

SEP 19  
2012

# UNION UPDATE



## Our voice... Our vote... We're making a difference



"I'm walking door-to-door to educate voters because when people really understand what these two measures will do to California, they support us."

—**Debbie Velasquez**  
Bargaining Unit 21  
California Community College's  
Chancellor's Office



"To quote Bill Clinton, 'it's arithmetic.' Once California's working families understand how much Prop. 30 will help them, we should win."

—**Jacqueline McCollum**  
Bargaining Unit 1  
Caltrans



"I'm out talking to voters—about what is happening in Wisconsin and other states. Proposition 32 is the first step in a process to take away our pensions and our union protections."

—**Theresa Porter**  
Bargaining Unit 20  
California Department of  
Corrections and Rehabilitation



"The protections that the unions have negotiated are critical. I'm out campaigning because everything we have fought for will be in jeopardy if Prop. 32 passes."

—**Warren Burgess**  
Bargaining Unit 4  
California Department of  
Corrections and Rehabilitation



"I'm asking for votes because I believe in California. Prop. 32 will strip workers of the ability to work together politically."

—**Harold Fong**  
Bargaining Unit 1  
Department of Health Care Services



"This election is really about California's future. Our state's educational system is being gutted, and we need to do better for our kids."

—**Laura Casillas**  
Bargaining Unit 21  
California Community College's  
Chancellor's Office

### Hundreds of your coworkers are making a difference—join us: we're stronger together

Hundreds of Local 1000 members and staff are hitting the streets every weekend between now and Nov. 6 to educate voters about Propositions 30 and 32.

The face-to-face meetings with voters are taking place in neighborhoods all over California, often in conjunction with the efforts of fellow SEIU locals and other unions.

"This is the first time I've ever walked precincts, and I'm really excited at the response I've gotten," said Theresa Porter, a Bargaining Unit 20 dental assistant at California State Prison, Solano. "The best way to overcome all the misinformation about Proposition

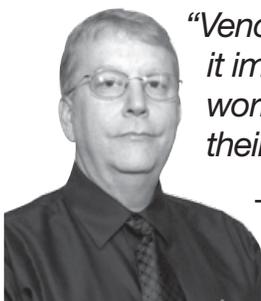
32 is by talking directly to voters, so they understand that this initiative is really a power grab by wealthy special interests."

So far Local 1000 members and staff have reached out to more than 15,000 voters to talk about the importance of passing Proposition 30 in order to save education and public safety programs; and defeating Proposition 32 so we can continue to protect our pensions and benefits from political attacks.

To volunteer go to  
[seiu1000.seiu.org/page/s/2012-ourvoice](http://seiu1000.seiu.org/page/s/2012-ourvoice)

# From contract employee to activist state worker

## Bargaining Unit 1 member combats outsourcing with professionalism and pride



*“Vendor contracts make it impossible for state workers to advance in their own careers.”*

—Mike Bonner  
System Software Specialist  
Bargaining Unit 1  
California Department of Community Services and Development

Once a contract employee with the state, Mike Bonner now partners with Local 1000 to help put a stop to the outsourcing of bargaining unit work. Not only does Bonner lend his unique expertise to help identify contracts that cost the state unnecessarily, he trains other Local 1000 members to help do the same. During his time as a contract employee, he saw a great amount of waste and instances of bargaining unit work being done by contractors, and he knew it had to change.

Bonner, a Unit 1 systems software specialist II for the California Department of Community Services and Development, first became a union activist when he worked for the City of Fresno when management tried to outsource the IT department.

### Unnecessary outsourcing

“It didn’t make sense to move forward on an enterprise that was going to cost the city even more money – that

is one of the reasons I feel so strongly about Local 1000’s outsourcing campaign,” Bonner said.

While performing contract work for the state in 2005, he noticed that one of the contractors he worked beside was employed for over 10 years; the state simply kept renewing the contract instead of looking for an efficient, long-term solution. Bonner became a state employee and knew he had to take action and became a union activist.

“Vendor contracts make it impossible for state workers to advance in their own careers,” Bonner said. “The state doesn’t train a state worker to do the job if they are already paying a contractor to perform the work that a Local 1000 member should be doing.”

### Research supports task force

Bonner’s hard work is in support of new a task force, created under our June side letter, to review wasteful contracts and take action. The task force is comprised of members who review the vendor contracts, Local 1000’s Contract, Research and Legal departments, and negotiators who sit down with the state to see what contracts should be investigated for reduction or elimination. Under the side letter, savings generated by the task force could be used to reduce cuts to member pay.

Bonner sees Local 1000 becoming an even stronger union—as we continue to defend state workers, give back to our communities and move California forward. “It is so important to become active in whatever capacity you feel comfortable with—political phone banking or precinct walking, helping clean a park with your coworkers, or even reviewing vendor contracts to help stop wasteful spending,” he said. “Everything helps!”

## Side Letter: Outsourcing

# Report on wasteful contracts

## How you can help to reduce job outsourcing

The new Outsourcing Task Force —created by the June side letter—is beginning to focus on wasteful private vendor contracts that can be eliminated, so that the cost savings can save taxpayer money and help preserve member pay and state jobs. Working with members on the Outsourcing Task Force, Local 1000’s Contract, Research and

Legal departments are reviewing and challenging those contracts that needlessly cost the state money.

If you are aware of a situation where private contractors are performing work that could be done by Local 1000-represented state workers, please take a few minutes to go to [seiu1000.me/RHJgSq](http://seiu1000.me/RHJgSq) and fill out the survey form.

This information will help the task force identify priority contracts to review and analyze to possibly reduce the use of contractors and contract employees who perform the work of state workers, develop plans to transfer work back to state workers, and/or reduce the cost of contracts.

### Resource Center

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

### Website

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

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