

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, families, and communities.

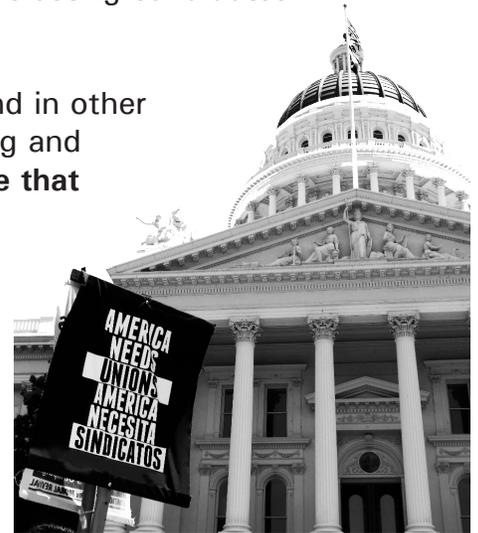


CONTRACTS AND POLITICS: WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

As working people in California, politics affect every aspect of our lives—including the rights, raises, and benefits we negotiate in our contracts. To protect our communities, our jobs, and our power to demand fair treatment, we must actively engage in electing candidates and passing laws that stand up for working families.

The elected officials on School Boards, Boards of Supervisors, and in other positions like Sheriff and Mayor have direct roles in the bargaining and approval of our contracts. **When we elect candidates who believe that America needs good union jobs, SEIU 521 members can bargain better contracts to help us in the service of our communities.**

Now more than ever, we must support leaders who aren't trying to further rig the economy in favor of the few, but are committed to a living wage, affordable housing, retirement security, funding early childhood education, and affordable health care benefits for all. **That's why SEIU 521 members like you are adding their voices to the COPE fund.**



HOW DOES PARTICIPATING IN COPE HELP US WIN?



"Collective bargaining rights, job security, working conditions, and benefits are decided by elected officials. We must be involved in electing candidates to school boards, city councils, county boards, Governor's office, State Legislature, President, and Congress, who value, who believe in, and who will stand up for our issues."

-John Roza, Kern County COPE Chair

OUR COPE DOLLARS AT WORK

Nationally, 75% of COPE dollars are spent to engage voters: that means talking to people on the phone and at their door, and getting voters registered and to the polls on election day.

12.5% of COPE resources are spent on electronic media and direct mail and to members and voters to support or oppose a candidate or issue.

12.5% of COPE resources are direct contributions to candidates.

