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UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000

Stronger Together



Proposition 32: It's not what it seems

November initiative claims to be about stopping special interest money – but it *creates* special exemptions that give even more power to billionaire businessmen.

Proposition 32 – the so-called “Stop Special Interest Money Now Act” – purports to be a “simple, fair and balanced solution... limiting both corporate and union political giving.” Prop 32’s backers claim that the measure bans both corporate and union contributions to candidates, prohibits campaign contributions from government contractors, prohibits corporations and unions from collecting political funds from employees and members via voluntary payroll deduction, and makes all employee political contributions by any other means strictly voluntary, requiring annual written consent. Sounds fair and balanced, right? It's not.

Take a closer look

Prop 32 is more appropriately called the Special Exemptions Act, because it was intentionally written to create special exemptions for billionaire businessmen, giving them even more political power to write their own set of rules.

Prop 32 unfairly singles out and limits the voices of teachers, our local nurses and the firefighters who keep us safe. It takes away the ability of these everyday heroes to speak out on issues that matter to us all—like cuts to our schools and colleges, police

and fire response times, workplace safety, consumer protections, homeowner rights and unfair corporate tax giveaways.

Prop 32 is not going to solve Sacramento's problems, because it was intentionally written to exempt many companies like Wall Street investment firms, hedge funds, real estate developers, and others from the ban on contributions, and it specifically exempts insurance companies from the ban on payroll deductions. In addition, these groups can still create separate front groups and make unlimited expenditures supporting candidates. It's not a balanced approach.

“We must fight to maintain our rightfully-held political voice,” said Yvonne R. Walker, Local 1000 president. “Proposition 32 threatens our ability to speak up for state workers and for all Californians.”

“Today, corporations outspend labor unions by a 15-1 margin,” said Walker. “We cannot afford to allow big business to further tilt the scales towards their own self interest.”

On the back page:
non-partisan “good-government” groups sign on against Prop 32.

Join the tele-town hall on Proposition 32

You're invited to participate in a live telephone town hall on Wednesday, August 1 at 6 p.m.

Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker will present information and answer your questions about Proposition 32, which was intentionally written to create special exemptions for billionaire businessmen—giving them even more power to write their own set of rules.

President Walker will be joined on the call by Trudy Schafer, from the League of Women Voters, one of the non-partisan “good government” groups opposing Prop. 32.

To listen in and participate, call **800.290.1471** at 6 p.m.



Resource Center

Monday-Friday
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
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Non-partisan “good-government” groups call Proposition 32 deceptive

Two major non-partisan political organizations are saying that Proposition 32 will make an already unbalanced political system much worse.

The League of Women Voters of California, and Common Cause have joined the opposition to an initiative that promises to eliminate special-interest money in politics.

“Prop. 32 is not what it seems, and it will hurt everyday Californians,” said Trudy Schafer, a Senior Director at the League of Women Voters of California.

The initiative would ban corporations and labor unions from directly contributing to candidates – but excludes limited liability companies and business trusts from the ban – and does nothing to prevent wealthy business executives from writing big checks to politicians.

At the same time, labor unions would be banned from collecting political contributions by payroll deduction.

Today, corporations outspend labor unions by a ratio of 15-1. “Sacramento already has too much special-interest influence, and the money spent on political

“Prop. 32 is not what it seems, and it will hurt everyday Californians.”

—Trudy Schafer, League of Women Voters of California.

campaigns has caused all of us to mistrust the campaign finance system,” said Derek Cressman of Common Cause. He says that the proponents of Prop. 32 “are trying to use our anger and mistrust to change the rules for their own benefit.”

For more information:

League of Women Voters of California: ca.lwv.org/

Common Cause/California: commoncause.org/ca/



Know Your Rights

Your right to participate in politics

State employees have the same rights to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed to all citizens of the United States under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. These rights include participation in political speech and activities on behalf of candidates (*ballot initiatives are not subject to these restrictions*) generally under the following guidelines:

You may:

- Choose to exercise freedom of speech on your own time on and/or off the worksite.
- Possess political material at any place and time and may display and distribute it on your own time outside the worksite.
- Engage in political fundraising activities on your own time.
- Participate in voter registration activities on your own time.

- Display bumper stickers and license plate frames on your personal vehicle bearing a political message and park in state parking lots.

Your Union Contract Protections

Local 1000’s contract contains a number of articles that govern your rights as a state employee and your activities in the workplace. If you have questions about your contract or feel that your rights have been violated, contact your Local 1000 steward or call the Member Resource Center. Your steward will work with you and management, and consult your contract, to determine the best course of action, including whether or not to file a grievance.

More information, including a copy of your contract, is available online at seiu1000.org