



CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE
SHANNON GROVE
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 34

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CONTACT: Greg Burt (916) 319-2034

Shannon Grove pushes plan to make unions more accountable to its members
Bills require financial transparency & simplified process for replacing unions

SACRAMENTO – Assemblywoman Shannon Grove has introduced legislation to address the frustrations of disenfranchised public union workers who came to her seeking help to make unions more accountable to their members. This includes requiring public employee unions to be transparent with how they spend union dues, and it includes a simplified process for union members to affirm or replace the union that represents them. The stranglehold public unions have on power currently makes union choice and transparency almost impossible for its members. Grove’s bills will change this dynamic.

“America is a beacon of freedom to the world because its people have real choice when picking their leaders and real transparency on how those leaders spend public money,” said Assemblywoman Shannon Grove. “Why shouldn’t public union workers have the same freedoms regarding the unions that represent them?”

Grove has introduced two union reform bills. The first, [AB 2753](#), would require California’s public employee unions to post an itemized version of its budget online, making it accessible for its members. The second bill, [AB 2754](#), would require public unions to hold an election every two years to determine if the current labor union should continue to represent its members. The election would also allow workers to select another public employee union to take its place.

One of those union workers demanding more accountability is Mariam Noujaim, a SEIU 20-year member and an employee with the Department of Motor Vehicles in Sacramento. She has been trying for the past three years to find out how her union, SEIU Local 1000, is spending the [nearly \\$60 million in revenue](#) it collects each year. After [filing a lawsuit](#) against them, she was only able to see small sample of their records, but was not allowed to make copies.

“I am not against the original idea of a union representing the rights, wages, and benefits of working members,” Noujaim said. “Unfortunately, with the huge amount of money they have been taking from workers, the union bosses act as if it is their money to do with whatever they please.” (Read more of Noujaim’s story [here](#).)

Rick Gay was once a steward for SEIU 721 in the Inland Empire, but ended up joining a competing employee association, the [Regional Employees Association of Professionals](#) (REAP), after becoming dissatisfied with SEIU tactics of “deceit and underhandedness.” REAP has tried to become a recognized county labor organization, but even after meeting all the required criteria, Gay said the county still refused to recognize them.

“Unions have a stranglehold on our political system, and complete unfair advantage,” Gay explained. “No one body should have this much influence and power. There needs to be a legitimate alternative to removing bad organizations. . . . Unions, like politicians, should be re-elected on their merit not how deep their pocket books are.” (Read more of Gay’s story [here](#).)

- A coalition of public labor union reformers put together the [following video](#) to advocate for union choice and transparency.
 - Here is the contact information for some of union members featured in this video:
 - **Rick Gay**, Interim President, REAP - Regional Employees Association of Professionals, (951) 660-0496, Rick@reap4us.org, www.reap4us.org ([Rick Gay’s story](#))
 - **Eulalio Gomez**, President of Fresno County Public Safety Association (FCPSA), (559) 681-3384, eulaliogomez@comcast.net
 - **Mariam Noujaim**, Member SEIU Local 1000, (916) 834-8916, Themighty1@comcast.net, www.UnionTransparency.com, www.SEIUngo.com ([Mariam Noujaim’s story](#))
 - **Lisa Garcia**, Member SEIU Local 1000, (916) 893-4449, Lgarcia916@yahoo.com, www.UnionTransparency.com ([Lisa Garcia’s story](#))
 - **Stephen J. Foondos**, United Law Center, (916) 367-0630 Sfoondos@UnitedLawCenter.com, www.AskSteveForFree.com
 - **Mark F. Goudy**, Sacramento Probate, (916) 448-4980, mfgoudy@GoudyLaw.com
- More information about the fight for union transparency can be found at www.uniontransparency.com and a petition website has been set up at www.transparencyandchoice.com for supporters of Grove’s Union Reform bills.

Grove represents the citizens of California’s 34th Assembly District, covering a majority of Kern County.

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