

OCT 17
2012

UNION UPDATE



No on Proposition 32 campaign

1000 for Local 1000

More members than ever are becoming 'volunteers in politics'

More than 1,000 Local 1000 members and staff have contacted nearly 250,000 voters by phone or by knocking on doors in order to defeat Proposition 32 and pass Proposition 30 on Nov. 6.



"We are succeeding in reaching voters but we need more volunteers to help us combat the disinformation about Proposition 32."

—Mike Allen, Unit 1
Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs in Sacramento



"We are starting to get the word out – and people are noticing. But we still have a lot of work to do."

—Vanessa Seastrong, Unit 17
Nurse at Patton State Hospital



Has your mail ballot arrived?



Voting has already begun for thousands of Californians; make sure to vote 'no' on Prop. 32 & 'yes' on Prop. 30

Hundreds of thousands of voters should have received their ballots this week and, if you are registered to vote by mail, it is important for you to cast your ballot in time to be counted.

For your vote to be counted, vote-by-mail ballots must be received by a state or county election official no later than the close of polls at 8 p.m. on Nov. 6 – Election Day. So if you forget to mail it, you can drop off your ballot at any polling place in your county or to your county elections office on Election Day.

Become a volunteer in politics



We need volunteers if we are going to win in the November election by defeating Proposition 32 and passing Proposition 30. Our members are phone banking every weeknight until the election and we walk precincts every weekend.

Here's how to join us:
seiu1000.me/Jmu0yp

Phone bank & precinct walk locations:
seiu1000.me/SB2uPi

Voter's Guide 2012

Local 1000 has produced a comprehensive voter's guide of our endorsements of propositions and candidates. To see Local 1000's voter guide, go to seiu1000.org/election-2012

Important bills signed by governor

New laws to help prison teachers & working families

The governor signed several bills that directly benefit our members as well as other important legislation that Local 1000 supported to help all California working families.

Perhaps more importantly, our legislative team, supplemented by member activists and allies, helped block several pieces of legislation that were specifically designed to outsource our jobs or cut state worker pensions and benefits.

Our “quiet” victories included thwarting several bills that were designed to reduce pensions, cut retiree health care and other benefits as well as legislation to weaken collective bargaining. These bills were all killed in committee by Local 1000 and our allies.

One of our most important legislative successes was SB 1234, which starts the process that will help millions of workers currently without pensions save for their retirement.

Prison educators win

Another big victory was SB 1121. This bill requires that prison educators be involved in assigning inmates to education programs like literacy, GED and vocational training. Introduced by Sen. Loni Hancock and sponsored by Local 1000, SB 1121 received bipartisan support and was signed into law by Gov. Brown Sept. 29. Bargaining Unit 3 teacher advocacy paid off as the state and legislators understood the need for SB 1121.

Our correctional educators testified that inmates were often assigned to inappropriate classes over their

objections. This wastes taxpayer money and reduces the effectiveness of instruction. Now, the professional judgment of credentialed educators must be considered in the assignment process.

“This is a victory for common sense, the taxpayers and our members,” said John Kern, Unit 3 chair. “State employees must be able to advocate for good public policy. It becomes an ethical issue, a safety issue, an issue of morale. We must defeat Prop. 32 if we expect to be able to continue holding politicians responsible for good governance in California.”

Other bills we supported that became law:

- **AB 2508** will require call centers for state public benefits programs, such as CalWORKs and CalFresh, to be staffed by California workers – not overseas.
- **SB 863** will vastly improve the workers’ compensation system by increasing aid for injured workers and simplifying the claims process.
- California Homeowner Bill of Rights (**AB 278 and SB 900**) reforms many of the mortgage lending abuses that exacerbated the state’s real estate collapse.

For more legislative information, go to seiu1000.org

Resource Center

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

Website

seiu1000.org

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CDCR: More cooks in the kitchen

Local 1000 pressures prisons to hire more cooks to reduce mandatory overtime

For years, California prison kitchens have been grossly understaffed with our cooks working mandatory overtime. Local 1000 members have been demanding the state take action to help with this issue.

After months of pressure from Local 1000, the state has recently given the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) authority to hire 47 new cooks.

“This shows that the state is recognizing the issues at CDCR and taking small steps to help me and

my coworkers,” said Louie Gonzales, a correctional supervising cook at North Kern State Prison and a member of the Unit 15 bargaining team. “These vacancies have hurt us all, but money is being wasted on working us to death.”

Hires don’t end understaffing

Even with the new hires, there will still be many unfilled cook positions at prisons throughout the state. With over 100 cook positions still vacant statewide, Local 1000 continues to pressure the state to grant CDCR authority to hire more cooks and

alleviate costly overtime.

For many months, cooks in CDCR have worked more than 200 hours of overtime costing the state more money than filling vacant positions.

“I’ve been working 16-hour days for seven days straight—and I have an hour drive to and from my home,” said Gonzales. “As much as some of us like the overtime, the state could be using that money to train new hires.”



Louie Gonzales