

Closed Session



Katherine Douglas *Public Comment - Group 2*

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**From:** Daniel Berger <coldfire510@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 11, 2024 4:41 PM  
**To:** sbcob; Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Joan Hartmann; Supervisor Nelson; Steve Lavagnino; Mona Miyasato  
**Subject:** Why do you think we are worth less than the rising cost of inflation?

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors Members: Supervisor Das Williams, Supervisor Laura Capps, Supervisor Joan Hartmann, Supervisor Bob Nelson, and Supervisor Steve Lavagnino:

My name is Daniel Berger and I am writing to you about the current labor contract negotiations between SEIU Local 620 and the County of Santa Barbara. SEIU Local 620 represents several bargaining units at the County and represents the largest amount of County employees. I'm currently an Assessment Supervisor for the Assessor's Office (bargaining unit 25).

Every contract cycle, the union and our representatives and the county and its representatives meet to bargain in good faith to reach a deal that both parties can agree to. Unfortunately, we are far away from reaching an agreement with the County and it has been communicated with us that the county has reached its authority on what can be bargained for. We cannot accept the current offers we are getting from the county in good faith to our membership.

We understand our demands have a fiscal impact on the county's budget but we the membership of SEIU 620 need more than a 3.25% salary increase the first year and more than 2.5% for subsequent years. Our cost-of-living adjustments have not been keeping up with the rate of inflation per the consumer price index. The costs of essential goods and services continue to increase and the cost to live a respectable life in the County of Santa Barbara is expensive.

Our members have families, and the high costs of the employee +1 and employee +2 insurance plans is restricting our members' ability to afford quality healthcare. Food, shelter, gas, and healthcare are basic necessities that your employees need to survive in this county and according to the Consumer Price Index the price of all these basic necessities continue to increase.

We hope that The County will be able to show the employees who perform critical public service jobs throughout the County of Santa Barbara that they truly value them by bargaining a good contract that can help our members thrive.

Thank you,

Daniel Berger

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Julia Morrow <jumorrow1991@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 11, 2024 4:48 PM  
**To:** sbcob; Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Joan Hartmann; Supervisor Nelson; Steve Lavagnino; Mona Miyasato  
**Subject:** Why do you think we are worth less than the rising cost of inflation?

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors Members: Supervisor Das Williams, Supervisor Laura Capps, Supervisor Joan Hartmann, Supervisor Bob Nelson, and Supervisor Steve Lavagnino:

My name is Julia Morrow and I am writing to you about the current labor contract negotiations between SEIU Local 620 and the County of Santa Barbara. SEIU Local 620 represents several bargaining units at the County and represents the largest amount of County employees.

Every contract cycle, the union and our representatives and the county and its representatives meet to bargain in good faith to reach a deal that both parties can agree to. Unfortunately, we are far away from reaching an agreement with the County and it has been communicated with us that the county has reached its authority on what can be bargained for. We cannot accept the current offers we are getting from the county in good faith to our membership.

We understand our demands have a fiscal impact on the county's budget but we the membership of SEIU 620 need more than a 3.25% salary increase the first year and more than 2.5% for subsequent years. Our cost-of-living adjustments have not been keeping up with the rate of inflation per the consumer price index. The costs of essential goods and services continue to increase and the cost to live a respectable life in the County of Santa Barbara is expensive.

Our members have families, and the high costs of the employee +1 and employee +2 insurance plans is restricting our members' ability to afford quality healthcare. Food, shelter, gas, and healthcare are basic necessities that your employees need to survive in this county and according to the Consumer Price Index the price of all these basic necessities continue to increase.

We hope that The County will be able to show the employees who perform critical public service jobs throughout the County of Santa Barbara that they truly value them by bargaining a good contract that can help our members thrive.

Thank you,

Julia Morrow



## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Onyx Starrett <onyxstarrett@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 11, 2024 8:32 PM  
**To:** sbcob; Supervisor Das Williams; Gregg Hart; Joan Hartmann; Bob Nelson; Steve Lavagnino; laura@lauracapps.com  
**Subject:** Don't balance the County's budget on the backs of County workers!

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors Members: Supervisor Das Williams, Supervisor Laura Capps, Supervisor Joan Hartmann, Supervisor Bob Nelson, and Supervisor Steve Lavagnino

My name is Onyx Starrett, and I am writing to you about the current labor contract negotiations between SEIU Local 620 and the County of Santa Barbara. SEIU Local 620 represents several bargaining units at the County and represents the largest number of County employees. I am an attorney at the Public Defender Office.

