

SEPT 24
2014

UNION UPDATE



Thousands like you will make their voices heard Nov. 4



Registering to vote and voting by mail has never been easier

California has come a long way in just a few short years—from furloughs and foreclosures to raises for our families and new jobs in our neighborhoods.

There's still a long way to go.

The cost of living keeps getting higher, and we're working harder than ever just to get by. Working families are falling further and further behind, while corporations and millionaires aren't even paying their fair share to keep California going.

Those same corporations and billionaires will buy the 2014 elections *if we let them*. That's why people like you are stepping up across California to make sure we elect leaders who will fight for working people. On Nov. 4, join the tens of thousands of Local 1000 members across California making their voices heard in support of leaders who will make our economy work for everyone, not just for the wealthiest few.

Your vote is your power. Make sure your voter registration is up to date by Oct. 20, and join your coworkers and neighbors at the polls on Nov. 4.

Register to vote online

It has never been easier to register to vote in California than right now—anyone with a driver's license can register electronically.

The California Secretary of State, in coordination with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), has developed a system where anyone with a signature on file with the DMV can register to vote or change their registration online.

It's never been easier to register to vote or to cast your ballot by mail. Here's how:

- In order to vote in the Nov. 4 election, your registration must be postmarked or submitted electronically no later than Oct. 20.

You need to re-register to vote when:

- You move to a new permanent residence
- You change your name or,
- You change your political party.

VOTING info:

sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm

Deadline to register or re-register to vote

Voting by mail is quick and easy

- Any registered voter can conveniently vote by mail. Registered voters may apply for a vote-by-mail ballot (permanently or on a one-time basis) for an upcoming election.
- For the Nov. 4 election, your vote-by-mail application must arrive no later than Oct. 28. If you apply online or in person at your county elections office, the deadline is also Oct. 28.
- Get vote-by-mail information from the California Secretary of State's Office at sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_m.htm#apply



LEADING by Helping Others

When Carmen Ledesma started working for the Employment Development Department (EDD) as an Employment Program Representative five years ago, she never thought she'd become a Local 1000 steward ... or testify before the state legislature. Today, she's a Local 1000 leader by doing what comes naturally ... helping others.

Member Profile: **Carmen Ledesma**

Carmen has dedicated her entire career to assisting others, and when she landed at EDD in 2009, she was excited about helping unemployed Californians get back on their feet. Early on, she decided to step up. "I became a Local 1000 leader because I didn't like seeing people I worked with bullied by bad bosses," Ledesma said. "It's my nature to help when people are being treated unfairly. Now, as a steward, I encourage other workers to stand up, get involved and not be afraid. Local 1000 has your back."

Currently, Ledesma is on union leave working in Local 1000's Member Resource Center helping her fellow members understand Local 1000's contract, file grievances, and access all the benefits of union membership.

"I encourage other workers to stand up, get involved and not be afraid. Local 1000 has your back."

—Carmen Ledesma

EDD Program Representative

1000 steward Irene Livingston took their leadership to the Capitol and testified before the Assembly Insurance Committee about the challenges facing frontline workers at EDD and what the department could do to move forward.

"It was a tough time for all of us at EDD," said Ledesma. "The new system was a failed project. But rather than play the blame game, we focused on fixing problems and helping the workers do their jobs under tough circumstances."

In late February—due in large part to the efforts of members like Carmen Ledesma and other EDD workers—the governor ordered EDD to fix the delays by hiring additional frontline staff and computer programmers.

Community activist

Carmen is also active in her community as an active member of the Capital Christian Church in Natomas. She's involved in Shoulder to Shoulder, a group dedicated to helping fatherless young men in the community prepare for a productive adult life. When asked what keeps her going as a leader and volunteer, Ledesma said "It's really all the gratitude and thanks I get. People know they have someone in their corner if there's a problem. *That* makes all the difference."

Making a difference at the Capitol

When EDD introduced a new computer system in September 2013 to process unemployment claims faster, Ledesma soon discovered the new system was actually slowing the process and increasing errors. When the press started writing stories about the unacceptable delays for Californians seeking unemployment benefits, Ledesma and fellow Local

Resource Center

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