San Mateo County frontline workers have been in difficult contract negotiations with management since the end of June 2018. San Mateo County is one of the most expensive counties in the nation, with housing being 200% higher than the national average.

Many of our members cannot afford to live in the county they work for and have to suffer long commutes, which is not sustainable and impacts the services we deliver. On its website, San Mateo County states we are “its greatest asset,” and we are asking management and the Board to prove it.

County Management hasn’t listened to proposals to alleviate the costs of housing and create a safe environment free from bullying. Our last action to the Board of Supervisors on November 6 had a great turnout. Despite this being Election Day, we filled the Board Chambers and some of us were standing outside! The negotiating team delivered close to 500 cards telling the struggles of our frontline workers.

“SEIU members love the work we do for our community, whether it’s providing social services, healthcare services or other work for our residents. We want to continue to work for San Mateo County, but we need management and the Board of Supervisors to work with us to find solutions to address issues of fair wages, staff retention, and bullying. The county works because frontline workers do. When we have good jobs that allow us to care for and support our families, our community thrives.”

Lupe Gutierrez, San Mateo County Chapter Chair

SEIU 521 member Rocio Astoquilca speaks about the struggles San Mateo County frontline workers face due to the high cost of housing. Watch the video: http://bit.ly/smcohousingv

STAND WITH SAN MATEO COUNTY WORKERS NOW: SEIU521.ORG/SMCO | #SANMATEOCOUNTYSTRONG

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS COMING UP – IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER

As an SEIU 521 member, you're eligible for many benefits, including exclusive discounts and coupons that could be handy and save you money during the holiday season. EDUCATION | INSURANCE | DISCOUNTS | FINANCE | TRAVEL

WWW.SEIU521.ORG/BENEFITS

Let's not forget that you are helping yourself and your co-workers at the bargaining table, as the power of our union is in its numbers!
On Monday, November 5, Stanislaus County members rose up and took part in a 1-day unfair labor practice strike in response to the county’s continued attempts to silence and intimidate SEIU 521 members. The voices of county workers, family members, community and labor allies blasted through the halls of the Community Services Agency Building in Modesto throughout the day. Members called on the County to bargain in good faith and to do the right thing by investing in the essential public services our community depends on, sitting down and listening to our concerns, and putting an end to the retaliation, intimidation, and threats made to workers standing up for our communities.

“I feel so in awe about how many people showed up and cared enough to speak out against intimidation and unfair labor practices by the county,” said Kate Selover, President of the Stanislaus County Chapter of SEIU Local 521, and a Child Support Officer with the county for 30 years. “If we don’t make a stand or step up, we’re not going to be able to do what we are most passionate about, which is serving our community. The county has chosen to not prioritize the services that are responsible for keeping at-risk children and seniors out of dangerous conditions, assisting the unemployed into jobs, and providing homeless outreach.”

Stanislaus County workers face increasing caseloads, short staffing, and high turnover, which puts the most vulnerable residents of Stanislaus County at even greater risk. Members have been asking to speak with the county board for many months so that we can move the conversation in the direction that supports both our community and our county.

Learn more about the challenges impacting county workers and sign our petition. Visit: www.seiu521.org/standwithstan #StandWithStan