

## Voters Elect AFSCME-Endorsed Candidates Across the US

Election Day 2019 was a big victory for working families. Across the country, voters elected pro-worker candidates for state and local government, providing further evidence of growing political momentum for working people. Working families elected candidates who support worker rights, greater access to health care, expanding voting rights, making it easier for workers to form unions, providing quality public services and more.

In Minnesota, the overwhelming majority of AFSCME-endorsed candidates won their elections.

- In a critical special election for Ramsey County District 1, AFSCME-endorsed Nicole Joy Frethem defeated former anti-worker legislator Randy Jessup.
- Bloomington elected pro-labor Tim Busse as Mayor and endorsed candidates Jenna Carter, Dwayne Lowman, and Shawn Nelson to the City Council.
- Six of seven endorsed candidates for St. Paul City Council won their elections, including Nelsie Yang, who became the first Hmong woman to serve on the Council.
- In Duluth, Mayor Emily Larson won a second term, and endorsed candidates Janet Kennedy and Arik Forsman were elected to the Duluth City Council.
- All of the endorsed candidates for school board in St. Paul and two of three endorsed candidates in Duluth won their races.

Two notable pro-worker victories outside of Minnesota: Voters in Virginia elected the most pro-worker legislature in a generation, and Kentucky rejected their divisive governor and elected Democrat Andy Beshear, who ran on protecting health care and workers' rights to collectively bargain.

**Hundreds of AFSCME members made these victories possible** through one-on-one conversations with voters and get-out-the-vote campaigns. But the work is far from over – 2020 will be a turning point in our nation's history, and the results of next year's election will impact our workplaces and communities in countless ways. Rest up, members – we've got a lot of work ahead!

### Attend Behavioral Health Summit Nov. 20

America's behavioral health needs are changing, but our system for delivering that care has not kept up. This broken system is failing all of us — professionals, clients and communities — and we are all paying the price. So we are coming together to build a movement address this.

The purpose of our coalition is to unite and advocate for higher standards, better service, and working conditions for all those affected with mental/behavioral health issues. We have joined together to create healthier communities and better outcomes for all.

Join AFSCME at the next United We Heal Behavioral Health Summit on



Duluth Mayor Emily Larson celebrates her reelection with staff, including campaign manager (and AFSCME member) Rachel Loeffler-Kemp.



AFSCME members knocked thousands of doors for Nelsie Yang, who was elected to represent St. Paul's Ward 6.



First-time candidate Jenna Carter celebrates her election to the Bloomington City Council - At Large seat.

Wednesday, Nov. 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the AFSCME Council 5 office (300 Hardman Ave. S., South St. Paul MN, 55075).

Register online and find contact information on our web calendar or at <https://actionnetwork.org/events/unitedwehealnov20>.

### State Bargaining Unit 8 Ratifies Tentative Agreement

After four days of voting at multiple locations, the Unit 8 contract was ratified with an acceptance rate of over ninety (90) percent.

As expected, the “across the board” wage increase aligned with the established pattern, and we won a 2.25 percent increase to wages for each year of the contract, with retro pay back to July 1, 2019. In addition, the new TA includes wage grid modifications to correct pay inequities; starting wages and maximum pay will both increase beginning on January 1, 2020. Additional highlights include an increase to the maximum hours paid to officers injured on duty, and up to four hours paid to officers who must seek medical treatment during or after their shift; no loss of seniority for officers who are absent as a result of on-duty injury during probation; and an increase from seven to 10 allowed shift exchanges per month.

The Unit 8 negotiating team has notified Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB), the Bureau of Mediation Services (BMS) and the Department of Corrections (DOC).

Unit 8 members – keep an eye on MemberLink for new developments as they unfold!

### Local 3532 Ratifies Contract and MOU

The employees at the Walker Methodist Health Center (Local 3532) ratified a new contract that includes a 2.25% wage increase, a wage

boost upon completion of probation, and a perfect attendance incentive for employees. The new contract also codifies members’ rights to receive a New Member Orientation (NMO) from their union on their orientation day.

In addition to the contract, Local 3532 secured an MOU with management clarifying that 401k will be consistent with the current employer match benefit given to all Walker Methodist employees. Getting this benefit in writing is a powerful step toward a secure retirement.

Congratulations on your wins, family!

### Become a Labor Educator at LES

The Labor Education Service (LES) at the University of Minnesota is seeking an educator to join their teaching staff. They’re looking for someone who can lead labor education courses for working adults, design customized curriculum, and coordinate and implement educational programs, often in collaboration with other staff. The position requires teaching expertise using diverse methodologies and effectiveness in relating to a wide variety of worker organizations. Union activists make great candidates! Go to <http://bit.ly/2MRHk5g> and search for job 333036 for a complete description and application process.

### Want to Go Paperless with Action Update?

All our Action Updates are available on the AFSCME Council 5 website (afscmemn.org) in printable PDF form. Do you currently receive paper copies

of Action Update and would like to make a switch to digital-only? Contact Gail Grant at [gail.grant@afscmemn.org](mailto:gail.grant@afscmemn.org).

### Congratulations to AFSCME Council 5’s 2019 Award Winners

Each year at our convention, AFSCME Council 5 presents four annual awards to members who have exhibited outstanding organizing skills in our union.

In line with this year’s convention theme, “Solidarity Forever,” we were thrilled to honor the recipients for their incredible work in building our union and advancing our shared vision for a Minnesota that works for everyone.

#### Here are this year’s honorees:

- Rick Scott Political Activism Award: LaTonya Reeves, Local 552
- Jerry Wurf Organizing Award: St. Stephens Health & Human Services Organizing Committee
- Eliot Seide Communications Award: Barb Laidlaw, Local 701
- Mike Buesing Local Union Development Award: AFSCME Local 66

### Get in on the Action

Action Update comes out every two weeks for locals and activists. Download a copy at [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org). Email [communications@afscmemn.org](mailto:communications@afscmemn.org) with news and events you’d like shared in our next update.

## Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
United We Heal Behavioral Health Summit	November 20	AFSCME Council 5 office (South St. Paul)
East African Workers’ Forum	November 25	Bethany Lutheran Church (Minneapolis)