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2013

UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000
SEIU
Stronger Together

ALERT RETIREMENT SECURITY UNDER ATTACK

Message from our president

Politician, billionaire threaten retirement security

By SEIU Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker

On Oct. 15, San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed, with the financial support of an Enron billionaire from Texas, filed the initial paperwork to qualify a November 2014 ballot initiative designed to allow public employers to reduce pension benefits for current workers and allow them to do so without going through the normal collective bargaining process.



“This proposed pension initiative is a distraction from the real retirement savings crisis in the private sector.”

Yvonne R. Walker
President, SEIU Local 1000

This is not only a direct threat to the retirement security of millions of working families, including Local 1000 members, it is a dangerous and cynical distraction from the real retirement crisis we face in California

and nationally – the private sector. We will fight this initiative every step of the way.

Six million of our friends, family and neighbors in California have no retirement plan at all and these days, most working households face choosing between working until they die or retiring in poverty. And yet, instead of backing solutions to help all working people retire with security and dignity – such as SB 1234, California’s ground-breaking law to explore secure retirement options for the private sector – Reed and his allies are trying to undermine what little retirement security remains by scapegoating middle class families with modest pensions.

This proposed constitutional initiative is an attack on the retirement security of California families at a time when we need to be helping our brothers and sisters in the private sector afford retirement. It’s a cynical ploy to divide working families and hasten the race to the bottom – and we will fight it tooth and nail.

To keep up with the latest news on retirement security, go to seiu1000.org/fair-economy

Contact retirementsecurity@seiu1000.org to find out how you can fight back.

How the proposed initiative would change public employee pensions

- The initiative would allow government officials to **unilaterally implement changes** to our public employee pensions by declaring a “fiscal emergency.” This completely undermines the collective bargaining process.
- Employers could also **increase the retirement age for benefits** and require employees to pay a larger share of the cost of pensions.
- Employers could **reduce future benefits for current employees** including the rate of accrual for pension benefits and the rate of cost of living adjustments for future retirees. Employers could also **reduce future retiree health benefits**.
- If any public employer cannot achieve these changes through collective bargaining within 180 days, the employer can **unilaterally implement these pension changes**.

Members give back to Fresno community

Harvest Festival collects donations for local food bank & shelter for female veterans

As part of our ongoing effort to strengthen our community ties across California, Local 1000 hosted the second annual Harvest Festival and Fundraiser in Fresno on Oct. 19.

The grass-roots event allows Local 1000 members to give back to the Central Valley and celebrate with neighbors. This year's event included more than a dozen partnerships with local organizations and featured a health fair, free asthma screenings and assistance in signing up for health insurance through Covered California. The festivities also included live music, activities for kids and a chili cook-off.

Local 1000 members collected more than 1,600 pounds of food and hundreds in cash donations for the Community Food Bank of Fresno and Operation Homefront, which operates a shelter for female veterans in the Fresno area.

“Engaging with the community is a key part of the Local 1000 Purpose Statement,” said Margarita Maldonado, Local 1000 vice president for bargaining. “Our Harvest Festival is just one example of our efforts to build sustainable communities where we live and work in order to make a difference for all Californians.”



Color guard presents the flag (1); community members obtain health care information (2, 3, 7); Jeff Fowler, a member leader at Caltrans, presides over chili cook-off (4); nurses perform free health screenings (5); Unit 3 steward Cindy Greer sings the national anthem (6).

Resource Center

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

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