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UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000

Stronger Together

'Paycheck Deception'

Wealthy interests want to silence our voices

Corporate Power Grab initiative undercuts union power, gives strength to big private donors



By **Yvonne R. Walker**
President, Local 1000

Once again, public employees and our families are under attack.

Giant corporations, billionaires and their high-paid lobbyists are unhappy that unions keep fighting for the middle class – and often win. Now they want to tie both hands behind our backs with a cynical, misleading initiative on the November ballot.

The “Corporate Power Grab” initiative, which has also been called “Paycheck Deception,” is part of a well-funded national war on working families. We’ve seen similar versions of these attacks in Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, New Jersey and Colorado. In each case, wealthy corporate donors have put forward misleading so-called “reform” legislation that makes it almost impossible for unions to fight back politically on behalf of their members while leaving wealthy political players untouched.

The California ballot measure is untruthfully named the Stop Special Interest Money Now Act—a title designed to fool voters into believing it affects all sides. In reality, the measure does virtually nothing to limit donations from business interests and corporate political action committees, while it cripples the ability of Local 1000 and other labor unions to raise money from members for political action.

No limits on corporate money

As the Sacramento Bee points out, the so-called “Stop Special Interest Money Now Act would stop labor money. But don’t expect it to stop corporate money.” This initiative would impose strict restrictions on the money that union members contribute, making it nearly impossible for us to organize politically to fight political attacks – furloughs, pay cuts, pension reductions – that directly affect our members and their families.

Imagine if Arnold Schwarzenegger or Meg Whitman had used their own millions to put a measure on the ballot to cut our pay to federal minimum wage – but we could not spend money from payroll deductions to fight for our members. There is no such restriction on corporations or wealthy executives because they almost never use payroll deductions “for political purposes.” They use corporate profits to write checks that bankroll a web of shadowy front groups, big business associations and corporate Super PACs.

Corporations outspend labor 15-1

Wall Street banks and their corporate partners already outspend labor unions 15-1, according to the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics. The “Corporate Power Grab” initiative just gives the wealthy even more political advantages. They already operate freely because the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2010 that it is illegal to limit political donations by corporations.

Big money interests, who have bankrolled previous unsuccessful anti-labor efforts, wrote this ballot measure. The initiative’s backers include multi-millionaires who made their fortunes in banking, real estate and oil and have a history of contributing to political candidates and campaigns. None of their activities would be limited by this initiative.

Failed Schwarzenegger rerun

The “Corporate Power Grab” is really just a rerun that voters have previously rejected. In 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger called a special election to push a similar effort to silence our voices. We stopped him. In the 1990s, they tried the same thing – we stopped that too.

Join us in fighting this latest effort to gut our power. In the coming months, we will be asking you to help us organize against this measure in your communities. Don’t let Wall Street big shots silence working families.

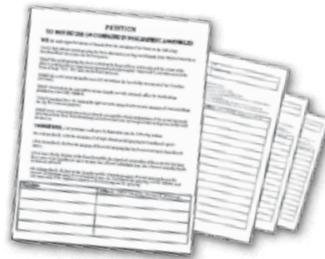
To learn more about the “Corporate Power Grab” initiative go to seiu1000.me/Hy3XX0
or seiu1000.me/Hv9FDc

Signature gathering campaign for November revenue measure

Local 1000 members are working with Gov Jerry Brown to give voters a chance to decide in November on whether to collect new revenues to fund schools and public safety programs.

We need to collect 12,000 signatures from registered voters by April 27 as part of a broader effort to obtain 807,000 signatures to qualify the Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act for the November ballot.

If you want to sign the petition, wish to help the signature collection effort, or have other questions, contact the Local 1000 Member Resource Center at **866-471-SEIU** (7348).



Voting by mail is quick and easy



Any registered voter may vote using a vote-by-mail ballot. To request a vote-by-mail ballot, follow either of these steps:

One-time vote-by-mail

Registered voters may apply for a vote-by-mail ballot for an upcoming election at any time. **If you apply by mail, your application must be received no later than seven days before an election;** otherwise you will need to apply in person at your county elections office to get a vote-by-mail ballot for that election.

Permanent vote-by-mail

Any registered voter may become a permanent vote-by-mail voter and automatically receive a vote-by-mail ballot for each election. **In order to become a permanent vote-by-mail voter in time for the June 5 primary, you must submit a completed application by May 29.**

Get vote-by-mail information from the California Secretary of State's Office at sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_m.htm#vote-by-mail

Know Your Rights

Your right to participate in politics

State employees have the same rights to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed to all citizens of the United States under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. These rights include participation in political speech and activities on behalf of candidates,* generally under the following guidelines:

You may:

- Choose to exercise freedom of speech on your own time on and/or off the worksite.
- Possess political material at any place and time and may display and distribute it on your own time outside the worksite.
- Engage in political fundraising activities on your own time.
- Participate in voter registration activities on your own time.
- Display bumper stickers and license plate frames on your personal vehicle bearing a political message and park in state parking lots.

***Ballot initiatives are not subject to these restrictions.**

Your Union Contract Protections

Local 1000's contract contains a number of articles that govern your rights as a state employee and your activities in the workplace. If you have questions about your contract or feel that your rights have been violated, contact your Local 1000 steward or call the Member Resource Center. Your steward will work with you and management, and consult your contract to determine the best course of action, including whether or not to file a grievance.

More information, including a copy of your contract, is available online at seiu1000.org

Resource Center

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

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