

Legislators ponder more tax enforcement, seek alternative to massive budget cuts

Two members of the state Assembly said Saturday the state needs to do a better job of collecting unpaid taxes after hearing testimony about California's \$8.5 billion tax gap from Local 1000.

"We shouldn't have to look at cutting critical services when so much tax money is not being collected," said Assemblymember Loni Hancock, (D-Berkeley), at a town hall meeting on the budget crisis in Oakland. "We need to look seriously at how the state can do a better job of collecting taxes."

Assemblymember Sandre Swanson (D-Oakland) said that state legislators need to look at all options — including uncollected taxes — in order to bring in more money to save funding for programs. "We need to have a fair and rational debate on the budget crisis," Swanson said. "We need to take an honest look at the consequences of cutting funding to crucial services."

The comments by both assembly members came after testimony on the tax gap by Local 1000 member Tamekia Robinson at a hearing that focused on the state's \$14 billion projected budget deficit.

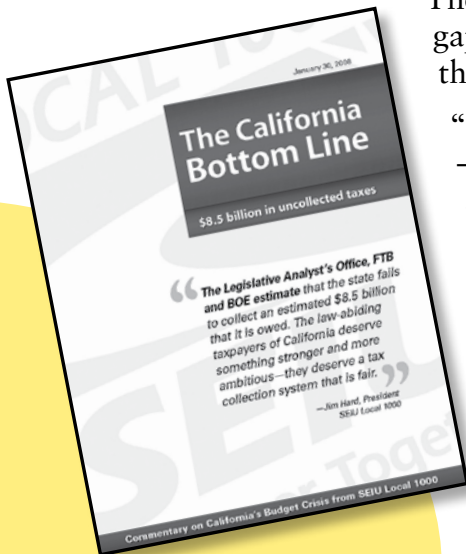
"The state needs to go after uncollected taxes with increased enforcement — too many people and corporations are getting away without paying," said Robinson, a tax technician at the Board of Equalization. "Along with more enforcement, we should offer a tax amnesty to allow these guys to pay their back taxes without any new penalties. This has the potential to bring in billions of dollars and change the whole tax debate."

Last week, Local 1000 launched *The California Bottom Line*, a series of white papers highlighting budget alternatives beyond cutting services or raising taxes. In the coming weeks, Local 1000 will issue additional reports promoting efficiency in government. Topics will include outsourcing, wasteful spending in California's prison system, and public-private partnerships.

"One of our strategic goals in 2008 is to position Local 1000 as a leader of structural reform of California's budget," said Jim Hard, Local 1000 president. "We're using direct member input to shift the state's budget debate in a more constructive direction."



Local 1000 member Tamekia Robinson testifying at a legislative budget hearing last Saturday in Oakland.



The first edition of *The California Bottom Line*, commentary on California's budget crisis from SEIU Local 1000. Also online at thecabottomline.org

State says DMV Workers just need to wait

Local 1000's effort to reclassify Department of Motor Vehicle workers was delayed again, after representatives from the DMV and the Department of Personnel Administration (DPA) arrived totally unprepared for negotiations last week.

"The state's complete lack of preparation made it clear they came to the table with no intent to bargain in good faith," said John Krumm, a motor vehicle field representative in the San Francisco Driver Safety Office. "From the beginning DMV and DPA have shown no respect or concern for DMV workers or the vital services we provide."

Local 1000 proposes 14%-24.5% increase

Citing DMV's own study results as well as detailed research provided by the Local 1000 research department, Local 1000's DMV Reclassification Committee came to the table ready to reach agreement on the long overdue salary and classification adjustments.

Local 1000's proposal increases compensation between 14 and 24.5 percent.

"We'll do whatever is necessary"

"DMV workers have been on the back burner long enough," said Yvonne Walker, Local 1000 vice-president for bargaining. "We made it clear at the table that Local 1000 and DMV workers will do whatever is necessary to make this reclassification happen."

Local 1000 returns to the table with DPA and DMV on February 20. DMV workers should check with their work-site steward, key leader or Local 1000 union representative for action they can take to support the negotiating team and send a message that DMV workers will not be ignored. To see the actual proposal that Local 1000 presented to the state, log on to seiu1000.org and click on DMV Pages.



Article 21.4 Electronic Monitoring of Call Centers

Your union contract contains hundreds of provisions designed to protect your rights. Article 21.4 – Electronic Monitoring of Call Centers, defines electronic monitoring and your rights as a call center worker.

Your Local 1000 contract guarantees:

- Call monitoring is for training and development purposes only. Monitored calls will not be used for discipline purposes, unless the behavior is of a serious nature.
- Employees will be notified before monitoring of their calls begins. Employees will be given a copy of any report generated and feedback on every call monitored.
- Call center managers and supervisors must be trained sufficiently so that they can: 1) perform the duties of their staff; 2) adequately train employees; 3) provide constructive criticism; and 4) handle escalated calls.
- The department and the Local 1000 will negotiate the establishment or modification of monitoring guidelines, prior to implementation.
- Local 1000 will be notified no less than 60 days in advance of the creation of a new call center or the implementation of new technology.
- Prior to new procedures, laws or policies going into effect the department will provide instruction and/or information sufficient for employees to implement the changes.

How to take Action

Contact your Local 1000 steward if you feel your rights have been violated. Your steward will work with you and management to determine the best course of action, up to and including filing a grievance. For more information on Article 21.4 – Electronic Monitoring of Call Centers, review your contract by visiting www.seiu1000.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL LOCAL 1000 TOLL FREE: (866) 471-SEIU (7348) or visit our website: www.seiu1000.org
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