

# SEIU-UHW Contribute \$1 Million to the “No on Proposition 32” Campaign

## Resolution 05-12

### Recommendation:

Contribute \$1 million to the “No on Proposition 32” Campaign, with half coming from COPE funds and half coming from the Strike and Legal Defense Fund.

### Background:

Proposition 32 is on the State of California election ballot on November 6, 2012. It claims to be about “reform” but it really prohibits working families from having a voice in politics, while creating special exemptions that give even more power to corporate special interests, Super PACS and CEO’s. The people who are supporting the initiative have exempted themselves. Their goal is to weaken the power of working families by limiting the ability of unions to advocate for workers in the political arena.

Specifically, Proposition 32 would:

- Prohibit contributions by unions and corporations to state and local candidates
- Prohibit contributions to ballot measure committees if the funds are collected through payroll deductions (union funds).
- Prohibits independent expenditures on state and local candidate races and ballot measures if the funds are collected through payroll deductions (union funds).
- Would require unions to get annual permission from each member for voluntary COPE contributions and would not allow payroll deduction for those contributions.
- Prohibits union contributions to elected officials during labor negotiations in which they could have any influence over.
- Many of the largest corporations in the state would be specifically exempted from the initiative based on how they are structured.

If Proposition 32 passes, SEIU-UHW members would likely lose influence over decisions that impact our jobs and our patients such as:

- How homecare, nursing homes and hospitals that serve low income patients are treated in the state budget.
- Whether or not homecare workers get raises, maintain benefits and/or lose hours.
- How healthcare reform is implemented in California
- Whether or not the recommendations of the Let’s Get Healthy California Task Force are implemented.
- Patient protections for predatory pricing and hospital safety.
- Workplace safety, overtime and break protections and minimum wage.

The election is close:

- The latest Field Poll has 38% voting yes, 44% voting no and 18% undecided.
- The billionaire Koch Brothers have just contributed \$4 million and Charles Munger is contributing \$11.5 million to the Yes on 32 campaign.

The “No on Proposition 32” Campaign is seeking to raise \$10 million to match the efforts of the billionaires supporting the initiative:

- Other California SEIU locals are committing an additional \$1.9 million
- The California Teachers Association is putting in \$2.35 million
- The California Federation of Teachers is committing \$500,000.
- The Professional Engineers in California Government are giving \$500,000
- Other unions are being asked to contribute to this effort and our \$1 million commitment would help that effort.

SEIU-UHW has the resources to make a difference:

- We will collect an additional \$500,000 in COPE funds from September through December of 2012. We can take \$500,000 from our reserve fund and then replenish it with these funds that will be coming.

The Strike and Defense Fund is meant to fight attacks on SEIU-UHW members, which Prop 32 certainly is. It is currently very healthy, at just under \$7 million- higher than it has ever been. It grows at a rate of approximately \$145,000 a month. The largest contracts for which a strike is a possibility will not be up for three years. We can contribute \$500,000 from this fund without impacting our ability to support a strike or fight against other attacks.

Be it resolved that the SEIU-UHW Executive Board authorizes a contribution of \$1 million to the “No on Proposition 32” Campaign with \$500,000 coming from remaining 2012 COPE funds and \$500,000 from the Strike and Defense fund.