

SEIU 721 in Action

In the face of the worst economic crisis in our lifetime that led to personal hardship and severe budget shortfalls, SEIU 721 members built the political strength to meet the challenges this year and next.

Electing the Right People, Getting Results

Laying The Groundwork for Success: Ridley-Thomas and the LA County Contract



"Electing Mark Ridley-Thomas to the Board of Supervisors made a huge difference for the LA County contract. With counties across the country slashing programs for the public, an official who understands the needs of the community at the highest level of LA County was critical."

- Linda Dent, BPC Chair

Inglewood: Protected Services for the Community

Facing a \$7 million budget deficit, city officials considered taking away members' negotiated salary increases, and furloughs.

Members formed a coalition of community allies, and worked together to find efficiencies. The city council listened to the community coalition and implemented members' efficiencies, saving jobs and services.

Santa Barbara County: Powerful CEO Curbed by Member Endorsed Supervisor

A couple of years ago the Santa Barbara County CEO cut off communication between supervisors and SEIU members, no one could hold him accountable and he attempted to lay off 46 social services employees. That all changed when SEIU members helped elect Doreen Farr to the Board of Supervisors.



"Electing Doreen Farr to the third district meant we would have a voice on the Board again. It meant we fought off layoff proposals and she helped curtail the CEO's power who, for years, was accountable to no one."

- Rey Ybarra, Santa Barbara County Eligibility Worker



Secure Retirement: Protecting Our Futures

Part of the American Dream is to retire with dignity and security. That dream has been threatened by the economic crisis, Wall Street excesses and corporate abuses.

The retirement of workers in both the private and public sectors is a target for cuts and elimination. Retirement boards help ensure the strength and wellbeing of our pensions. With our time and political contributions we helped elect board members who respect the hard work we do, which means a more secure future for our families:

Liz Greenwood, LACERS
Herman Santos, LACERA
Simon Russin, LACERA

City of Los Angeles: Early Retirement Approved, Vital Services Saved

In the city of Los Angeles workers identified cost savings to help the city manage the financial shortfall. Proposals include an early retirement proposal that would preserve vital services and allow members to retire early.

Because of members' actions, the city council approved the proposal that will save more than \$1 billion over 5 years, preserving libraries, recreation services for youth and seniors, 911 services and trash collection.



Visit us online at www.seiu721.org

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS: More than 19,794 members participated in political actions like meeting with elected officials, writing to their legislator and calling the governor this year.

Protecting Core Services



Members fought to protect CalWorks, the state's largest safety net that provides assistance to 1.4 million children and parents, and Healthy Families, health coverage for children.

SEIU 721 eligibility workers stopped the proposal to completely privatize their work, which would negatively impact clients. EWs will now participate in a stakeholder group to shine a light on the pitfalls of the proposal.

- Defeated the governor's dangerous propositions in the May election, which would have reduced funding for public services drastically and raided more than \$400 million from mental health services

- Preserved revenue for cities.



"If Sacramento would have taken gas tax money from Duarte, my department would have faced major cuts. When I

"Because we have a strong political presence in Sacramento we stopped the Governor from eliminating healthcare coverage for kids. My \$10 a month contribution to COPE may seem small, but it had a huge impact on the lives of the families I work with everyday."

— Hilbert Darb, LA County Patient Resource Worker

heard that it was our COPE funds that fought to protect my job, I signed up. Next year's fight is right around the corner"

— Manny Perez, Irrigation Technician

- Passed legislation to help SEIU members on the job:

- ▶ Jail detention officers may now seek to have an arrestee's blood tested if they believe they have been exposed to a blood-borne communicable disease. SEIU members helped pass Assembly Bill 169.

- ▶ Public Works members stopped a bill that would have endangered millions who use Southern Californian roads. When we held them accountable, the legislature backed off the bill – members kept our roads safe and our jobs.

"Assemblymember Perez pledged his commitment to safe roads and good jobs.



We reminded him of that."

—Ronald Sandoval, Pico Rivera Yard



Due Process: Protect the P

Superior Court workers took action to keep California's busy courts working and to launch a drive for accountability at the Administrative Office of the Courts, the secretive agency that controls the budgets for the state's trial courts. California courts closed one day a month for the first time since the Great Depression.

