

WHY DO POLITICS MATTER TO MY UNION?

SEIU Local 521 Is Investing in Your Family's Future

As state workers raising families in California, politics affect every aspect of our lives—including the rights, raises and benefits negotiated in our contract. Making politics work for your family and your community begins with your participation. That's why Local 521 members like you are adding their voices to the COPE fund.

To effectively protect your rights, Local 521 must actively engage in electing candidates who believe in—and stand up for—working families. It is important that we support leaders who are committed to a living wage, retirement security and affordable health care benefits at all levels of government from the President and Congress, to California's governor and legislature, all the way to school boards, city councils and county commissions.

What is COPE?

COPE is SEIU's Committee on Political Education. It is our union's voluntary, bipartisan political action committee, or PAC, which amplifies our members' voices in legislative and political activities. COPE is dedicated to helping our union build the political power needed to win strong contracts and better benefits and to pass laws that protect our jobs, our families, and our communities.

How is the money used?

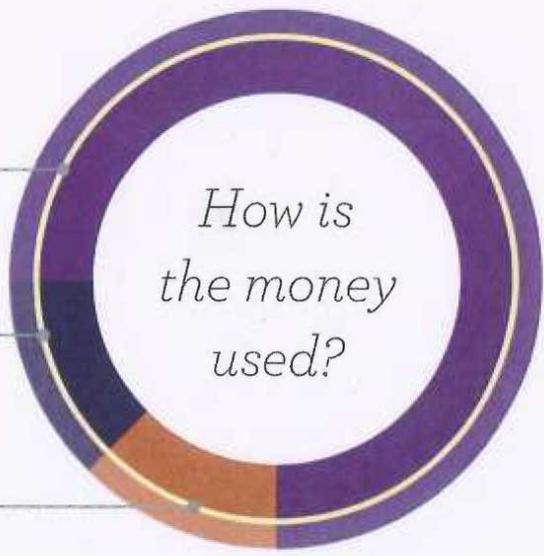
In 2016, we used our COPE funds to help pass Measure W in Hollister, which generated more revenue so that we have the ability to negotiate improvements to compensation and staffing. COPE also helps elect pro-worker candidates to offices such as the County Board of Supervisors, Hollister City Council, and the Water District. These are the people who have power in determining what type of wages and benefits their County or City is willing to negotiate with their employees.

Distribution of COPE Resources

Nationally, 75 percent of COPE dollars are spent to engage voters—putting “boots on the ground” to have conversations at the grassroots level. COPE builds our capacity to reach out through phone banks and precinct walking. We get voters registered and to the polls on election day. This portion of your COPE contribution also helps union locals grow their COPE capacity.

Another 12.5 percent of COPE resources are spent on independent expenditures for direct mail and electronic media for specific campaigns.

The last 12.5 percent is in the form of direct candidate contributions.



How is the money used?



A strong COPE fund puts politics to work for Local 521 members and people working together to have a good life, to live in sustainable communities and to enjoy the fruits of social and economic justice.