



AFSCME IN ACTION

Member Newsletter | March 2025



Pictured: AFSCME Maryland members and legislator allies pose together before the Support Maryland's Civil Servants Press Conference on Monday, March 24

MESSAGE FROM AFSCME MARYLAND PRES. PATRICK MORAN

It's Time to Fight Back Against Anti-Worker Attacks!

Since January, we have seen an unprecedented number of attacks on working people, our families, retirees, and more from President Trump's administration. From stealing our Social Security data to taking away union rights from thousands of federal employees to shuttering entire agencies, this anti-worker administration is silencing our voices and dividing us — all to profit the billionaires at our expense.

It's up to us to educate our friends, family, and coworkers about this administration's anti-worker agenda and their plans to rob working families to benefit the ultra-wealthy.

I hope you'll join me in fighting back in the following ways:

- Follow the national AFSCME Facebook page for online actions you can take to fight back against what's happening.
- Attend an upcoming rally or action. There are many events happening throughout the DC, Maryland, and Virginia region that we will share more information about as we get it. (There are a few coming up listed in Upcoming Events.)

And remember: there's nothing stronger than the power of our union. The people united will never be defeated.

- AFSCME Maryland Council 3 President Patrick Moran



#AFSCMEinAnnapolis: Almost to the Finish Line!

We're only a week from Sine Die, the last day of Maryland's legislative session! This month, we held a successful press conference and final lobby night in support of Maryland's civil servants, had a great Local Government Lobby Night, and attended the annual Union Night Rally in Annapolis.

It's been a whirlwind session, but thanks to our organizing, we've made significant progress to advance important bills and a state budget that respects the important work that AFSCME members do.

While the final state budget has not yet passed, **both the House and the Senate have advanced versions of the budget that protect already-negotiated salary increases for state employees**, including those who work in many of our state's higher education institutions.

Thank you to everyone who made a call, sent a letter, or advocated with us in Annapolis this session!








Final Legislative Committee Meeting

Join us for our last meeting this session on **Thurs., April 3 at 8 PM on Zoom**.

We'll be discussing the current status of the state budget and our final push to pass our initiatives!



AFSCME Members in Action

-  At the end of February, we had a great Western Maryland Stewards Training in Hagerstown. Congratulations to our latest cohort of union stewards!
-  AFSCME members from Local 44, Local 558, and Local 2202 began bargaining this month with the City of Baltimore. If you're a member of one of these locals, please check your emails for regular bargaining updates.
-  On Friday, March 14, AFSCME members showed up at the Baltimore federal courthouse hearing to challenge Elon Musk's access to our Social Security data.
-  Congratulations to the members of AFSCME Local 1209C who work for the City of College Park on ratifying a new union contract earlier this month!
-  AFSCME members showed up to the Federal Worker Town Hall hosted by the Metro Baltimore AFL-CIO on Thursday, March 20.
-  On Thursday, March 27, AFSCME Local 1899 members showed up to the Howard County Board of Education Meeting to advocate for a budget that respects the essential work they do.
-  Congratulations to the members of Howard County Library Workers United (HCLWU) on reaching a tentative agreement for their first union contract!

Upcoming Events

Webinar: Complying with Maryland's New Heat Stress Regulations

Friday, April 4 at 12 PM

RSVP: bit.ly/042025-heat-webinar

Hands Off! Mass Mobilization & Rally

Saturday, April 5

Locations throughout the country

RSVP: handsoff2025.com

Kill the Cuts National Day of Action

Tuesday, April 8 at 4 PM

Upper Senate Park (Washington, DC)

Learn more: killthecuts.org

Public Safety Summit

Thurs., April 24 through Sat., April 26

Salisbury, MD

View more events on our website.



Member Spotlight: Gaby Perez

As the first point of contact when a customer steps foot inside the library, Gaby Perez takes immense pride in the work she does as a Customer Service Specialist for the Howard County Library System. She's worked for the library system for over 9 years. "I love to see that my work is important to the community. It's so rewarding to see people love to come to the library because we are here for them," says Gaby. **"The library's not just about books; it's about a community."**

Back in the fall of 2023, Gaby and her coworkers at the library system began the process of organizing their union, Howard County Library Workers United (HCLWU). Once they had certified their union, Gaby was chosen to be one of 5 members on their bargaining team to negotiate their first union contract. "At the beginning, I thought unions were primarily about wages and benefits, but when I started learning more, I began to see how unions can help us as staff shape workplace policies and protect workers' rights."

Their organizing paid off, and after direct actions in the workplace and a successful rally outside of the library system's annual Evening in the Stacks fundraiser, HCLWU reached a tentative agreement earlier this month.

Reflecting on their union's journey since then, she credits much of their success to their union's efforts to keep members informed through meetings, email updates, one-on-one conversations, and more. **"Having a strong and united membership makes all the difference at the bargaining table, and I'm very proud of all of the organizing and work that we did,"** says Gaby. "There were ups and downs, and we had to stay patient and engaged, but I think our persistence paid off -- all thanks to the collective power of our union."

