



Stronger Together

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“Around The Local”

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From the Executive Director

California State Budget – The Chickens Come Home to Roost

Once again our members are facing a big deficit, with jobs and services we care about on the line but this time, without the easy fixes of borrowing and shifting funds around.

The current budget crisis has been brewing for a long time, and our elected leaders haven't been able to agree on real solutions. But the tough decisions can't be delayed any longer. **It's time for us to decide what kind of state we want to live in for ourselves and our families.**

Will California be:

- A bottom-of-the-barrel state that abandons things working families need, like good public schools, healthcare, mental health, public parks, help for the elderly and disabled, and other public service?
- Or one that invests in families & communities?

Obviously, with the real estate market and all the other bad economic news, revenues are less than expected. But California wouldn't be in trouble if legislators had faced our problems with real, long term solutions.

- **Since 1993, California has approved tax cuts that amount to more \$12 billion each year!**

Since we couldn't afford to cut taxes and still pay for the public services people want and need, the legislature borrowed billions and shifted local government funds to pay for services we all want. But these options aren't on the table any more, and pursuing them in the past is what put us where we are now. We don't have the choice any longer: we HAVE TO deal with our budget problems.

- **\$16 billion is huge and it could be \$18-20 billion by May.** E.g., we could shut down all of our state prisons (around \$10 billion), close all of our schools for a month and take all the lottery money (\$1.2 billion/year) and it still would not be enough to balance the budget.

- **This deficit will hurt many SEIU members.** Some may lose their jobs; others will have to make do when vacancies aren't filled; but most of all, the communities and people we care about and serve will be hurt.

- This will also hurt working families already struggling in this economy. Some people can afford private academies for their children, but most of us rely on public schools; some people belong to private clubs, but most of us use public parks; some people can afford private security, but we rely on public law enforcement.

- Cutting these essential services leaves middle and lower-income working families in the lurch.

The proposed cuts will reach into every community and affect every family in California, especially middle-income and lower-

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From the Executive Director, continued

“Cuts proposed will result in 150,000 kids and parents losing healthcare coverage. For a child with chronic ear infections, this could be the difference between going deaf or hearing.”



income Californians, already losing ground.

In education, the Governor has proposed an additional \$4 billion in cuts. Tens of thousands of teachers, bus drivers, janitors, school aides, & other essential school staff could be laid off. Class sizes will increase, and essential programs like transportation, libraries, and counseling will be axed.

Thousands of teachers – often the youngest and most energetic – have already received their pink slips. As class sizes increase (35% by some estimates), imagine the chaos in a class of 40 or more 4th graders, struggling to learn. California is already 49th out of 50 in class size for k-12.

- We all want good, clean schools, safe transportation, and nutritious lunches for kids, but an estimated 137,000 classified personnel who do these jobs could be let go, leaving schools in a state of disorder and decline. One school in San Diego, which recently had an outbreak of drug-resistant ‘Staph’ infection (a sometimes deadly skin infection that can be transmitted through contact with dirty surfaces), is cutting – of all things – janitorial staff!

In healthcare: Medi-Cal rates have already been reduced by 10%. Rate cuts mean fewer local doctors because they won’t accept rates that don’t cover the costs. For all of us, public and private emergency rooms, public trauma centers and burn centers will not be able to compete. Next year, 150,000 children and parents will be cut from Medi-Cal.

Healthcare for millions, for all of us, will be jeopardized.

- Imagine trying to find a doctor if you couldn’t even pay half of the real cost of the medical care you need. That’s what Medi-Cal is already like in California. The legislature has already voted to cut Medi-Cal rates for doctors and hospitals by 10% in this budget year. This will further restrict community access to quality healthcare and jeopardize public & private hospitals.

- In an emergency, we all hope we can get the specialized care we need. Public hospitals, which house the majority of the specialized trauma centers will be hardest hit. All E.R’s, public and private, will be further jeopardized.

