

# THE AFSCME AGENDA:

## FREEDOM & OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

Unions are needed now more than ever. The rich and powerful have rigged the system against working families, and all that divides us seems greater than what unites us as Americans. But even in tumultuous times, unions promote unity and stability in our communities. When people have the freedom to join together in unions, we have the strength in numbers we need to counter the influence of big money and big corporations on our country. AFSCME fights to promote freedom and opportunity for all working people wherever, and whoever, they are. For public service workers, we negotiate better pay and benefits because fighting for every member's future is a form of respect. We inform people about the issues that keep all working families up at night because informed advocates command respect.

That's how we win better lives for ourselves, our families, our communities and our country. These are the things we will never quit fighting for.

### A VOICE ON THE JOB FOR ALL

Working people deserve the same freedoms as corporate CEOs and millionaires. That means not just making ends meet, but having the ability to take a loved one to the doctor or retire with dignity after a lifetime of hard work. But the rich and powerful are chipping away at the freedoms people in unions have won for us all. To combat this trend, AFSCME supports policies that include expanding collective bargaining rights and establishing a living wage and the rights to paid sick and family leave and equal pay for women.

### HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

Health care is a right, not a privilege. Among other policies, AFSCME supports strengthening the Affordable Care Act to reduce costs and increase access to health care, and opposes any effort to allow insurance companies to discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions. We also support strengthening Medicare and Medicaid so that seniors and the most vulnerable have access to comprehensive, quality care.

### RETIREMENT SECURITY FOR ALL

Anybody who works hard their entire life should look forward to retiring with dignity. But when it comes to retirement security, too many retirees are stuck in a race to the bottom as 401(k) plans have replaced guaranteed pensions. AFSCME supports policies that break this spiral, including promoting well-funded pensions, consumer protections against high fee Wall Street 401(k) retirement funds and protecting and enhancing Social Security.

### QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES FOR ALL

Public service isn't just a job, it's a calling. Unfortunately, even as AFSCME members are working to improve our communities, special interests are lobbying to rob our neighborhoods of the resources needed for high-quality public services. Among the policies AFSCME supports are fully-funded, quality public services, ending reckless privatization schemes that let corporations take control of public services from taxpayers and making sure the wealthy pay their fair share to fund public services for all.

### DEMOCRACY FOR ALL

Labor rights are civil rights. From Dr. King's march with striking sanitation workers in 1968 to AFSCME's involvement in today's civil rights movement, AFSCME is committed to policies that promote social justice, make it easier – not harder – to vote and end the poisonous influence of billionaires and corporate special interests in our political system.