

## What's Happening in Wisconsin?

To put it simply, a governor is using the Wall Street-created economic recession as an excuse to weaken workers' voice in America.

Gov. Scott Walker wants to eliminate most collective bargaining for teachers, nurses, road workers and other public workers. Removing the ability to bargain for fair treatment in the workplace, due process and safe working conditions isn't about the budget. It's about weakening the voice of all working people. And it's an assault on the middle class.

Our economy no longer works for most of America's workers. One in six workers today is unemployed. Real wages haven't increased in more than 20 years. Every 20 seconds, another worker files for bankruptcy and every minute two more families lose their homes.

Corporations are raking in a record \$1.2 trillion a year in profits, and executive bonuses are up 17 percent.

### When is OUR recovery?

We need an economy that works for everyone, and in California, our recovery starts with passing Governor Brown's budget proposal and passing tax extensions in June.

Don't be fooled by all the attacks on workers' retirement or that our compensations are the problem. Three important factoids to know:

1. Three independent studies in 2010 found that employees of state and local governments are paid *less* in total compensation than their private sector counterparts when comparing similar work, education, experience and age.
2. Only 27 cents of every pension dollar paid to public sector retirees comes from employer contributions. The rest comes from employee contributions and investment earnings.
3. The economic crash of 2008 is the biggest reason why many state and local budgets are on shaky ground. The bigger problem facing cities and states is the dramatic loss in revenue. This loss in revenue is due to many major corporations not paying a fair share of taxes.

Stay informed, stay engaged, take action. Visit [www.seiu521.org](http://www.seiu521.org) and sign up to get the latest budget updates!



## WHAT IS COPE?

COPE is SEIU Local 521's Committee on Political Education. COPE is a voluntary donation our members make so that we have the funds necessary to properly educate elected officials on the issues that affect our members, their families, and our communities. COPE funds are used exclusively for funding political growth on our local areas, and for lobbying for our members interest. Every dollar in COPE that we collect helps us better educate the future leaders of our Cities, Counties, States, and Country.

Each region has their own COPE committee where any contributing COPE member may attend and vote on how we use our resources to better our communities. Become a COPE member today! Call (650) 801-3500.

## WHAT IS PERS?

PERS stand for the Public Employees Retirement System and is the largest Public pension fund in the Country, founded in 1932 by the passage of state law. PERS manages retirement benefits for over 1.6 million California Public employees. PERS is governed by a 13 member board 6 of whom are elected, 3 of which are appointed, and 4 that are seated based on winning of certain state offices. In 2009-2010 Employees contributed \$3.4 Billion into PERS and investments brought in \$25.6 Billion.

The 2010 Average monthly pension was \$2,220, with average years of service of 20.2 years. 75% of pension costs are paid for by investments made by PERS, 25% is paid for by Employee and employer payments. For every \$1 we put into PERS we see it generate \$2 in our local economies. For more great information on PERS please contact your local staff rep or visit the PERS website for up to date information.

California is in a deep recession. Our budget is a mess. For seven years, Governor Schwarzenegger failed to deal with the problem honestly, and it has only gotten worse. **GOVERNOR BROWN IS RIGHT.**

## What you need to know about the state budget plan



**REVENUE** Hold a special election in June to extend current tax rates.

**CUTS** Cut \$10-\$12 billion because we have a real deficit.

**PENSION REFORM** Reform pension - no more double-dipping or spiking.

**REALIGNMENT** Move some services from state to local level, and vice versa.

Tell your legislator to support the governor's budget proposal.

Make the call today: (866) 864-8567



### SUGGESTED REMARKS FOR YOUR CALL

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I work as a \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Agency of Employment.

I am calling you today to urge you to support Governor Brown's budget proposal.

Governor Brown is right. The only way to help California recover is through a balanced approach – through a combination of cuts and maintaining existing revenues.

We must maintain our existing revenues and hold a special election in June. If we don't, the cuts will be twice as large, which will jeopardize our recovery and directly harm millions of Californians, falling hardest on children and seniors.

Get the latest budget news by signing up for email alerts at [www.seiu521.org](http://www.seiu521.org)



# PROTECT OUR RETIREMENT SECURITY

**Michael Bilbrey**

**for CalPERS  
Board of Administration**



Michael Bilbrey worked on behalf of public employees for more than 18 years, serving as the statewide leader for classified school employees.

#### If elected, he has promised to:

- Protect your defined benefit pensions
- Preserve and improve healthcare
- Increase openness, transparency and input
- Be accessible and listen to members from members of CalPERS

**BALLOTS WILL BE MAILED ON APRIL 21.**

Please vote for **MICHAEL BILBREY** for the At Large Seat of the CalPERS Board of Public Administration

For more information or to get involved, contact:

e-mail: [bilbrey2011@aol.com](mailto:bilbrey2011@aol.com)  
or call: (818) 502-3869

