

# Austin Works

AFSCME Local 1624 | 1812 CENTRE CREEK DR., #310, AUSTIN, TX 78754  
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OCTOBER 2022

## When You Vote with AFSCME, You Win

Krissy O'Brien, Local 1624 Organizer

Elections matter. We are happy to report that the City and County budgets both include the biggest investment in our public employees to date! You have earned this and much more, but it wouldn't have happened without our allies on the County Commissioners Court and City Council.

### Travis County Budget

The preliminary budget showed a \$28 million investment in employees. But as a result of our advocacy, a record \$48 million is now allocated to employee compensation. Thank you, Local 1624 members who showed up at the budget hearings to testify and stand with your union.

### City of Austin Budget

As a result of the City Council resolution we pushed through, which called upon the city manager to reinvest in City employees, the City is also making a record-breaking investment in its workforce: \$51.8 million has been allocated to wage increases for FY '23. This includes \$35.2 million for an across-the-board increase of 4%, \$16.0 million for bumping the living wage from \$15 to \$20 per hour with pay adjustments to address compression, and \$0.6 million for expanding Service Incentive Pay. Funds

for a one-time stipend of \$1,500 per eligible employee are also included.

### Get Involved

These wins would not have been possible without our political allies, many of whom benefited from our endorsement and campaign assistance. We cannot forget how important our role in the political process is.

VOTE PAC contributors met in August to screen candidates on the ballot for the upcoming election in November and voted to recommend those who we believe will prioritize public employees. There is a lot to consider when recommending endorsement: candidates' experience, qualifications, history of working with us, record on issues important to our members, trustworthiness, and campaign viability. We often

call upon our mayor and City Council members to improve safety protocols and working conditions and enhance pay and benefits. Our goal is to secure wins for candidates who will not only support our positions but will also identify viable solutions and deliver results.

In the coming weeks, you will receive texts from us with information about the November election and ways we can help labor-endorsed candidates win. We will block walk and attend campaign events throughout October until election day—because when we show up for them, they show up for us. Contact me at (512) 350-8498 to get involved.

I cannot stress this enough: We will have to call upon our mayor and City council members in the coming years, and it is up to us to ensure they will be allies.

# ELECTION 2022





# VOTER GUIDE 2022



*Your vote matters. Vote with your union!*

## U.S. House of Representatives

- Claudia Zapata** for Congressional District 21
- Greg Casar** for Congressional District 35
- Lloyd Doggett** for Congressional District 37

## State Senate

- Sarah Eckhardt** for Senate District 14
- Judith Zaffirini** for Senate District 21

## State House of Representatives

- Erin Zwiener** for House District 45
- Sheryl Cole** for House District 46
- Vikki Goodwin** for House District 47
- Donna Howard** for House District 48
- Gina Hinojosa** for House District 49
- Maria Luisa "Lulu" Flores** for House District 51
- James Talerico** for House District 50
- John Bucy** for House District 136



Local 1624 members rally with City Council members Aug. 18 after Council approves the \$20 living wage amendment.

## Austin City Council

- Kirk Watson** for Mayor
- Natasha Harper-Madison** for City Council District 1
- José Velásquez** for City Council District 3
- Ken Craig** for City Council District 5
- Paige Ellis** for City Council District 8
- Linda Guerrero** for City Council District 9

## Travis County

- Andy Brown** for Travis County Judge
- Laurie Eiserloh** for Judge, 455<sup>th</sup> Civil District Court
- Dyana Limon-Mercado** for County Clerk

## Courts

- Rosa Lopez Theofanis** for 3<sup>rd</sup> Court of Appeals, Place 4
- Randall Slagle** for Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2

**ELECTION DAY**  
**Tuesday, November 8**

**VOTE EARLY**  
**October 24–November 4**

# Member Spotlight



AFSCME members gather at Parque Zaragoza on March 26 to celebrate the legacy of César Chávez and hear the announcement of Local 1624's "\$22 in '22" living wage campaign.

members and calls to action. Members shared with Council their stories of struggling to survive amid increasing demands at work and an historic rise in the cost of living in Austin and surrounding areas.

Directed by City Council to respond to our demands, the city manager proposed increasing the living wage to \$18 per hour. We pushed back against this proposal and succeeded in getting it increased to \$20 per hour, thanks to our members who called and wrote to City Council members and showed up at public hearings.

This month, Local 1624 was featured on the AFSCME International blog for winning the fight to increase the City of Austin's living wage from \$15 to \$20 per hour.

Joined by City Council members and community leaders, Local 1624 announced our "\$22 in '22" living wage campaign at Parque Zaragoza on March 26 at the César Chávez March & Day of Action. As reported by AFSCME International, "It was AFSCME Local 1624 (Texas) members who used their voices to set the precedence for this \$22 hourly wage goal for municipal employees."

What followed was months of discussions with City Council

"This living wage victory continues to spotlight why it's beneficial to join AFSCME," Robert Middleton, Public Works technician, said to AFSCME International. "A lot of times we have people who want to speak but don't know how. [AFSCME] organized and made our voices heard ... it's worth it."

## Let's gather...

*We are thrilled to announce our first post-pandemic in-person holiday party!*

- \* Live music by Suede
- \* Dinner and dancing
- \* Door prizes



## Save the date!

*Friday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m.  
Balcones Country Club  
8600 Balcones Club Dr.  
Austin, TX 78750*

*RSVP to [info@afscme1624.org](mailto:info@afscme1624.org) or  
(512) 477-5544*




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**VOTER GUIDE ENCLOSED**

**VOTE EARLY**

**GENERAL ELECTION**

**Tuesday, November 8, 2022**

*Early Voting: October 24 – November 4*

Find polling locations at **[VoteTravis.com](https://www.vote-travis.com)**.