

AFSCME IN ACTION

Member Newsletter | January 2025



Pictured: Scenes from January's vigil in memory of AFSCME members killed on the job

MESSAGE FROM AFSCME MARYLAND PRES. PATRICK MORAN

The Status Quo is Simply Unacceptable

This year's legislative session arrives following an emotionally tough year for our union. Last year, we lost three of our union brothers on the job. Local 3661 member Agent Davis Martinez and Local 44 members Ronald Silver II and Timothy Cartwell all lost their lives, far too young in each case, while at work.

As AFSCME members, we are on the front lines every single day to deliver the essential public services that Maryland residents rely on. Without us, our communities could not function. But time and time again, we've been asked to confront significant risks to our safety and health, from dangerous and unpredictable situations to understaffing issues to dangerous heat to legionella outbreaks in our water supplies.

That is why in this legislative session, one of our top priorities is passing the **Davis Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act (HB 176/SB 26)**, named in honor of our fallen union brother. This legislation will dedicate more resources to MOSH (Maryland Occupational Safety and Health) and ensure MOSH has the ability to administer and enforce our health and safety laws. This bill will also hold our public employers accountable with the same penalties Maryland's private sector employers face.

I hope you'll join me in Annapolis and at a Lobby Night to get this bill passed because the status quo is simply unacceptable.

- AFSCME Maryland Council 3 President Patrick Moran



Join us in Annapolis!

Our weekly Lobby Nights on Monday evenings have started, and we need you to join us in Annapolis. Meet your legislators, share your stories, and help us push important bills forward.

You are welcome to attend any Lobby Night even if you don't work in that sector.

Monday, February 3: DPSCS Night

Monday, February 10:

P-12 School Support Staff Night

Monday, February 17:

Higher Ed, Community Colleges & Local Presidents Night

Monday, March 3:

Local Government (Counties, Cities, Libraries, & Museums) Night

Monday, March 10: Union Night Rally

Monday, March 17:

Crossover Lobby Night

Monday, March 24: Final Lobby Night



RSVP at **bit.ly/afscmemonday** or scan the QR code.

AFSCME Members in Action

- AFSCME members **held a vigil** earlier this month in honor of the AFSCME members we have lost on the job, including Parole and Probation Agent Davis Martinez and Baltimore City DPW workers Ronald Silver II and Timothy Cartwell. You can watch the full livestream on our Facebook page.
- Members of the AFSCME Maryland Higher Education Bargaining Team held their first labor-management committee meeting with the University System of Maryland. Per our new unified agreement with the USM that we ratified last year, the system must meet with us 4 times a year!
- Members of **Howard County Library Workers United** are demanding a fair wage agreement as they bargain their first union contract. Support them by sending a letter to the library system's Board of Trustees at: **bit.ly/hclwu-action**
- ▲ AFSCME Local 3661 members joined the loved ones of Agent Davis Martinez at the House and Senate Joint Hearing on Parole and Probation on Thursday, January 23 to continue our demands for accountability and transparency from DPSCS leaders.
- Check out the AFSCME Maryland Facebook page to see videos from this year's Legislative Session, including AFSCME Maryland President Patrick Moran speaking about the Davis Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act, AFSCME Maryland Secretary-Treasurer Cherrish Vick speaking about the Arbitration Reform for State Employees Act, and more.

State supervisors are voting for AFSCME!

The election to certify our AFSCME Maryland Supervisors Union is happening via a mail ballot election from Friday, January 24 through Saturday, February 15. **Vote for AFSCME MD, Council 3!**

Visit www.afscmemdsupervisors.org/vote for full voting instructions.



Upcoming Events

Lobby Nights

Mondays during legislative session 5:30PM to 8:00 PM Annapolis, MD RSVP: bit.ly/afscmemonday

Eastern Region Stewards TrainingFebruary 6-7

Salisbury, MD

Western Region Stewards Training

February 27-28 Hagerstown, MD



State Bargaining Update

On Tuesday, December 31, we reached an agreement with the State regarding wages for bargaining units A, B, C, D, F, and H.

Highlights include:

- A 1% cost of living adjustment (COLA) in July 2025
- One step increase that will go into effect in July 2025 or January 2026 depending on your hire date
- No furloughs between January 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026 to cover the rest of this fiscal year and the next — we were the ONLY union to win this!
- A provision regarding Maryland's FAMLI (Family and Medical Leave Insurance) program that states the State will cover all costs, including employee contributions, when they begin.

Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/stateworkerwins to read a summary of our agreement.

