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UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000  
SEIU  
Stronger Together

# Legislative victories for California

## Brown approves two key measures while other legislation still pending

Gov. Brown has signed a bill that will boost the salaries of thousands of employees at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and another to help working families with a minimum wage increase. Other important legislation affecting state workers and their families still await the governor's signature.

SB 102 approves and funds pay increases that were part of the DMV reclassification agreement Local 1000 signed with the state in July. That agreement capped a nine-year grassroots member campaign to recognize the importance and complexity of the work of more than 4,000 DMV employees. Nine different classifications will receive pay raises ranging from 1.5 to 7.5 percent.

"We spent years fighting to modernize these classifications – it was a huge challenge, but we never gave up," said Shelia Byars, a DMV traffic safety officer from Stockton. "I truly believe that we only succeeded because DMV employees were organized, unified and persistent for all those years."

A bill that will lift up working families across the state was also signed into law, thanks to the efforts of a broad, Local 1000-supported coalition - including labor, community groups and advocates for low-income families. AB 10 will raise the minimum wage from \$8 to \$9 an hour on July 1, 2014, and to \$10 on Jan. 1, 2016.

## Minimum wage increase

"For the lowest paid and most exploited workers in California, this will provide a 20 percent wage increase over the next two years," said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. "When you think of all the men and women struggling to raise families on minimum wage and the boost to our economy this provides – this is a huge victory for California."

Nearly 1,000 members have sent letters to the governor urging him to sign other priority bills for our communities, including legislation which adds scrutiny to the state's contracting out process, improves the rights of state employees facing termination for unexcused absences and increases educator input in prison literacy and vocational education.

For more information log on to [seiu1000.org/politics-legislation](http://seiu1000.org/politics-legislation)

## Health care: members on the front lines

### Members help California connect with affordable coverage options

Local 1000 members are literally on the front lines of America's history-making health insurance reform, as the effort to inform and enroll more than five million uninsured Californians launched Oct. 1.

Several hundred newly hired state employees – mostly represented by Local 1000 – are staffing the phones at a new call center just outside Sacramento.

Covered California is our state's portal to new health insurance options made possible by the Affordable Care Act, which provides access to quality, affordable health care that can't be denied or taken away.

"We have supported affordable health care for all because it is the right thing to do for all Americans," Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker said at the kick-off event. "It's also personal for many of us – including my own family. This is the first time my adult daughter will be able to obtain affordable health insurance for herself."

Peter Lee, executive director of Covered California, praised the thousands of new employees who have been hired to help with the enrollment and recognized our members working in the new call center.

"What you see out here are state workers who are delivering first-class service," Lee said. "And they are part of a union that has been an active partner in this effort for a long time."



SEIU Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker (center) poses with other leaders at Covered California kickoff.

# Local 1000 members volunteer for healthier neighborhoods

## Community health fair offers tools for healthy living

Local 1000 members volunteered alongside community health organizations on a recent Saturday to connect several hundred Sacramento area residents with health care screenings, nutrition tips, tools for healthy living and access to affordable health insurance under the new state program – Covered California.

“We are here today to give back to the community and to help our neighbors improve their health, particularly those who do not have health care,” said Sherri Bridgeforth, a Department of Community Services & Development employee who was one of dozens of Local 1000 members who volunteered at the event.

More than 250 adults from the area attended the Sept. 28 event, including many who brought their children. Many who attended work hard to provide for their families through one or more jobs but still lack access to medical insurance.

**“We are here ... to help our neighbors improve their health.”**

**–Sherri Bridgeforth**

Department of Community Services & Development

Representatives from Covered California – our state’s new portal to affordable, accessible health care – hosted the most popular booth.

One of the goals of our Local 1000 Purpose Statement, “to give our members – and all Californians – the opportunity to have a good life”, inspired Local 1000 members in the Sacramento area to create the event, while building stronger ties to the community.

“This event is personal to me even though I have very good health care insurance guaranteed by our Local 1000 contract,” said Beth Snyder, a Department of State Hospitals employee who helped organize the fair. “I have family members who do not have insurance, including one relative who is suffering from cancer.”



Local 1000 member Claudia Gambaro assists community members at the health fair on Sept. 28.



A TV crew interviews Annalissa Merino about how the health fair helped her to find insurance.



Community members gather around a booth staffed by representatives of Covered California, the state’s new insurance agency.

### Resource Center

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

Website  
seiu1000.org

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