

FIGHTING FOR A FAIR ECONOMY

Stop the Paycheck “Protection” initiative

Protect our right to support politicians who value state services and the workers who provide them

A new ballot initiative being circulated would severely limit our ability to pool member contributions and to create a stronger voice in political decisions affecting our jobs, families and communities.

Officially called the “Stop Special Interest Now Act,” a more appropriate title would be the “Paycheck Deception Initiative” or the “Strip the Middle Class of Any Political Power Act.”

The initiative will ban voluntary political contributions that workers now pool through their unions and create a new set of rules that makes it almost impossible for working people to compete with corporate power and money.

The initiative’s backers are oil and real estate interests, wealthy investors and CEOs, and follows the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling removing all limits on corporate political donations.

The so-called Paycheck “Protection” initiative would impose strict restrictions on the dues money that union members contribute – but not on contributions originating from corporate profits. In fact, this initiative places no restrictions on corporate political action committees.

“For years we’ve fought to keep our rights and make our voices heard—both at the worksite and at the ballot box,” said Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker. “Now big business and the wealthy are at it again, trying to stifle our ability to defend the gains we have fought so hard to win.”

Three previous attacks

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.

Signatures are being gathered at grocery stores, malls, post offices and other public places in an effort to place the initiative on the 2012 ballot. Volunteers are being paid a dollar-a-name bounty to collect the more than 500,000 qualified signatures necessary to qualify the initiative.

Here they go again!

This is the fourth attempt in 13 years to ban voluntary political contributions by union members—two made it to the ballot and were defeated by the voters.



Supporters have already raised more than \$1 million—much of it from wealthy out-of-state donors, including:

- **\$200,000** from William Bloomfield, retired CEO
- **\$100,000** from Timothy Draper, venture capitalist
- **\$100,000** from Frank Baxter, retired investment bank chairman
- **\$228,000** left from the failed Paycheck Protection 2010 effort

“This initiative is just another example of what we’re up against in our fight for a fair economy,” said Tamekia Robinson, Local 1000 vice president for organizing and representation. “Don’t sign this petition, and tell your colleagues, family, friends and neighbors not to sign it.”

If you see someone collecting signatures, call toll-free **877.440.9585** to report locations where signatures are being gathered. Local 1000 and other unions will then dispatch voter educators to that location to counteract efforts to collect signatures.

Join the tele-town hall on Paycheck “Protection”

Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker will present information and answer your questions about the Paycheck “Protection” initiative during a telephone town hall open to all Local 1000 members.

- **Wednesday, August 3**
- **6:00 p.m.**
- **Call 888.652.0238 to listen in and participate.**

AUGUST 3, 2011

UNION UPDATE



Members from a coalition of Sacramento-area labor unions gathered at the home district office of Congressman Dan Lungren to present a petition calling for job creation. They challenged Lungren's support of the Cut, Cap and Balance Act of 2011, which would enact massive budget cuts and kill jobs.

Members pressuring congress during August recess

Job creation should take priority, not deficit reduction

Local 1000 members are joining a national campaign challenging congressional representatives to make job creation the nation's number one priority. Members are participating in town halls and other events and forming rapid-response teams that ask the question "Where are the jobs?" In California, actions are planned in seven congressional districts during the August congressional recess.

We're challenging Congress' deficit reduction efforts and the notion that tax breaks for corporations and the rich are the solution to rebuilding America's economy. Instead, members are telling legislators that corporations are stockpiling profits and enriching CEOs—not creating jobs—which results in bigger deficits, deeper cuts to public services and more job loss.

"There's more than enough money in America for everyone to have a good job, as long as corporations and the rich pay their fair share," said Yvonne Walker, Local 1000 president. "We need to end the tax giveaways and invest the money in jobs that rebuild our economy and our communities."

Participate in our fight for a fair economy

The August recess actions are part of SEIU's fight for a fair economy—the battle against the fundamental imbalance of power between corporate America and middle class working families. You can take part in these targeted actions by contacting your union organizer or by calling our Member Resource Center at **866.471.SEIU** (7348).

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

YOUR UNION CONTRACT PROTECTIONS

Members' and stewards' rights in enforcing our contract

Article 2.6: Steward Time Off

Article 2.7: Employee Time Off

Article 2.8: Union Steward Protection

Your union contract contains hundreds of provisions designed to protect your rights, including state time off for representational purposes, and guarantees that you and your steward will not be discriminated against or harassed for exercising rights guaranteed by our contract.

Your Local 1000 contract guarantees:

- Employees are entitled to reasonable state time off, during work hours, to confer with a steward or union representative.
- Employees' release time is subject to approval by the employee's supervisor. (See next section if your supervisor denies your request.)
- Stewards are also given state time off, during work hours, for representational purposes.
- Stewards' release time is subject to prior notification and approval by the steward's immediate supervisor.
- Managers and supervisors cannot interfere with a steward's work in representing employees or enforcing the contract.

If your supervisor claims that the time requested is unreasonable and will not approve of the meeting, you should:

- Ask your supervisor when would be a reasonable time to meet with your steward. (Supervisors may not suggest lunch or breaks, as that is your personal time.) Remember to tell your supervisor if the matter is urgent or time-sensitive.
- Assess the situation and remind the supervisor that the contract says "shall be granted reasonable time off."
- Make sure the supervisor approves a time that will not delay your ability to meet grievance timelines.

How to take Action

Contact your steward or the Local 1000 Resource Center if you feel your rights have been violated and/or your supervisor will not approve reasonable time for the meeting. Your steward will work with you, management and your contract to determine the best course of action, including whether or not to file a grievance.

For more information regarding your rights and stewards' rights, review your contract at **seiu1000.org** or call the Member Resource Center at **866.471.SEIU** (7348).

Resource Center

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

Website
seiu1000.org

Connect with Local 1000

Facebook
facebook.com/seiu1000

YouTube
youtube.com/seiu1000

Twitter
twitter.com/seiu1000