- SEIU 721 Superior Court employees held huge rallies to protect Californians' access to the justice system.
- They worked with judges

Help from the Highest Level

SEIU member Robyn Lewis attended President Obama's Los Angeles Town Hall and got the opportunity to tell the president her story about her son's fight for health care. *"The*

President came to me, held my hand, and told me he would help."

President Obama stuck to his word: Robyn was invited to the White House to talk more in depth with his administration and they found a way for her son to gain access to MediCal. *"I say you need to speak up to win change."*



SEIU 721 member, Robyn Lewis (left) talks with President Obama



Electing Members to Office

In November El Monte residents elected SEIU721 member Andre Quintero their new mayor. Our strong COPE program provided us with the resources necessary to educate voters and help Quintero to victory. The members and residents in El Monte have been through a lot; 17 SEIU members were laid off, a fire station was closed and 35 police officers were let go. Quintero is already working to protect vital public services and ensuring his fellow SEIU members are treated with respect.



Court Workers Fight to Public's Access to Justice

and other court employees for open books and budgets from the Administrative Office of the Courts

- They met face to face with their Sacramento representatives.
- They testified at hearings about the consequences of delaying justice.

Their efforts helped save \$291 million in funding, protect legal services for vulnerable children and expose the misplaced priorities of top court officials.

“Court cases are on the rise in this recession, and struggling families and businesses need the court more than ever.”

– Ebonie Radcliff, Court Service Assistant II

“Our courts handle 3 million cases a day and when they are closed the public’s business can’t get done.” Eduardo Fonseca, CSA III

Electing Public Officials We Can Count On



In 2009 working families pulled together to hold local city councils accountable by supporting council members who have stood with us through the tough times and help elect new leadership where council members have turned their backs on public services and those who provide them.

SEIU members contributed their time by talking with voters and are contributing \$10 per month to our political fund to help elect people we can

partner with to save jobs and services in:

- Ventura
- San Fernando
- Duarte
- La Puente
- Baldwin Park
- Riverside
- City of Los Angeles



“I was happy to walk in Riverside neighborhoods in support of my Mayor, who was instrumental in helping us avoid layoffs! And with our help, he was re-elected.”

- Corrine Parker, City of Riverside Airport



Looking Ahead: National Reform Means Local Security

Health Insurance Reform: We've Never Been So Close!

The U.S. House of Representatives made history by passing health insurance reform. Now the fate of reform is in the hands of the Senate.



"Escalating costs continue to make budget deficits worse, weaken

benefits, and millions more

Americans are losing coverage. In Ventura County we were told that the County would not pay any increases in health care and all plans will increase between 4 - 24 percent. We must have health care reform."

- Carolyn Consoli, Ventura County Public Health

Economic Stimulus: Kept City and County Services Funded

President Obama's stimulus

package helped keep public services and working families afloat during tough economic times. The Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act saved SEIU members' jobs, brought \$846 million to our city and county employers and provided funds for vital programs slashed by the governor.

"I went with ten other SEIU 721 members to swing states to help elect Obama."

Across the country, SEIU members were the single



largest contributor to President Obama. As a social worker, I

know that electing a president who believes in funding public services means the difference between life or death for our county's most vulnerable."

- Doris Fletcher, retired Children's Social Worker

2010: Looking Ahead

Electing our Members to the Legislature:

We need to shake up Sacramento by electing Reggie Jones-Sawyer in South LA (AD-47) and Nick Karno in the Beach Cities (AD-53). Two dedicated SEIU 721 members who are qualified to lead our state and carry the voice of working families.

Funding California's services.

The financial storm promises to hit California's most vulnerable even harder in 2010.

Santa Ana: Kept our City and Parks Clean

Many cities are fighting to provide services like park maintenance and graffiti abatement that residents expect, Santa Ana is facing a particularly tough battle. After educating the public at city events and council meetings and meeting

with council members about the negative effects of contracting out jobs, residents will have trained and dedicated staff keeping the city clean, but they can't let their guard down.

Reopening King: Bringing Quality Health Services to South LA

Our strong COPE fund provided us with the resources necessary to elect Mark Ridley-Thomas with a mandate to reopen King as a full service hospital. We are part of the plan to open

the hospital by 2013.

"It's going to take all of us working together to provide for our families and protect public services. As the economy heads further south more people need the services we provide, and



unfortunately the more politicians look to cut them."

- Bob Schoonover, SEIU 721 President.

TAKE ACTION: Talk with your worksite organizer or steward about joining COPE to make us stronger in 2010. More information online at: www.seiu721.org