political event ever for Dee Dee Munson, an Employment Development Department (EDD) employee since 2009.

“It’s amazing that we are able to ask questions face-to-face and see what they have to say about issues that affect state workers,” said Munson. “I feel

—Yvonne R. Walker
President, Local 1000

better about the election process, knowing that I can really make a difference.”

For a complete schedule of town hall meetings, go to seiu1000.org

Victory on stewards' rights, supervisors to be re-trained

Local 1000 activists won an 18-month battle at the Franchise Tax Board (FTB), where some supervisors will receive mandatory training on the rights of union stewards as part of a legal agreement to guarantee member rights at work.

The Jan. 10 agreement, signed by FTB, Local 1000 and the Department of Personnel Administration, settles an unfair labor practice charge before the Public

Employment Relations Board. The agreement ends a long period in which Local 1000 fought a pattern of harassment, discrimination and threats at an FTB computer network support unit in Sacramento.

"This victory goes way beyond our members who were directly

affected by harassment," said Darlene Estey, an FTB employee who led the campaign. "It's really a win for all of us because it shows what we can do if we are persistent in asserting our rights."

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—Darlene Estey,
Franchise Tax Board

ard Jim Hufnagle, an IT worker at FTB, for representing his coworkers and informing them of their rights.

Estey and other activists confronted the supervisor to no avail. Local 1000 filed grievances and the unfair labor practice on the steward's behalf and continued to pursue



Jim Hufnagle

the case even after Hufnagle retired last year.

"I knew I was in the right all the way along," said Hufnagle. "I'm very happy we finally won. It was worth the wait."

Under the agreement, supervisors at Hufnagle's former section must attend regularly scheduled training sessions on the rights of Local 1000 members and stewards. The agreement also reaffirms the right of our members to engage in all activities protected by our contract and the Dills Act.

Nominations still open for vacant General Council delegates

There is still time for you to help out your union by running for vacant delegate positions to the three-day General Council, which starts Aug. 31.

The open nomination period to fill vacant District Labor Council (DLC) delegate positions at General Council (GC) begins Feb. 1.

You can download and print out your General Council delegate nomination form by going to seiu1000.org

and clicking on the election icon. There, you can also see which DLCs have vacant delegate positions and where that DLC is located.

Submit your completed General Council delegate nomination form and your 100-word candidate statement by fax (**916.554.1282**), email – Local1000elections@seiu1000.org or traditional mail to 1808 14th St., Sacramento, CA 95811.

Nomination forms must be completed and **received** at Local 1000 headquarters in Sacramento by **5 p.m., Feb. 24**. If you have additional questions, email Local1000elections@seiu1000.org

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INFORMATION

Resource Center

Monday-Friday
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
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