

AUG 28
2013

UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000
SEIU
Stronger Together



Immigration reform

benefits us all



Local 1000 members are working together to ensure that passage of Congress' bipartisan immigration reform bill is a top priority when the House of Representatives returns from summer recess in September.

On Aug. 14, scores of our members joined in a state-wide caravan to Bakersfield to take the fight to a key leader in Congress, Republican Whip Kevin McCarthy. They joined hundreds of vehicles from more than 30 California cities, carrying immigrant rights leaders, labor union members, faith organizations, student groups and elected officials to call on the nation's lawmakers to support the bipartisan reform already passed in the Senate.

The immigration reform bill – S.744 - would create three million jobs nationally, strengthen Social Security and reduce our nation's deficit by \$800 billion. Our broken immigration system allows big business to exploit workers who lack legal status, driving down wages for all workers.

Local 1000 is working to build bipartisan support in our communities for commonsense immigration reform. In addition to the caravan, members are calling voters in targeted legislative districts to educate them on the issues and to encourage them to call their congressperson in support of immigration reform.

Despite a broad coalition of support for the bill—from the labor movement as well as business leaders and mainstream Republicans—extremists in the House are still putting politics before solutions at the expense of millions of families and the American economy.

To learn more about immigration reform, and to become involved in Local 1000's campaign, go to seiu1000.org and click on immigration reform.

Relief in sight for troubled BOE building?

State seeks to move headquarters operations out of sick building

After years of unsafe working conditions, our members at the Board of Equalization headquarters in Sacramento took another step towards a solution last week when a proposal to consolidate operations in a new building was discussed at an Assembly Budget Subcommittee hearing.

The Department of General Services has proposed moving four BOE offices into one new central facility, a long-overdue remedy to a building that has compromised the health of workers and diminished their effectiveness as tax collectors.

“In addition to providing a healthy and safe working environment for state workers, this proposal promotes efficiency and will save the state money,” said Tamekia N. Robinson, Local 1000 vice president of organizing/representation, who testified at the hearing. “The current location is not adequate ... for BOE employees or the public.”



Tamekia N. Robinson, Local 1000 Vice President of Organizing/Representation, testified at the legislative hearing.

The current headquarters building, at 450 N Street, has a troubled history, stretching back years. A long list of mechanical issues plagued the building, including flooding, leaky windows, falling elevators, air quality concerns and mold regularly affecting the health of workers. A number of windows failed, falling out of the building and crashing to the sidewalks below.

Already, more than \$60 million has been spent on repairs to the building, with estimates for additional repairs ranging from \$20 to \$50 million more.

“This proposal will change working conditions greatly,” said Tabitha Hamilton, a digital composition specialist. “Morale is at an all-time low at BOE. We won’t have to walk past signs that warn employees about toxic substances, and consolidating all the operations on one campus will make us more efficient.”

Resource Center

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

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Cast your vote to protect retirement security



Ballots for the CalPERS election—selecting two representatives to the Board of Administration—will be mailed to eligible voters on August 30. Terms for the two positions begin in January 2014 and will expire in January 2018.

“With the retirement security of our members and other public sector employees under continuous attack, it’s critical that we have voices on the CalPERS Board who

are committed to protecting our defined benefit pensions,” said Yvonne R. Walker, Local 1000 president. “It’s important that every Local 1000 member vote in this election.”

Local 1000 has endorsed the two incumbents, Michael Billbrey and J. J. Jelencic. You can meet the candidates at the board election candidate forum on Sept. 5, from 3 to 5 p.m. at CalPERS headquarters.

You are eligible to vote in this election if you are a CalPERS member active as of July 1, 2013, or a retired

member (excluding survivors and beneficiaries) whose effective date of retirement is on or before July 1, 2013.

All ballots must be postmarked no later than Sept. 27 in order to be counted.

If you have not received your ballot in the mail by Sept. 13, call the CalPERS Board Elections Office at **800.794.2297**.

For more information on the CalPERS election, visit **calpers.ca.gov**