AFSCME IN ACTION

Member Newsletter | October 2026



Pictured: AFSCME Maryland Council 3 President Jack Hughes speaking at the 2026 AFSCME Maryland State Convention

MESSAGE FROM AFSCME MARYLAND PRESIDENT JACK HUGHES

Waging the Good Fight

AFSCME family — it was great seeing so many of you at our AFSCME Maryland convention this year. I am honored to be serving as the next president of Council 3. We have a busy fall bargaining our next union contracts for thousands of state and university employees and with Election Day around the corner.

Our mission is clear: we've got to keep growing our union, win strong union contracts, hold the line against management, and make our voices heard.

Next Tuesday, on Election Day, I hope you'll join me in doing just that. We have an important opportunity to make our voices heard at the ballot box, make contract negotiations fairer, and support our public services and the AFSCME members who make them happen.

Now let's get it done.

-AFSCME Maryland President Jack Hughes

AFSCME Maryland Council 3 State Convention Recap

The 2026 AFSCME Maryland Council 3 State Convention took place earlier this month on October 8 & 9. For two days, hundreds of delegates from across Maryland gathered at the University of Maryland, College Park to conduct important union business, elect new leaders, and participate in workshops and programming to build and grow our union.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW CONVENTION PHOTOS

Behind Bayview: The Workers who Keep Johns Hopkins Medical Center Running



Pictured: Members of AFSCME Local 3374

Check out our latest blog post about AFSCME Local 3374 members who are currently bargaining a new contract with Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. The local represents over 600 support staff at the hospital who are fighting for affordable health care, a livable wage, and respect at work. Read their story on **afscmemd.org/updates**

It's Bargaining Season for State and University System Workers



We are currently in the midst of negotiating our next union contracts for members at the State of Maryland and the University System of Maryland. These two union contracts cover over 30,000 state workers! You can find updates about our negotiation sessions at **afscmemdbargaining.org**

Paid Family & Medical Leave: An Important Benefit

Having access to paid family and medical leave is a great way to make sure you're able to support yourself and your loved ones during big life events. This includes situations such as your own injury or illness, a family member's injury or illness, and the adoption or birth of a child.
Learn more at https://bit.ly/pfaml

AFSCME Members in Action

🎙️ Local 1072 members Jen Patterson, Patrick Trujillo, and Krista Bulley appeared on America's Work Force Union Podcast to discuss our win earlier this year for University System of Maryland workers and our ongoing fight regarding the layoffs at the University of Maryland College Park.

✅ AFSCME Maryland members joined Local 3661 President Rayneika Robinson in House District 6 to support her campaign for a seat in the Maryland House of Delegates.

🗳️ From Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, Council 3 members showed up at polling centers across the state for early voting, encouraging voters to support Question 1 on the statewide ballot.

📖 The library workers of Local 6359 are preparing to bargain their next union contracts. Here's to fighting for fair contracts and the workplaces we deserve!

Upcoming Events

New Member Meeting
November 4 on Zoom

K-12 Steward Training
November 10 in Catonsville, MD

Central Region Steward Training
December 1-2 in Baltimore, MD

Member Spotlight: Takisha "Kish" Fields



Takisha "Kish" Fields is a Regional Vice President of AFSCME Local 112 and has worked for nearly a decade as a Child Support Specialist Lead with the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS). In her role, Kish serves as a resource for families in an effort to give them more stability and help them succeed.

But her journey with the state didn't start there. Before joining DHS, Kish worked for the Department of Juvenile Services. Her work across both departments has been driven by her passion for helping people and creating meaningful improvements in children's lives. "I'm a mom and I raised two boys," says Kish. **"I want all children to grow up in a place they can be proud of, and I want my community to support the people who have spent their lives building our communities into what they are today."**

Kish is also a Chief Shop Steward and ensures the rights of her colleagues are respected and management is held accountable to following our union contracts. "One of my biggest roles as a steward is advocacy." says Kish. "Not just advocating for others but also teaching people to advocate for themselves and have their own voice."

This year, Kish also ran for and won a seat on the Baltimore County Democratic Central Committee. She recognized that AFSCME members are in a unique position to elect our bosses and decided to get more involved. **"We spend a lot of time advocating for wages and workplace improvements, but many of those decisions are made by the people who we elect. So why shouldn't we make sure our voices are heard?"** says Kish.

From working the polls to encouraging our friends, family, and coworkers to get out and vote, Kish is encouraging everyone to get more involved and let our voices be heard. **"When we want change, we have to be the change we want to see."**