

SEIU Local
1
BOARD OF DIRECTORS





Governmental Affairs

Legislative & Political Departments



What do we do?

- We build political power for our union by leveraging the legislative and electoral processes to:
 - Protect and enhance the collective bargaining agreement
 - Secure funding to expand the workforce
 - Defend against attempts to contract the work of state workers.
 - Defend against attempts to reduce state worker rights/protections

Who Are The Gov't Affairs Team Members?

- Marx Gutierrez, Senior Political Organizer
- Guy Rinfrow, Senior Political Organizer
- Regina Whitney, Political Organizer
- Vacant, Legislative Advocate
- Andrea Tapia, Department Secretary
- Omega Brewer-Gonzalez, Governmental Affairs Coordinator



2021 Legislative Victories

- Federal
 - American Rescue Plan
- State
 - Cost Savings Taskforce Work
 - SB 270 – Imposes penalties on agencies that don't provide the union with new employee information.
 - AB 3088 – Extended eviction moratorium during height of pandemic.



2022 Legislative Focus

- Secure funding to create more state positions.
- Strengthen state telework policies
- Secure funding to compensate state employees as essential workers.
- Protect our workforce from contracting out.

2021 Political Victories

- 2021 Special Elections
 - AD18 – Mia Bonta
 - AD54 – Isaac Bryan
 - AD 79 – Dr. Akilah Weber
 - SD 30 – Sydney Kamlager
 - CDP Officers – Rusty Hicks, April Verrett
- Federal Accountability Work
- Vaccination Events
- Test new relational organizing technologies



2022 Political Department Focus

- Protect state employees from ballot measures designed to reduce the power of working people.
- Leverage our strategic partnerships to build power for the union.
- Educate members on upcoming ballot measure threats
- Continue to build alliances in the state legislature.



2022 Ballot Measure Threats

END COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS

Draper suggested he was unsure of how to proceed in part because of a "horrific" summary offered by the California Attorney General of his proposal. "We are evaluating our options. We need to do something about political/union bias in Sacramento. California is broken."

ELIMINATES COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR TEACHERS, POLICE OFFICERS, NURSES, FIREFIGHTERS, AND OTHER PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Eliminates collective bargaining between state/local governments and labor organizations (including unions) representing teachers, police officers, nurses, firefighters, and other public employees about wages, benefits, hours, labor disputes, or other work conditions. Requires the Governor-appointed State Personnel Board to establish wages and benefits for state employees. Prohibits new or amended public-employee labor agreements, including extensions, but does not impact existing agreements. Authorizes state/local governments to provide up to 12 months of severance pay to employees who resign within three months of measure's enactment. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: One-time costs, potentially in the range of hundreds of millions to low billions of dollars, across state and local governments. Long-term fiscal effect depends on future actions by state and local

ROLLBACK WORKER RIGHTS

Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA): gives private sector employees the power file suit against their employer for labor law violations

ELIMINATES EMPLOYEES' ABILITY TO FILE LAWSUITS FOR MONETARY PENALTIES FOR STATE LABOR-LAW VIOLATIONS. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Repeals 2004 law allowing employees to file lawsuits on behalf of themselves and other employees against employers to recover monetary penalties for certain state labor-law violations. Labor Commissioner retains authority to enforce labor laws and impose penalties. Eliminates Labor Commissioner's authority to contract with private organizations or attorneys to assist with enforcement. Requires Legislature to provide funding of unspecified amount for Labor Commissioner enforcement. Requires Labor Commissioner to provide pre-enforcement advice; allows employers to correct identified labor-law violations without penalties. Authorizes increased penalties for willful violations. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Likely increase in state costs to enforce labor laws that could exceed \$100 million per year. Reduction in state penalty revenue used for labor law enforcement in the tens of millions of dollars annually. (21-0027).

DEFUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

REQUIRES STATE FUNDING OF RELIGIOUS AND OTHER PRIVATE SCHOOL EDUCATION. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Requires state to provide yearly voucher payments (\$13,000 initially, adjusted annually) into Education Savings Accounts for K-12 students attending religious and other private schools. Expands eligibility in phases; lower income families eligible first. Funds payments through General Fund and local property tax revenues currently allocated to public (including charter) schools. Eliminates constitutional prohibition on public funding of religious and other private schools. Prevents state from conditioning funding on these schools meeting certain requirements. Up to \$60,000 excess funds in Education Savings Accounts could be used at higher education/vocational schools. **Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Increased annual state costs, likely growing to \$4 billion to \$6 billion by the end of the five-year implementation period, to provide state funding for students currently enrolled in private school.** Depending on how the state implements the measure, these costs could be paid for with reductions to funding for public schools and/or reductions to other programs in the state budget. Increased annual state costs, probably at least several billion dollars, for students who move from public to private schools. Lower spending on public schools would more than offset these costs, likely producing state savings of several hundred million dollars annually. Likely reduced state costs for school bonds, potentially reaching a couple hundred million dollars annually within the next few decades. (21-0011A1.)

SHIFT POWER AWAY FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

TRANSFERS CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY FOR WRITING STATEWIDE BALLOT-MEASURE SUMMARIES. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Transfers the **elected Attorney General's constitutional and statutory authority** to write summaries of statewide ballot measures for use in election materials and for collecting qualifying signatures to the **Legislative Analyst, who is appointed** by a joint committee of the Legislature. **Eliminates existing requirement that summaries describe a measure's chief purpose and points; instead, requires summaries describe the primary changes in law.** Requires advisory committee to recommend changes to summaries for clarity. Requires Legislative Analyst to post on website documents it receives relating to ballot measures. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Depending on how the measure were implemented, there could be minor state savings or costs. (21-0024A1.)

REVENUE ROLLBACK

Business Roundtable/Hiltacke Anti-Revenue Ballot Measure:

- Makes it difficult for voters and elected officials to raise revenues for services by requiring a $\frac{3}{4}$ threshold
- Invalidates revenue measures passed by voters after October 1, 2021
- Prevents local governments from providing voters with critical information--such as where revenue will be spent
- Annual losses of billions to services

LIMITS STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' ABILITY TO RAISE REVENUES FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. For new state taxes, requires voter approval (added to current requirement that Legislature approve by two-thirds vote any taxes it proposes). For new local taxes, local governing body must approve by two-thirds any taxes it proposes, and voters' approval must occur in a general election. Expands definition of "taxes" to include certain regulatory fees, broadening application of approval requirements. Requires Legislature or local governing body to approve all other fees by two-thirds vote. Requires that tax measures specifically limit how revenues may be spent. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: **Potentially substantially lower annual state and local revenues, depending on future actions of the Legislature, local governing bodies, voters, and the courts. (21-0026A1.)**



Questions?