

MAR 12  
2014

# UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000  
  
Stronger Together

# Looking forward at the Capitol

## Local 1000's 2014 legislative agenda focuses on justice for working families

Local 1000 is sponsoring a series of bills in the 2014 legislative session created to help strengthen the middle class, increase safety of patients and workers in state hospitals, expand access to early voting and help the state track businesses whose poverty wages force workers onto public assistance programs.

"Our legislative priorities reflect the vision of our Purpose Statement: each of these bills will defend and expand social and economic justice for our members and for all California families," said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker.

### Exposing income inequality, expanding access to democracy

**AB 1792** would reveal the hidden taxpayer subsidies companies like McDonald's and Wal-Mart receive. Corporations are reaping multi-billion dollar annual profits while paying their workers poverty wages, forcing many to turn to taxpayer-funded social services to survive and support their families. AB 1792 would require the California Department of Finance to provide an annual report to the state legislature illustrating the number of employees receiving public assistance like Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWorks and Women Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC).

"Our legislative priorities reflect the vision of our Purpose Statement."

—Yvonne R. Walker  
Local 1000 President



**AB 2177** would require counties to provide access to early voting on Saturdays, and allow for early voting on Sundays. "Voting is the most basic right in our democracy, and yet across the country, we see states making voting harder and less accessible," Walker said. "California can and should be a leader when it comes to reversing this dangerous trend, upholding our nation's core values and making voting more accessible." This bill would require the use of the state's Help America Vote Act (HAVA) to pay for early voting outreach, education and the costs associated with Saturday and Sunday voting.

### Improving safety, care and conditions at state hospitals and regional centers

Local 1000 is also sponsoring three bills designed to improve safety procedures, protect patient care and reform working conditions in state-run hospitals and private developmental care facilities.

"We're working to enhance safety and protect levels of care for our patients and stand up for the rights of our members who serve these vulnerable individuals," said Kim Cowart, chair of Bargaining Unit 17, which represents registered nurses.

**AB 1340**, a two-year bill introduced in 2013, would require each of the five state mental hospitals to establish and maintain an enhanced treatment unit for the treatment of aggressive patients. It would also require any assault by a patient to be immediately referred to the local district attorney.

**AB 2359** would require regional centers that receive patients from state developmental centers to follow the same state and federal regulations that the state's developmental centers must adhere to.

**AB 2155**, the Nurses and Patient Safety Act, would ban mandatory overtime for nurses in the public sector and define emergency situations.

### Reforming state employee discipline

**AB 1783** would streamline the state's civil service employee discipline process by requiring investigations to be completed in one year.

## Members provide tax assistance

### Volunteer effort helps the community and coworkers

As part of our union's full service approach to representation, a team of Local 1000 members are helping others with the preparation and filing of their federal and state income taxes.

These Local 1000 volunteers received training and certification from the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), which trains community activists on how to help others prepare their taxes. The VITA Program offers free tax help to people whose annual income is \$52,000 or less.

"Filing taxes is pretty stressful and confusing for a lot of people, so I enjoy helping them through that process," said volunteer Brenda Ferguson, a DMV employee. "It feels good to step up and serve where I can, and I'm proud of our union's commitment to the community through our purpose statement."



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—Brenda Ferguson, DMV, Sacramento (above right)

Ferguson was one of 10 volunteers who held a tax preparation assistance event last month in Sacramento, for more than 45 members of Local 1000 and the community. Assemblymember Roger Dickinson and California State Controller John Chiang cosponsored the Sacramento event. Some Local 1000 members also partnered with neighborhood allies at a similar event held by a Sacramento community group

The Local 1000 member volunteers have been able to help people save hard-earned money by informing them about special tax credits for which they may qualify such as Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and the Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled.

### Resource Center

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

### Website

[seiu1000.org](http://seiu1000.org)

### Connect with Local 1000

Facebook  
[facebook.com/seiu1000](https://facebook.com/seiu1000)

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## Program technician classification survey Launched

**Local 1000's Program Technician Classification Committee launched a comprehensive survey on March 10 to further their goal of updating job specifications to more accurately reflect the important work our members perform. The program technician job specifications have not changed since 1997.**

Working to build an effective case for a potential reclassification, the committee did a "mini survey" earlier

this year and discovered that evolving technologies, workloads and upward mobility were the top concerns of more than 500 respondents.

There are more than 3,800 program technicians working in 50 different departments throughout the state. "They represent the backbone of so many departments, yet the state classification has failed to keep up with their evolving duties," said Margarita Maldonado, Local 1000 vice president for bargaining. "The work they do is vital and their service to the state needs

to be properly recognized and compensated."

The online survey is available through March 21. To take the survey go to the Bargaining Unit 4 page at [seiu1000.org](http://seiu1000.org)

"Every program technician should take part in this survey," said Sophia Perkins, chair of Bargaining Unit 4. "This is your opportunity to shape our ongoing discussions with the California Department of Human Resources. The more voices we hear from, the stronger our case will be."