



Pictured: AFSCME Maryland leaders and stewards at a recent state bargaining session.

MESSAGE FROM AFSCME MARYLAND PRES. PATRICK MORAN

Standing Strong Together

Right now, Maryland families are facing growing uncertainty as the federal shutdown threatens the programs and services that keep our communities strong. The strain is being felt in every corner of our state, especially in the public sector where our members work every day, in our health facilities, correctional institutions, libraries, universities, and other vital institutions that serve communities across Maryland.

This moment reminds us why our work and our voices matter. As union members, we have a duty to stand together and ensure that the essential work we do every day is respected and supported.

We have been through tough times before, and we have always come out stronger by standing together.

Our union is in wage negotiations for 26,000 state employees in Bargaining Units A, B, C, D, F, H, and S. We are reminding state leaders that a fair wage proposal is one that allows our members to pay their bills, care for their families, and continue providing the public services Maryland depends on. Our members cannot keep doing more with less, and now more than ever, they need support to keep Maryland running.

No matter what lies ahead, we will continue to stand united for each other, for our families, and for the Maryland communities we proudly serve every day.

- AFSCME Maryland Council 3 President Patrick Moran

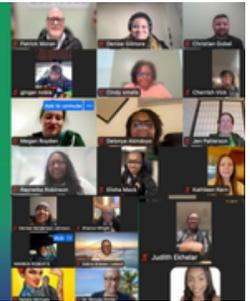
JOIN THE PEOPLE COMMITTEE

If you want to get involved with the PEOPLE Committee, you must be a PEOPLE member!

SIGN UP AT:
[BIT.LY/PEOPLE-COMMITTEE](https://bit.ly/people-committee)



PEOPLE COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP



This month, the PEOPLE Committee met to get updates on the state and federal budget landscape and its impact on our members across local and state governments, school boards, and higher education. We also began reviewing questionnaires and developing recommendations to share with the Council 3 Executive Board. Now more than ever, it's crucial that we hold our elected officials accountable to working people, not billionaires.

Save The Date:

Saturday, December 6th

10:00 AM – Virtual Legislative Kick-Off:
Preview our 2026 legislative priorities, hear from legislators, and practice key skills.

11:00 AM – PEOPLE Committee Meeting:
Join us directly after the kick-off to get involved in the 2026 election cycle.

STATE EMPLOYEES WAGE PETITION

This month, we began annual wage negotiations with the State for employees in bargaining units A, B, C, D, F, H, and S. Take 2 minutes to add your name to our petition to Governor Moore and our state leaders to demand a fair wage proposal!



AFSCME Members in Action

- 🔥 Earlier this month, Locals 227, 1427, 3661, and 3737 met with the Baltimore City House Delegation to discuss staffing and safety challenges in pre-trial and correctional facilities.
- 👊 Local 558 leaders Wendy Smith and Charmanique Gingles joined over 30,000 AFSCME (UNAC/UHCP) members on strike at Kaiser Permanente, standing up for safe staffing, fair pay, and quality care.
- 💚 AFSCME members in DPSCS are conducting a statewide staffing analysis to determine how many more officers are needed to keep facilities safe.
- 📖 This month, Locals 6359 and Local 930 held a stewards training together, strengthening their ability to enforce contracts and protect their fellow co-workers.
- 🏛️ AFSCME Maryland member leaders met with USM Chancellor Jay Perman to raise key workplace issues and ensure members' voices are heard.
- 🏆 Local 44 members Karen Aiken, Victor Butts, and Donald Comegys were honored by the AFRO for their dedication to keeping Baltimore clean and safe.
- 🎉 Congrats to Local 558 member Charmanique Gingles who was appointed by the Governor to the Commission to Study Health Insurance Pooling for bringing frontline nursing experience to the table.
- 🌍 This month, Local 1678 and DPSCS hosted their 2nd Annual Immigrant Heritage Celebration, honoring the cultures and traditions that enrich our workplaces and communities.

Member Spotlight: Kevin Edwards

Local 6368 member Kevin Edwards is a Bus Maintenance Supervisor for the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). He plays a vital role in keeping Marylanders on the move by ensuring buses are repaired, inspected, and operating efficiently.

As a retired military veteran and former federal worker, Kevin has spent over 30 years in public service. **“For me, it’s about making sure people in Maryland have dependable transit,”** Kevin says. **“Being of service and supporting my family — that’s what drives me.”**

Kevin serves as Vice President of Local 6368 and advocates for fair treatment, better wages, and safer working conditions for his coworkers. He knows firsthand the difference being a union member makes. **“Now that state supervisors have a union, management knows we’re here. We want to build a partnership with them that helps resolve issues before they escalate.”**

In addition to his leadership role for his local union, Kevin currently serves on the AFSCME Maryland State Bargaining Team. This year’s negotiations are focused on wages and key economic issues for state employees in bargaining units A, B, C, D, F, H and S. **“It’s powerful to sit alongside so many union stewards and leaders from different departments,”** Kevin says. **“For the first time, supervisors have a seat at the table. We’re being heard and we get to be a voice for workers who’ve never had one before.”**

When asked what others can do to support the fight for fair wages, Kevin keeps it simple. **“Sign the petition demanding a fair wage proposal. This affects your livelihood, your family, and your future.”**



Pictured: AFSCME Local 6368 member Kevin Edwards