Every contract cycle, the union and our representatives and the county and its representatives meet to bargain in good faith to reach a deal that both parties can agree to. Unfortunately, we are far away from reaching an agreement with the County and it has been communicated with us that the county has reached its authority on what can be bargained for. We cannot accept the current offers we are getting from the county in good faith to our membership.

We understand our demands have a fiscal impact on the county's budget but we the membership of SEIU 620 need more than a 2.5% salary increase the first year and more than 2% for subsequent years. Our cost-of-living adjustments have not been keeping up with the rate of inflation per the consumer price index. The costs of essential goods and services continue to increase and the cost to live a respectable life in the County of Santa Barbara is expensive. This was given as a reason when the [Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 last year for their own 5% salary increase.](#)

Food, shelter, gas, and healthcare are basic necessities that your employees need to survive in this county and according to the Consumer Price Index the price of all these basic necessities continue to increase. We are one of the wealthiest counties in California, yet our county employees have some of the lowest salaries and highest costs of living. I have been looking at other employment opportunities across the state, and our county pays \$10-30,000 less than similar attorney positions from San Diego, Orange County, and Ventura, all counties with similar if not cheaper costs of living. I am unable to afford to live in Santa Barbara County, meaning I have to commute long distances to our three offices, resulting in increased gas costs. This huge pay disparity has forced me to contemplate other employment opportunities that value my labor more.

We hope that the Board of Supervisors will be able to show the employees who perform critical public service jobs throughout the County of Santa Barbara that they truly value us by bargaining a good contract that can help our members thrive.

Onyx Starrett

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Joselin R <jrecinos85@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 12, 2024 10:00 AM  
**To:** Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Supervisor Nelson; Joan Hartmann; Steve Lavagnino; Mona Miyasato; sbcob  
**Subject:** Don't balance the County's budget on the basic needs of County workers!

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors Members: Supervisor Das Williams, Supervisor Laura Capps, Supervisor Joan Hartmann, Supervisor Bob Nelson, and Supervisor Steve Lavagnino

My name is Joselin Recinos and I am writing to you about the current labor contract negotiations between SEIU Local 620 and the County of Santa Barbara. SEIU Local 620 represents several bargaining units at the County and represents the largest amount of County employees. I am part of bargaining unit 24 and have provided mental health services to our underserved community members as a Mental Health Practitioner I for the past 5 years.

Every contract cycle, the union and our representatives and the county and its representatives meet to bargain in good faith to reach a deal that both parties can agree to. Unfortunately, we are far from reaching an agreement with the County and it has been communicated with us that the county has reached its authority on what can be bargained for. We cannot accept the current offers we are getting from the county in good faith to our membership.

We understand our demands have a fiscal impact on the county's budget but we the membership of SEIU 620 need more than a 3.25% salary increase the first year and more than 2.5% for subsequent years. Our cost-of-living adjustments have not been keeping up with the rate of inflation per the consumer price index. The costs of essential goods and services continue to increase and the cost to live a respectable life in the County of Santa Barbara is expensive.

Our members have families, and the high costs of the employee +1 and employee +2 insurance plans is restricting our members' ability to afford quality healthcare. Food, shelter, gas, and healthcare are basic necessities that your employees need to survive in this county and according to the Consumer Price Index the price of all these basic necessities continue to increase.

We are asked to put client care at the forefront and to put our needs on the back burner. Having the necessary means to meet basic necessities helps us know we are valuable assets and improves our ability to provide client care. Having to worry about what activities I can enroll my teenagers in so that they will not be tempted to join a gang or get involved with substances and at the same time provide food for 2 growing boys and shelter for them takes up necessary bandwidth needed to do my job at my highest potential. I know I am not alone in this struggle.

We hope that The County will be able to show the employees who perform critical public service jobs throughout the County of Santa Barbara that they truly value them by bargaining a good contract that can help our members thrive.

