

## **BACKGROUND ON FUNDING OF BALLOT INITIATIVES**

The SEIU-UHW Executive Board adopted Resolution 19-16 *Enhanced Budget to Fund a Strong and Active Healthcare Union in 2016* on February 20, 2016 that in part allocates an additional \$5 million to our approved 2016 budget to be used for ballot initiatives that further our goals and could include:

- The \$15 minimum wage initiative which will need more funding in light of recent opposition from the Governor and the California Restaurant Association.
- A Tobacco Tax initiative to fund Medi-Cal that is being funded and circulated for signatures by other allies.
- The California Hospital Executive Compensation Initiative which we began circulating in February and will free up hospital resources for patient care and those who provide it.
- A similar Executive Compensation initiative that we filed in Arizona where several of our employers such as Dignity, Tenet and CHS are big players in the market.
- Opposing any initiative that gives a blank check to hospital executives without any accountability for improving quality, lowering costs and expanding access.

The nature of the ballot initiative process is such that dynamics are regularly changing and we cannot predict exactly how much will be allocated for which priority. For example:

- The law gives the legislature an opportunity to address any issue covered by a pending ballot measure. A legislative agreement could cause us to rethink our strategy on a given issue.
- Ballot measures may require more or less funding at a given stage based on the level of opposition and what the polling says about the level of support.
- UHW will have to make decisions about the level of financial support we need to contribute based on the level of funding that is coming from other sources.

The UHW Officers are committed to keeping the Executive Board informed about these dynamics and the extent that they alter our thinking on ballot measures that impact minimum wage, Medi-Cal funding and Executive Compensation.