

NOV 14
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UNION UPDATE

Election 2012

Political victories on every front

The real winner is the middle class

In a historic election, SEIU-endorsed candidates and propositions were victorious all over the nation—and especially here in California.

“Our victories began with the re-election of Barack Obama. The nation had spoken—rejecting a conservative, big business agenda in favor of the vision of a stronger middle class,” said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. “The momentum continued in California, where we passed Proposition 30—which, by adding \$6 billion in vital revenue to schools and public safety is a critical step forward in stopping years of deep budget cuts.

“We defeated Proposition 32—where, for the third time in 15 years, we rejected big money’s effort to silence the political voice of labor in our state. And, we elected nearly all of the member-endorsed candidates for state assembly and senate seats,” Walker added.

Members made the difference

Members stepped up in unprecedented numbers statewide to help us achieve success. More than 1,800 members and staff participated in nearly 9,400 phone banks and precinct walks to educate voters.



They made more than 390,000 calls and knocked on thousands of doors.

Local 1000 built strong coalitions with other labor unions, community groups and good government organizations like the League of Women Voters to amplify and push home our message. As we move forward, we will work to further strengthen these alliances.

“This sweeping victory came only through our own grass roots efforts,” Walker said. “We are truly stronger together, and I’m confident that members will make the difference as we work to strengthen the middle class and to protect our wages, benefits and pensions.”

Challenges ahead

The governor and the new legislature will have to get right to work. There are still many tough decisions ahead in the Capitol.

“We spent more than a year working in preparation for this election, and it paid off for us at the ballot box,” said Margarita Maldonado, vice president for bargaining. “However, our work did not end on Nov. 6. We need to take that campaign energy and carry it forward into budget negotiations and contract bargaining in 2013. Because we won on Prop. 30 and 32 as well as in the legislature, we are in a better position.”

◀ Gov. Jerry Brown and Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker each addressed an election night gathering of volunteers and state leaders to celebrate the passage of Proposition 30 and the defeat of Proposition 32.



LOCAL 1000
SEIU
Stronger Together

Volunteers made the difference

Members & staff defeated billionaire blitz

Local 1000's success at the polls on Nov. 6 came down to one thing: **Volunteers**

"Without our member and staff volunteers we would not have succeeded in so many races," said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. "We were up against billionaires, corporate special interests and anonymous contributors who wanted to buy this election. We won

because we have something they will never have: an army of committed volunteers."

In the past two months, 1,800 members and staff completed more than 9,400 phone banks and precinct walks on behalf of Proposition 30, against Proposition 32 and in support of candidates for state and local offices. We had phone banks set up in a dozen locations around the state, making more than 390,000 calls to identify supporters.

In the final four days leading up to the election, Local 1000 and hundreds of volunteers from our sister SEIU locals knocked on the doors of more than 300,000 homes where voters were previously identified by our phone bank teams as supportive.

Most importantly, our army of volunteers was able to turn the election around. Public opinion polls showed that Proposition 32 was likely to pass until our October blitz began to take effect. Our efforts also helped pass Proposition 30.

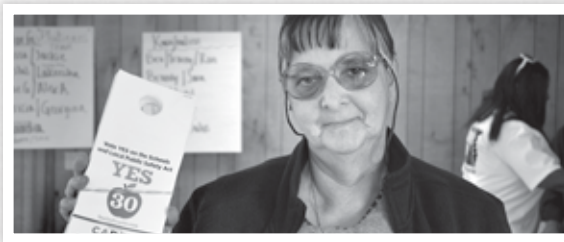
Politics matters to state workers

"As state employees, politics has always had an impact on our work, so it only makes sense that we volunteer to work hard for campaigns that benefit our members and California families as a whole," said Connie Kabeary, chair of our Committee on Political Education." Our members were able to educate thousands of voters to show that Proposition 32 was an attempted power grab by a small group of very rich people."

Many of our members devoted hundreds of hours to the campaign. Many took time off their state jobs to spend much of October as full-time member political organizers.

Phyllis Johnson, who retired in 2011 after 28 years at the Department Public Health, volunteered five or six days a week from September until Election Day at the Local 1000 headquarters in Sacramento, helping with dozens of tasks such as coaching phone bankers and preparing packets for precinct walkers.

"I'm proud to help a good cause – I believe in what we do here," Johnson said. "There is very little I can do alone against these power-hungry billionaires, but I'm not alone. I'm part of a team of thousands. That's why we won."



From top: Retired member Phyllis Johnson holds a campaign flier. Members walk precincts in Fremont and in Sacramento. Assembly candidate Ken Cooley poses with an SEIU member and her daughter.

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