



# AFSCME IN ACTION

Member Newsletter | November 2022



*Pictured: AFSCME MD President Patrick Moran & Secretary-Treasurer Cherrish Vick with Governor-elect Wes Moore & Lieutenant Governor-elect Aruna Miller*

## We can now move FORWARD!

**FROM AFSCME MARYLAND PRESIDENT PATRICK MORAN**

November 8th marked several firsts in Maryland. We elected Wes Moore as Maryland's first Black Governor, Anthony Brown as the state's first Black Attorney General, and Brooke Lierman as the state's first woman comptroller. They won with overwhelming majorities, marking a huge shift in Maryland politics.

It will be refreshing to finally sit across the table with an administration that wants to work with state and higher education employees and move forward with us as opposed to what's happened in the last 8 years, when we've seen our state services being eroded and employees leaving in droves. We're looking forward to working with Governor Moore and his administration to make progress in Maryland.

This could not have happened without the hundreds of AFSCME members who knocked on doors, made phone calls, and sent text messages in their spare time to push for AFSCME-endorsed candidates. From the Governor's race down to county and local races, our work had an impact and we saw big wins across the board.

Along with the November election, we've been celebrating additional wins for Maryland's working people, like the victory the dedicated employees of Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library (EPFL) system had just two weeks ago. They won their union election by a wide margin, winning 218-12, and we're excited to welcome them to AFSCME.

And across the board, we've won raise after raise this year. Our most recent raise of 4.5% for all state and higher education employees was a direct result of AFSCME members standing up, speaking out, and working with the members of the state legislature to ensure that we would receive a portion of any state budget surplus. While Governor Hogan's administration was refusing to hire or resource our workplaces, we were organizing our coworkers and having repeated conversations with our state delegates and senators to let our state legislature know that we deserve to be acknowledged for our sacrifices and commitments during the pandemic.

In the coming weeks, it'll be time to roll up our sleeves again and get ready for this legislative session. We also have additional bargaining sessions with the State and the University System of Maryland. We will continue to do what we do best – organize and WIN the pay, respect, and workplace changes we have earned and deserve.

## Upcoming Events

**2023 Legislative Session Kick-off**  
Tuesday, January 10, 2023  
Virtual/In-Person Options TBD

**Lobby Nights**  
Monday evenings during legislative session  
Annapolis, MD



# Locals in Action: AFSCME Local 1072's Member Appreciation Fair



*Pictured: Photos from Local 1072's successful November 15 event that had over 250 attendees*



## ACTION ALERT FOR STATE EMPLOYEES SIGN THE PETITION

If you are a state worker and have not done so already, sign our petition to let the State and management know that state workers across Maryland are serious about winning and receiving the wage increases we DESERVE this year.

We have just a few more bargaining dates left with the State this year, so it's crucial that we send a united and clear message that state workers deserve wage increases that reflect the valuable work we do.

**Sign here: [bit.ly/state-barg-petition](https://bit.ly/state-barg-petition)**

## Member Spotlight: Tim Walker

Tim Walker, the current president of Local 3641, first got involved with his union when a coworker asked him to join. "They convinced me that it was important to know my rights, to know what it means to have brothers and sisters collectively aiming towards one goal to improve our work conditions and wages."

Since 2014, Tim has been serving his fellow veterans in Prince George's County. Through his job in the Department of Labor as a Workforce Development Specialist III in the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP), he works to provide veterans with the resources they need to access employment, benefits, and trainings. A veteran himself, the work Tim does resonates because it's the very same system he went through.

In addition to empowering the veterans that he works with, Tim empowers his coworkers and fellow union members with the information and resources they need to change their workplaces for the better. And now, as a new member of our union's statewide bargaining team, he's learning more about how the issues impacting his local are connected to statewide issues.



*Pictured: AFSCME Local 3641 President Tim Walker*

Witnessing bargaining conversations has made him realize the importance of having our collective union power to demand the pay increases, workplace changes, and respect state workers deserve. "We can't stand by and idle and not want to participate. We need to stick around and make sure these changes get done."