

# Sonoma County Supervisors condemn SEIU's "knuckle-breaking" in rigged contract vote

SEIU used security guards and voter suppression to force homecare workers to ratify a secret deal they never read.

## Here's what County Supervisors said:

*"When they took people's voice away by not allowing them to vote by mail... I think they undermined the values of labor. ...Not giving members the full contract, full disclosure, is not transparent, nor is it in good faith in terms of union bargaining. ...I think the days of knuckle-breaking in unions should be long over, and this really is a disgrace."*

— **Supervisor Shirlee Zane**



*"...I was somewhat disturbed by what I was hearing and some of the tactics that were used."*

— **Supervisor Efren Carrillo**



*"The ballot... and the language that went along with those was obviously very biased. ...I think it was a very flawed process."*

— **Supervisor Mike Kerns**



*"If they can do this to homecare workers, they can do it to hospital and Kaiser workers. We all have to stick together stronger than ever to protect what we fought for. More than 100,000 of us chose NUHW and we've come too far to be bullied by SEIU."*

—**Marie White**,  
Sonoma County homecare provider



## Here's what SEIU hid from workers:

- No raises, but a **\$2/hour wage cut** is virtually guaranteed when federal stimulus money runs out next summer.
- Workers can be **switched out of their Kaiser health plan** into a different, undefined plan.
- The contract allows **increases in workers' out-of-pocket** payments for healthcare. Under the previous contract, healthcare costs were fixed.
- The County is **no longer required to provide workers with protective supplies**.
- The County is **no longer required to provide on-call relief** services for when providers are called away by emergencies.
- The **first contract in California history to move homecare workers backward**, widening the gap between long-term and acute care.

## How could SEIU get a contract like that ratified by members?

- SEIU **refused to show workers the agreement**. Details were only revealed *after* the contract vote, when the County published the contract.
- SEIU **changed voting rules** to suppress the vote. Instead of voting by mail, SEIU made workers vote in-person—and poll hours were restricted to two hours during rush hour.
- SEIU **hired security guards** to keep suspected "No" voters from entering polling places.
- SEIU falsely told workers the contract protected wages and contained "no takeaways."

**Read the contract and get the facts at [www.NUHW.org/Sonoma](http://www.NUHW.org/Sonoma).**