Respectfully,  
**Joselin Recinos**



## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** BECKI RENTERIA <btinkerbelfan@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 12, 2024 12:21 PM  
**To:** Laura Capps; Steve Lavagnino; sbcob; Supervisor Das Williams  
**Subject:** Why do you think we are worth less then the cost of inflation

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors Members: Supervisor Das Williams, Supervisor Laura Capps, Supervisor Joan Hartmann, Supervisor Bob Nelson, and Supervisor Steve Lavagnino

My name is Rebecca Renteria and I am writing to you about the current labor contract negotiations between SEIU Local 620 and the County of Santa Barbara. SEIU Local 620 represents several bargaining units at the County and represents the largest amount of County employees. **I am currently an AOP II at the Santa Barbara County Health Care Clinic.**

Every contract cycle, the union and our representatives and the county and its representatives meet to bargain in good faith to reach a deal that both parties can agree to. Unfortunately, we are far away from reaching an agreement with the County and it has been communicated with us that the county has reached its authority on what can be bargained for. We cannot accept the current offers we are getting from the county in good faith to our membership.

We understand our demands have a fiscal impact on the county's budget but we the membership of SEIU 620 need more than a 3.25% salary increase the first year and more than 2.5% for subsequent years. Our cost-of-living adjustments have not been keeping up with the rate of inflation per the consumer price index. The costs of essential goods and services continue to increase and the cost to live a respectable life in the County of Santa Barbara is expensive.

Our members have families, and the high costs of the employee +1 and employee +2 insurance plans is restricting our members' ability to afford quality healthcare. Food, shelter, gas, and

healthcare are basic necessities that your employees need to survive in this county and according to the Consumer Price Index the price of all these basic necessities continue to increase. **It is currently difficult to try to save any money with the cost of rent,food, gas, etc. I had hopes to save money and I find it so difficult because I have to use that money for emergency fund. I'm born and raised in Santa Barbara and it is heartbreaking that it is almost impossible to live in the town I was born and raised in.**

We hope that The County will be able to show the employees who perform critical public service jobs throughout the County of Santa Barbara that they truly value them by bargaining a good contract that can help our members thrive.

**Rebecca Renteria**

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Katrina Scalzi <kmscalzi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 12, 2024 12:51 PM  
**To:** Joan Hartmann; Laura Capps; Mona Miyasato; Supervisor Nelson; sbcob; Steve Lavagnino; Supervisor Das Williams  
**Subject:** Why do you think we are worth less than the rising cost of inflation?

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors Members: Supervisor Das Williams, Supervisor Laura Capps, Supervisor Joan Hartmann, Supervisor Bob Nelson, and Supervisor Steve Lavagnino

My name is Katrina Scalzi and I am writing to you about the current labor contract negotiations between SEIU Local 620 and the County of Santa Barbara. SEIU Local 620 represents several bargaining units at the County and represents the largest amount of County employees. I am part of bargaining unit 24. I'm an occupational therapist providing essential therapy services for children with disabilities.

Every contract cycle, the union and our representatives and the county and its representatives meet to bargain in good faith to reach a deal that both parties can agree to. Unfortunately, we are far away from reaching an agreement with the County and it has been communicated with us that the county has reached its authority on what can be bargained for. We cannot accept the current offers we are getting from the county in good faith to our membership.

We understand our demands have a fiscal impact on the county's budget but we the membership of SEIU 620 need more than a 3.25% salary increase the first year and more than 2.5% for subsequent years. Our cost-of-living adjustments have not been keeping up with the rate of inflation per the consumer price index. The costs of essential goods and services continue to increase and the cost to live a respectable life in the County of Santa Barbara is expensive.

Our members have families, and the high costs of the employee +1 and employee +2 insurance plans is restricting our members' ability to afford quality healthcare. Food, shelter, gas, and healthcare are basic necessities that your employees need to survive in this county and according to the Consumer Price Index the price of all these basic necessities continue to increase. With the ever increasing cost of living in Santa Barbara county it is becoming more and more difficult to afford living here. Things such as starting a family and owning a home seem to be an impossible dream rather than reality in this county. Without an adequate cost of living increase employees are going to be forced to leave the county in search of more affordable living.

We hope that The County will be able to show the employees who perform critical public service jobs throughout the County of Santa Barbara that they truly value them by bargaining a good contract that can help our members thrive.