- Cuts proposed will result in 150,000 kids and parents losing healthcare coverage. For a child with chronic ear infections, this could be the difference between going deaf or hearing. For a child with diabetes, this could be the difference between health and a lifetime of problems.

- Combined, these cuts will mean that California will throw away over \$650 million in federal money a year.

- A lack of healthcare for families means parents miss work and our economy suffers further.

Quality of life: State parks will be closed; thousands of prisoners will be released without the support they need to re-enter society safely and successfully.

Homecare: the elderly, people with disabilities who need help with eating and basic hygiene will lose their homecare workers. **Massive cuts will hurt the most vulnerable people- elderly and those with disabilities.**

- **Seniors** and people with disabilities who need help to live at home will be in jeopardy and have their independence and dignity compromised. This help will be cut by almost 20% -- even as our population ages and these needs are growing.

- Over a million low-income older people and people with disabilities will get less help to pay for living expenses like rent, utilities, and food.

- Programs to prevent elder abuse and neglect will be slashed by 10%.

Trial Courts will become dysfunctional. The 5% cut last time resulted in the closure of 27 courthouses in Los Angeles County alone, and several hundred jobs were lost.

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From the Executive Director

The ten percent (10%) cuts proposed this year will definitely put court workers jobs on the line.

SEIU estimates that up to 1,000 of 18,000 court jobs statewide could be lost. The same amount of work will have to be done of course, leading to backlogs and higher caseloads.

Tens of thousands of good jobs could be cut, depressing every local economy throughout CA. Our ability to attract and retain businesses in California will suffer if we slash education and other vital public services.

We're already struggling with an economy in which we're barely keeping up. We're hit by rising high housing costs – then by the collapse of the market. We're hit by gas costs; inflation; flat wages & vanishing health-care.

Jobs will be cut, state parks will close, protection of our air, water, and other natural resources will also be cut.

The building blocks of our communities are being torn down further damaging our state's quality of life. This makes California less attractive to businesses and, hurts our economy, real estate values even more.

Santa Barbara County Department Heads Propose to Cut 196 jobs!

In a "Strategic Budget Workshop" on Feb. 25th Local 620 learned that 5% cuts across the board would cost 196 county jobs!

Local 620 has requested but not yet received information on what jobs are being proposed to be cut department by department and the union has recommended **Golden Handshake Retirements** (up to 2 years extra service credit) and **Voluntary Furloughs** (voluntary time off without pay) in order to save funds and good jobs in our communities.

Statewide SEIU Members also need to "lead the way" to solutions for working families in our communities. We need to be community advocates for:

- **Closing close tax loopholes.** Only two other states have a 2/3 requirement for a budget, and only 10 other states have a 2/3 or higher vote requirement for raising taxes.
- **We can't just fight for our jobs: we have to fight for** and, unite our communities! The public has to UNDERSTAND THE REAL PAIN of these cuts, MAKE A DECISION not to accept them, and DEMAND LEADERSHIP in finding alternatives to the cuts.

- **We have to act statewide**, not just Sacramento, LA, SB & SLO. A winning campaign must cover all districts.
- **SEIU's already building a powerful statewide coalition** with deep local reach. Our partners include AARP, Ca. Teachers Assn, Health Access, Ca PTA, Prof. Firefighters of Ca, and many others, representing 8 million Californians and growing in all 58 CA counties.
- **Ultimately, we will need to generate strong public support** for a combination of revenue increases: closing tax loopholes & increasing specific fees and taxes to make sure that everyone is chipping in.

We can do this if we unite with others but, we won't win if we don't change our usual ways. We have to work together throughout our union – in every region and across party lines. We need to bring our whole lives to the table: as parents, as community members, and people of faith.

We will need to treat the budget battle as an immediate and a long-term threat – and understand that we have an opportunity to SOLVE our problems, not just defeat cuts.

We need to engage people in our lives: neighbors, friends, congregation members, & fellow parents and think outside of our union "box."

