

AFSCME WORKS



THE GREEN MACHINE NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

Meet Our New President: Brydan Summers

AFSCME 1624 has a new leader at the helm! **Brydan Summers** — a longtime union advocate, City of Austin employee, and former VP — is now serving as President. A graduate of the Texas AFL-CIO Labor School, Brydan's ready to fight for fair pay, telework rights, safer worksites, and a stronger voice for all of us.



DEAR AFSCME 1624 MEMBER,

THE FIGHT OF AFSCME 1624 IS THE FIGHT FOR FAIRNESS, DIGNITY, AND SECURITY FOR ALL WORKERS. AS YOUR NEW PRESIDENT, THAT MISSION WILL GUIDE EVERYTHING I DO.

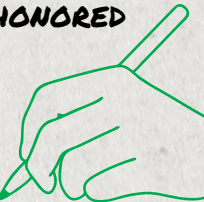
I WANT TO THANK THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR THEIR CONFIDENCE IN ME—AND THANK YOU, OUR MEMBERS, FOR THE WORK YOU DO EVERY DAY TO SERVE AUSTIN AND TRAVIS COUNTY.

THIS WORK IS PERSONAL. MY WIFE AND I ARE BOTH CITY EMPLOYEES AND AFSCME MEMBERS. LIKE YOU, WE DEPEND ON THE UNION TO STAND UP FOR OUR PAY AND WORKING CONDITIONS—AND FOR THE STABILITY OUR FAMILY NEEDS. I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU ABOUT YOUR PRIORITIES AND HELP ENSURE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD.

AS WE APPROACH 5,000 MEMBERS, I'M COMMITTED TO GROWING OUR UNION'S CAPACITY, EXPANDING ORGANIZING SUPPORT AT THE DEPARTMENT LEVEL, AND MAKING OUR MEETINGS MORE ACCESSIBLE AND IMPACTFUL. WE'LL KEEP BUILDING A UNION THAT REFLECTS YOUR NEEDS AND DELIVERS REAL RESULTS.

WE ORGANIZE FOR BETTER WAGES, BETTER BENEFITS, AND A BETTER FUTURE—NOT JUST FOR OURSELVES, BUT FOR EACH OTHER. I'M HONORED TO BE IN THIS FIGHT WITH YOU.

IN SOLIDARITY,
BRYDAN SUMMERS
PRESIDENT, AFSCME LOCAL 1624



Closing In on 5,000 Members: Our Union Is Growing

We're nearing a major milestone: 5,000 strong. Through a powerful combination of member-to-member organizing, strategic worksite visits, personal postcard outreach, and a revamped digital ad campaign, AFSCME 1624 is growing our ranks like never before. Every new member makes us stronger — together, we're building a movement that can't be ignored.



AFSCME Fights Back Against DOGE Cuts

At the national level, AFSCME is standing shoulder to shoulder with our siblings in labor, battling the fallout from DOGE cuts that stripped away critical rights from federal and public service workers. With over 70+ lawsuits filed, AFSCME is leading the charge to restore what was unjustly taken. Workers deserve dignity — and AFSCME isn't backing down.



Budget Season Is Here: We're Ready to Fight for Fair Pay



It's that time again. Budget talks are heating up, and both the City and County are tightening their belts.

AFSCME 1624 is gearing up for a united push to make sure pay raises are fair and equitable for all. In the past, across-the-board COLAs have been the go-to — but we know a flat percentage doesn't always equal fairness. **This year, we're exploring smarter, more progressive raise options that put real money in workers' pockets — especially for those who need it most.**

We'll be organizing employee speak outs — June 3 (Travis County) and July 23 & 31 (City of Austin) — along with community meetings in council districts. We're calling on decision-makers to respect our labor, invest in public service, and pay us what we're worth.

We will be heard — and we need you with us.



Showing Up Strong at the African American Heritage Network & Health Fair

AFSCME 1624 was proud to table and connect with City of Austin employees at this year's African American Heritage Network & Health Fair. Our team showed up with union swag, campaign updates, and a message of solidarity and empowerment. We believe in showing up for our community — and we'll always meet workers where they are.





AFSCME Member Shines at Texas Labor School

Shoutout to Juany Torres, who is currently participating in the prestigious Texas AFL-CIO Ruth Ellinger Labor Leader Academy. From in-depth union education to hands-on organizing and advocacy training, Juanny is gaining tools to become an even stronger leader. She recently volunteered at the Texas AFL-CIO Citizenship Clinic, helping union siblings navigate the path to permanent residency and citizenship. ¡Orgullo y poder!



“Being part of the Ruth Ellinger Labor Leader Academy has helped me feel more connected — not just to our own union, but to the entire labor movement. Learning our history and building relationships with other union siblings reminds me that we’re strongest when we stand together.”

-Juany Torres

New Leadership Appointments Strengthen Our Union

AFSCME 1624 is building our leadership bench with strong, committed members stepping into key roles:

- **Brydan Summers** – Union President & Trustee, Central Labor Council Trustee
- **Ashlee Kraus** – Recording Secretary
- **Juanny Torres** – AFSCME Delegate, Central Labor Council
- **Braden Latham Jones** – AFSCME Delegate, Central Labor Council
- **Ben Suddaby** – Trustee, Central Labor Council

MEMBERS IN ACTION



Writing for Workers: Over 500 Handwritten Union Postcards Sent!

On a sunny Saturday afternoon at Austin Beerworks, union members gathered for “Writing for Workers” — a relaxed, powerful postcard party. With cold drinks, good company, and a mission to spread the word, we hand-wrote over 500 postcards to non-member coworkers across the City and County. One message rang loud and clear: AFSCME 1624 is here for you — join the movement.





AFSCME Local 1624
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This Isn't Just a Newsletter — It's a Snapshot of Our Strength.

Union Shows Up to Defend Public Health




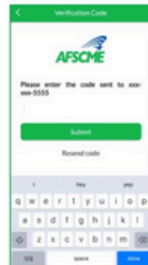
AFSCME 1624 members rallied at City Hall to stand with Austin Public Health workers as \$22 million in federal cuts threaten vital services and frontline jobs. From the steps to the Council chambers, members shared powerful stories and reminded city leaders that public service isn't expendable — it's the backbone of our community. As we continue to monitor the ongoing RIF process, our union's priority is ensuring all procedures are followed and that impacted workers are treated with dignity and respect every step of the way.



Have You Activated Your Digital Union Card Yet? Take 2 mins.



Download Your Digital AFSCME Card!

- 1 Download the app using the QR codes here:

Android

Apple
- 2 Open the app and fill out the form with your information:

- 3 You will receive an authorization code via text or email - input the code you received in the box provided:

- 4 Your digital card is now ready for you to use!
