



## Walz and Flanagan Win Endorsement

The AFSCME Council 5 Executive Board on Aug. 16 unanimously endorsed Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan for Governor and Lieutenant Governor following their decisive primary victory.

U.S. Rep. Walz is a former teacher and football coach who served for 24 years in the Army National Guard. He's emphasized affordable health care, education and helping veterans. State Rep. Flanagan is a citizen of the White Earth Nation of Ojibwe who is dedicated to helping children and diverse communities.

"Tim and Peggy have strong track records of supporting the rights of workers, allowing us to make life better for ourselves, our families and our communities," says Council 5 executive director John P. Westmoreland. "We are confident they will stand up to the billionaires and other powerful corporate

interests trying to take away our rights and silence our powerful, united voice."

"As a former teacher and member of the National Guard, Tim respects public workers and understands the importance of quality public services," says Council 5 president Judy Wahlberg. "We are thrilled to endorse lawmakers like Tim and Peggy who will represent workers, not just the 1 percent."

"I'm proud to be endorsed by, and stand with, my union sisters and brothers of AFSCME Council 5 to protect workers' rights," says Tim Walz. "As a lifelong educator and proud public sector union member, I understand how important unions are to ensure workers' and their families' rights are protected. This is even more important after the Supreme Court's *Janus* decision earlier this summer. As your next Governor, I will stand with you and fight every day to ensure our unions stay strong in Minnesota."

Watch Action Update and Council 5's Facebook page for opportunities to door knock and phone bank. Find a list of all endorsed candidates at [www.afscmemn.org/vote](http://www.afscmemn.org/vote).

When we work together, we are unstoppable.

## Say "Thanks" to Governor Dayton

Gov. Mark Dayton has been a tireless champion for working Minnesotans and has fought to protect and expand our collective bargaining rights.

You can help thank him by contributing to a video by AFSCME members. Send us a clip of you or a group saying something as simple as "Thanks, Governor Dayton," or share your personal experience or gratitude for his work. You can even have your local make a quick video at your next membership meeting.

Please send videos to [Trisha.Harms@afscmemn.org](mailto:Trisha.Harms@afscmemn.org) or text them to 651-895-0632. The deadline is **Friday, Sept. 7.**

## Federal Workers Win Big in Court

A federal judge struck down part of three Trump executive orders that would have made it easier to fire federal workers and weaken their union representation.

The orders would have limited how much time union officials can spend representing members; made it harder for workers to appeal performance evaluations or show improvement before facing firing; and limited issues that could be collectively bargained.



(Above) Hennepin County locals hold an informational picket, demanding fair wages.

(Left) Local 3937 members, retirees and family celebrate the local's 25th anniversary.

## Missouri Defeats Anti-Worker Law

Voters in Missouri beat back attempts to curb union power by an overwhelming margin of 2-to-1.

They voted down a proposed law on Aug. 7 that would have prohibited private-sector unions from collecting dues from fair-share workers. The U.S. Supreme Court struck down these fees for workers in the public sector in its controversial *Janus* decision.

The measure had passed the Legislature and been signed by

the governor. Union members successfully gathered hundreds of thousands of signatures to force a statewide vote and get the issue before voters, who saw through the attempt by big corporations and wealthy special interests to take away workers' rights.

## Decline in Union Numbers Cuts Pay for All Workers

A new study by the University of Illinois shows that when unions have a strong presence in the workplace, all workers see better paychecks and benefits.

Between 1958 and 2008, the percentage of union members dropped from 35 percent to about 10 percent. Had unions remained as powerful as they were, nonunion workers' career wage growth would have been 3 to 7 percent higher, the report found.

The rich wouldn't have gotten quite as rich, either: During that same time period, the top 10 percent's share of income rose from 35 percent to nearly 50 percent.

## Council 5 is Hiring

AFSCME needs an accounting specialist to join the team. The full-time job is based out of South St. Paul. The deadline to apply is **Friday, Sept. 7 at 4 p.m.** Learn more at [afscmemn.org/accounting-specialist](http://afscmemn.org/accounting-specialist).

## Register for Women's Leadership Academy

There's still time to sign up for the AFSCME Women's Leadership Academy Online. The program helps working women increase their activism and leadership skills, be inspired, and set goals to strengthen their locals. Register at [afscme-data.typeform.com/to/FfbKHb](http://afscme-data.typeform.com/to/FfbKHb).

## Get in on the Action

Action Update comes out every two weeks for locals and activists. Download a copy from [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org) to post on your workplace bulletin board. Share news and events by emailing [Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org](mailto:Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org).

### Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
Council 5 Convention	Sept. 27 to 29	DoubleTree Bloomington Hotel