This battle is about the kind of California we want to have and we must lead that conversation by sharing our own stories; standing up in all of our communities to make the case for investing in the things we care about: our kids, our families, our neighborhoods, and our quality of life.

Working together is the key.

That means all members -- Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, members who live on the coasts, in the valleys, in cities, and in rural areas – need to be equally involved.

- We all need to be active
- We need to reach out into our friends and families.
- We as members also need to engage in this campaign AS parents, church-goers, and community members; sometimes we'll make a bigger impact speaking from another perspective.

WE CAN DO IT! We are a powerful part of a very powerful and determined coalition. We can affect the outcome, but only if we are all engaged with the people of California in a heart-to-heart conversation about our vision for California

- We don't want a state like Mississippi or Louisiana that has abandoned middle class, working people
- We need a state that understands that true prosperity comes from investing in our future, in opportunities, in our people, our public assets, and in our quality of life!



"I recently witnessed the awesome meet and greet with Das Williams and Grant House that was put on by the city's host committee, and it's clear that there are already a lot of members who feel comfortable lobbying and asking their council members serious questions."

SEIU Local 620 — New Hire Mick Sherer

New Steward & Education Coordinator



I started with Local 620 three weeks ago, so I've been able to meet a lot of members already, but for those of you who haven't met me, my name is Mick Sherer. My official title is Steward and Education Coordinator, which means I'll be focusing on training new worksite leaders and opening up new lines of communication between members, stewards, and 620 staff. And now that my email (mick@seiulocal620.org) and my phone (805-963-0601 ext.17) are set up, feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions as I'm putting together the new training program.

I recently moved to Santa Barbara from Bakersfield, CA, where I was working as an organizer for the "It's OUR Healthcare campaign." The campaign was focused on healthcare reform on a state level, which meant that my job required me to mobilize groups of people for events in Bakersfield and in Sacramento, and prepare volunteers (including a lot of dedicated SEIU members from the central valley) to lobby their local level and statewide elected officials. However, I recently witnessed the awesome meet and greet with Das Williams and Grant House that was put on by the city's host committee, and it's clear that there are already a lot of members who feel comfortable

lobbying and asking their council members serious questions.

My wife, Belén, and I have both been enjoying getting to know the city of Santa Barbara, and as I start working with stewards all over the county I look forward to seeing more of the central coast. I also have high expectations for what 620 members will continue to accomplish in the coming months. I've heard a lot about how effective the county's recent contract campaign was, and I've been really impressed by how knowledgeable and engaged all of our stewards and future stewards are.

Thank you to the members and 620 staff who have already been so welcoming, and I look forward to meeting and working with everyone else that makes this union work. Take care, and keep your eyes open for flyers and emails about upcoming steward trainings.

Mick Sherer

A LOOK AT PROPOSED TRIAL COURT FUNDING FY '08 – '09
 By George Green

The Governor's proposed budget plan for 2008 – 2009 proposes a \$246 million statewide reduction in funding for the Judicial Branch. This is generally consistent with the approach for applying 10% reductions to a number of State programs and Departments.

Two options that are being considered by the State Legislature that are strongly opposed by SEIU are eliminating SAL (State Appropriations Limit) funding for the year and increasing the use of electronic court reporting.

The elimination of SAL for FY '08 –'09 would be devastating to our upcoming negotiations with Santa Barbara Superior Court. The SAL money is basically all the discretionary revenue that is available to the Court for the purposes of collective bargaining. Cost of Living increases, increases to employer contributions for health insurance premiums, pretty much everything that has a cost at the bargaining table is paid for out of the SAL allocation to the Court.

The increased use of electronic court reporting would negatively impact all of our Court Reporters in the Santa Barbara Superior Court. SEIU has successfully fought back previous proposals to increase the use of electronic court reporting, but the pressure to make this change has never been greater than in this year's budget deliberations.

So every SEIU member reading this should contact their State Legislator and tell them not to cut SAL for Courts and not to expand the use of electronic court reporting. I would also encourage everyone to log on to seiuca.org and go to the Action Center and Issues & Politics and participate in collective SEIU action on the state budget.

