

MAY 2
2012

UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000

Stronger Together

Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012

Signature success so far



Brown praises members for exceeding goals in campaign to save vital state services

Our members and staff have collected nearly 24,000 signatures from registered voters to help qualify the Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012 for the November ballot.

Our efforts exceeded Local 1000's goal of 12,000 signatures and helped SEIU California reach a union-wide goal of 89,000. The measure, sponsored by Gov. Jerry Brown and a wide coalition of business, labor and community groups, needs a total of 807,000 signatures to qualify.

Avoiding program cuts

The initiative would temporarily

raise income taxes on the wealthiest Californians as well as restore sales taxes to the level of a year ago in order to avoid huge cuts to education and guarantee funding for local public safety.

"Our members know the importance of these services and that's why so many of us have taken the time to support California and sign the petitions," Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker said.

Affirmation of our work

In an April 23 telephone town hall with President Walker and more than 15,600 Local 1000 members, Brown thanked state workers and praised our efforts in gathering signatures. However, he cautioned that qualifying the measure is only the first hurdle in a long race.

"We've got to see this thing through and pass this measure in November," Brown said. "We need you—state employees—to tell everyone that Californians are better off because of the work you do. Let's make this vote be an affirmation of the important work that you are doing."

Layoffs CANCELED at State Fund

After a week of contentious negotiations between Local 1000 and management, State Fund has canceled 267 layoffs that were scheduled for the end of May.

"We've told management all along that the cuts they wanted to make were too deep and would negatively impact the entire state," said Sophia Perkins, chair of Bargaining Unit 4. "Our message finally got through to them. Our lobbying efforts with State Fund Board members and legislators worked."

Local 1000 maintains its stance that State Fund's reorganization plan, which the agency began putting into place nearly two years ago, is dangerous. Proposed layoffs, additional relocations and involuntary transfers for employees will have a detrimental impact on customers, taxpayers and the employees who remain with the agency.

"They made some outrageous demands at the bargaining table, but we continued to push until we saved our members' jobs," said Brenda Modkins, chair of Bargaining Unit 1.

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—Brenda Modkins
Chair, Bargaining Unit 1

State Fund's original layoff plan targeted 1500 to 1800 employees for layoffs. About 970 employees opted for a voluntary "transition package" in December. This negotiated agreement with Local 1000 was the first time ever a severance package had been offered to state employees.

Since January, about 400 state employees have used their State Restriction of Appointment (SROA) status to find jobs in other state departments.

"Although the layoffs have been canceled, the fight isn't over," Modkins said. "We're going to continue to fight to stop outsourcing. We need to push for more training to meet the challenges of State Fund's new business practices and automation."

“Legislators must become educated on the issues surrounding the state’s workforce.”

—Xochitl Paderes

A voice for state workers

Xochitl Paderes

As he walked through the crosswalk on Oct. 24, Xochitl Paderes’ 19-year-old son was struck so hard by a hit-and-run driver that the vehicle’s front bumper detached. Despite many witnesses, the license plate number of the car and the description of the driver, the police department didn’t have the resources—because of budget cuts—to bring the perpetrator to justice.

For Paderes, this was the last straw. The lack of basic public safety services after a hit-and-run accident came following a litany of hardships that Paderes and her family faced. She decided to do something about it by running for office in Assembly District 13 in the Stockton area.

“After making so many complaints, I said to myself, ‘Do I want to continue to complain, or do I want to become a part of the process to make a change?’” said Paderes, an associate information systems analyst (specialist) for the Department of Fish and Game in Sacramento.

Paderes began working for the state in 2005 in Stockton. Joining Local 1000, attending meetings, participating in training sessions and advocating for her fellow members came naturally to Paderes after growing up in a union family.

The impact of furloughs and the economic downturn hit her family extremely hard a few years ago. Week after week, her family debated on what they could purchase to feed themselves. She now envisions

Local 1000 members, along with all state workers, establishing a solid foundation of supportive legislators who realize how much impact is made by their decisions.

“Until legislators understand that California’s workforce is the state’s backbone and not its enemy, California will continue to struggle,” Paderes said. “Legislators must become educated on the issues surrounding the state’s workforce, refocus their priorities, establish a level of common sense, and rethink their strategic maneuvers in the future.”

Xochitl strongly supports the Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012 because the ballot initiative would raise revenue for critical services and ensure that California is a safe place where our children and grandchildren have a future—so others do not have to face what she faced.

“We cannot point fingers anymore; we can either continue to move in the wrong direction, or move forward together and make a positive difference.”

To learn more about Xochitl Paderes, go to paderesforassembly.com

For election, endorsement, and volunteer information—visit seiu1000.org/election-2012 and seiu1000.me/Jmu0yp

Deadlines

- **May 21** - Register to vote
- **May 29** - File a vote by mail request

Resource Center

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

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seiu1000.org

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