Katrina Scalzi



## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** christina alvarado <chrisalvarado83@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 12, 2024 2:56 PM  
**To:** sbcob; Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Joan Hartmann; Supervisor Nelson; Steve Lavagnino; Mona Miyasato  
**Subject:** Why do you think we are worth less than the rising cost of inflation?  
**Attachments:** Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors Members.docx

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors Members: Supervisor Das Williams, Supervisor Laura Capps, Supervisor Joan Hartmann, Supervisor Bob Nelson, and Supervisor Steve Lavagnino

My name is **Christina Voita** and I am writing to you about the current labor contract negotiations between SEIU Local 620 and the County of Santa Barbara. SEIU Local 620 represents several bargaining units at the County and represents the largest amount of County employees. **I am an AOP II and I work for the Sheriff's Department.**

Every contract cycle, the union and our representatives and the county and its representatives meet to bargain in good faith to reach a deal that both parties can agree to. Unfortunately, we are far away from reaching an agreement with the County and it has been communicated with us that the county has reached its authority on what can be bargained for. We cannot accept the current offers we are getting from the county in good faith to our membership.

We understand our demands have a fiscal impact on the county's budget but we the membership of SEIU 620 need more than a 3.25% salary increase the first year and more than 2.5% for subsequent years. Our cost-of-living adjustments have not been keeping up with the rate of inflation per the consumer price index. The costs of essential goods and services continue to increase and the cost to live a respectable life in the County of Santa Barbara is expensive.

Our members have families, and the high costs of the employee +1 and employee +2 insurance plans is restricting our members' ability to afford quality healthcare. Food, shelter, gas, and healthcare are basic necessities that your employees need to survive in this county and according to the Consumer Price Index the price of all these basic necessities continue to increase. **I was raised in the City of Santa Maria and the cost of living has skyrocketed in the last 4 years. My husband also works for the County of Santa Barbara in the Community Services Department. We both have great careers and love what we do. We are currently renting a house, and my rent has gone up \$750.00 in the last 4 years. We have 2 small children, and we also pay for childcare, and the cost have gone way up as well as everything else I'm sure you are aware of. Two people living in the town we grew up in with good jobs are no longer able to afford to live comfortably.**

We hope that The County will be able to show the employees who perform critical public service jobs throughout the County of Santa Barbara that they truly value them by bargaining a good contract that can help our members thrive.

Thank you,

Christina Voita

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Victoria T <toria05.polo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 12, 2024 3:29 PM  
**To:** sbcob; Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Joan Hartmann; Supervisor Nelson; Steve Lavagnino; Mona Miyasato

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors Members: Supervisor Das Williams, Supervisor Laura Capps, Supervisor Joan Hartmann, Supervisor Bob Nelson, and Supervisor Steve Lavagnino

My name is Victoria Trigueros and I am writing to you about the current labor contract negotiations between SEIU Local 620 and the County of Santa Barbara. SEIU Local 620 represents several bargaining units at the County and represents the largest amount of County employees. I am an Administrative Office Professional II Lead with bargaining unit 5810 - Social Services - Administration.

Every contract cycle, the union and our representatives and the county and its representatives meet to bargain in good faith to reach a deal that both parties can agree to. Unfortunately, we are far away from reaching an agreement with the County and it has been communicated with us that the county has reached its authority on what can be bargained for. We cannot accept the current offers we are getting from the county in good faith to our membership.

We understand our demands have a fiscal impact on the county's budget but we the membership of SEIU 620 need more than a 3.25% salary increase the first year and more than 2.5% for subsequent years. Our cost-of-living adjustments have not been keeping up with the rate of inflation per the consumer price index. The costs of essential goods and services continue to increase and the cost to live a respectable life in the County of Santa Barbara is expensive.

Our members have families, and the high costs of the employee +1 and employee +2 insurance plans is restricting our members' ability to afford quality healthcare. Food, shelter, gas, and healthcare are basic necessities that your employees need to survive in this county and according to the Consumer Price Index the price of all these basic necessities continue to increase.

I myself am a single parent. My child and I survive on my income alone with no support from my child's other parent. I do not make enough to support us with the high inflation rates, but also do not qualify for aid in regard to a household size of 2. This to me and I am sure many others is not right. I enjoy my line of work and what I do; I hope to spend many more years in my line of work without having to get a second job in order to support my family. A bargain that is closer to the inflation rate would be greatly appreciated.

We hope that The County will be able to show the employees who perform critical public service jobs throughout the County of Santa Barbara that they truly value them by bargaining a good contract that can help our members thrive.

Victoria Trigueros