If Court employee's have specific questions on these issues please feel free to give me a call at 963-0601 X15.

Update From Local 620's Northern Turf
 By Bruce Corsaw

Local 620 members and staff have been busy up North negotiating contracts, conducting field campaigns, representing fellow members.

2008 brings new challenges with upcoming bargaining in San Luis Obispo Coastal School District, Port San Luis Harbor District, City of Morro Bay, Santa Maria Cemetery District and City of Grover Beach all of which have MOUs that expire on June 30th, 2008. San Luis Superior Court is scheduled as well later in the year. Along with strong membership support I am confident that we will achieve victories in our upcoming negotiations with these employers.

The proposed California State budget fails the basic test of good government. The proposed budget will hurt our Counties, Cities, communities, families and children. A meaningful budget should reflect the core values and basic needs of the working families of California. This budget does not meet the values or the basic needs of the residence of California, as well as the needs of our children. Cuts to social programs, schools and the on going grab for local revenue by our Legislature and Governor are unacceptable. Members of Local 620 need to pay close attention to the issues being addressed at the State level and the possible impacts to our employers, our jobs and our families. Our future is at stake, keep informed, united and stay active in the struggle to improve the security of our community, our jobs and our families.

Together Local 620 membership can overcome obstacles at the State level, at all of the bargaining tables and in support for all working families. One way is by voluntarily contributing to SEIU Local 620's Political Program (COPE) so that we have the funds to make substantive impacts and changes with Local, State & Federal Government such as Universal Health Care. Three to five dollars per pay period may not sound like very much, but when you multiply these amounts by thousands of members it enables us to make a difference with our elected leaders and pass much needed laws that benefit working families.

"The elimination of SAL for FY '08 –'09 would be devastating to our upcoming negotiations with Santa Barbara Superior."



"So every SEIU member reading this should contact their State Legislator and tell them not to cut SAL for Courts and not to expand the use of electronic court reporting."

Member of SEIU wins Bilingual Allowance Grievance and Settlement Award

Pictured (Darlene Wynn, Muriel Jones and a picture of settlement check for \$2999)



Darlene Wynn (SEIU Member on the left) with Local 620 President Muriel Jones, both employee's of Santa Barbara County Probation Department.

GRIEVANCE:

Violation of Section 27 (Bilingual allowance) – Darlene had not been compensated for her bilingual skills since August 15th, 1994.

Settlement award of \$2999 based on statute of limitations of 2 years – Acceptable to Darlene.

Steward representing Darlene is President Muriel Jones.



SEIU Local 620 New Field Representatives By Mike Woods



Hi, I'm Mike Woods the new Field Representative for SEIU Local 620.

I've worked 12 years as a Steward for CASHA (Cash and Security Handlers Association) local in Ventura, which is in the Armored Transport Industry.

I have 20 years experience in the Management Field. Most recently I've worked for SEIU-UHW West working as a Field Representative with Healthcare workers in the San Luis Obispo area.

My present assignment with SEIU Local 620 is Field Representative for the City of Santa Barbara, City of Carpinteria, Goleta Water District, Santa Barbara Courts, Isla Vista Parks & Recreation District and Air Pollution Control District.

I'm Happy to be on board with Local 620 and look forward to meeting members and working with all of you to better your working and life environment.



WELCOME

SEIU City Employees Show Strength in Numbers!

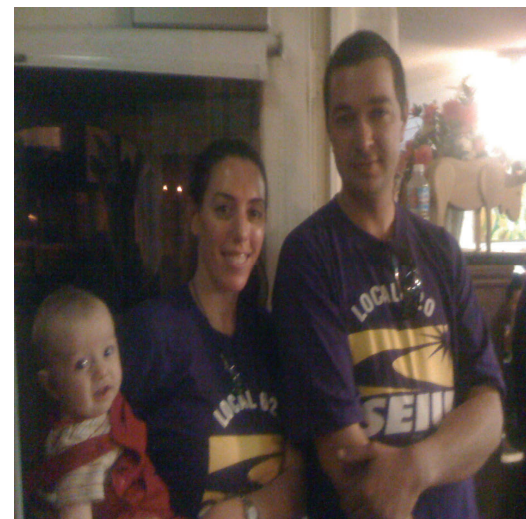
Santa Barbara, February 27th, 2008 – The Santa Barbara City Political Action Host Committee organized an amazing Meet & Greet with City Council members Das Williams and Grant House. Over 125 SEIU members who work for the City attended the Meet & Greet, as well as a few of our union brothers and sisters from The County of Santa Barbara. This Meet & Greet gave council members Williams and House an opportunity to speak to the membership about themselves, their vision, and their commitment to working people. An invitation was also extended to Dale Francisco who was not able to attend. The council members answered questions from the membership regarding a variety of issues that concern City employees and their families. Our Meet & Greet was a great success, many of the members that attended said it was one of the largest crowds at a Union event in recent memory.

Host committee members worked for over a month, meeting weekly to plan and organize the event. The whole process was member driven and the host committee made all the decisions during the process. Food selection, person to person outreach, program content, facilitation of the meeting, etc. were **ALL Member driven**. Rick Ornelas (Streets) was the moderator of the event, Dave Harris (Motor Pool) did a presentation on the importance of member involvement in politics and how this involvement can have a direct impact on our upcoming contract fight, and Local 620 members from every City department posed questions to the Council members regarding retirement, childcare, health insurance, and many other issues.

There was much behind the scenes work that went into preparing for this event: Matt Ward (Water Distribution), Rick Marshall (Water Distribution), and Ricardo Venegas (Parks & Rec) went in a delegation to invite the council members to the Meet & Greet. The food was great, the program flowed smoothly, and our members were excited to see over 100 purple shirts standing together in one room. SEIU staff would like to acknowledge all Political Action Host Committee members for their hard work and dedication and for showing other members that working together we can really build some political power. Great job Santa Barbara City Political Action Host Committee!

If you would like to get more information or get involved contact :

**Mario Chavez (805) 963-0601 ext.13.
mario@seiuocal620.org**



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 SEIU Local 620
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 Santa Barbara CA 93101

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We are always updating our database. Please return the member change form to the Santa Barbara Office.

Santa Barbara Office
 933 Castillo Street
 Santa Barbara, CA
 93101
 Phone: 805-963-0601

If any information has changed:

New address?
 New Email Address?
 Name Change?
 New Job Location?
 New Job Classification?
 New Home Phone?

MEMBER CHANGE FORM	
Name:	Home Phone:
Address:	Work Phone:
City:	Zip Code:
Work Location:	Fax Number:
Job Title:	Date of Birth:
Beneficiary:	Relationship:
Email Address:	Signature:

Chapter: (Place an "X" next to your Chapter)

<input type="checkbox"/> Air Pollution Control District	<input type="checkbox"/> Pismo Beach, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Maria, City of
<input type="checkbox"/> Arroyo Grande, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> Port San Luis Harbor District	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired Chapter
<input type="checkbox"/> Atascadero, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> San Luis Coastal Unified School Dist	<input type="checkbox"/> Guadalupe, City of
<input type="checkbox"/> Cambria Community Svc District	<input type="checkbox"/> San Luis Obispo Court Tech. Unit	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Barbara Hourly , City of
<input type="checkbox"/> Carpinteria, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> San Luis Obispo Courts "General"	
<input type="checkbox"/> Goleta Water District	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Barbara "General", City of	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grover Beach, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Barbara "TAP", City of	
<input type="checkbox"/> Isla Vista Recreation & Parks Dist.	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Barbara, County of	
<input type="checkbox"/> Morro Bay, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Barbara Court Employees	
<input type="checkbox"/> Paso Robles, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Maria Cemetery District	