

# AFSCME WORKS



THE GREEN MACHINE NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2025

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, BRYDAN SUMMERS

Hello AFSCME Local 1624,

I am so proud of our union in this critical time for city and county workers. Your commitment to each other and our community is a shining example in uncertain times. Our resilience and resourcefulness have meant we aren't just holding strong; we're expanding our power.

We are facing serious issues at the federal, state, and local level. City and county funding is under attack. Undocumented members of our community are being targeted. Even our basic right to representative democracy is threatened in service of hostile politicians and their lackeys.

But collectively, we continue to rise to the occasion. I want to thank the members that have been bringing our voice to budget deliberations. Thank you to those that are organizing within AFSCME to grow and protect our union. Thank you to members showing up to rally and testify against congressional redistricting.

It has been my focus to improve our operations so that when we face these kinds of challenges, we are ready to fight. But it is the work of our members that makes it possible. We won't be backing down, we will be moving forward. Together we will win the future that our members and their families deserve.

-Brydan Summers  
President

## Members Represent at the Texas AFL-CIO Convention

AFSCME 1624 members made a strong showing at this year's Texas AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention, standing up for workers' rights and advancing bold new initiatives.

Member Juany Torres successfully passed resolutions — first at the Austin Central Labor Council and then at the state convention — that call on unions across Texas to create Immigration and Workforce Justice Committees. These committees will work to ensure that worksites protect due process, First Amendment rights, and DACA workers. Contact us [info@afscme1624.org](mailto:info@afscme1624.org) if you want to get more involved.

We're also proud to share that AFSCME 1624 was honored with the award for Best Newsletter in Texas among all local unions.



# Fighting Back Against Rigged Redistricting Maps

AFSCME members are on the frontlines in the fight against Texas' corrupt redistricting process. Our union joined rallies and public hearings in Austin, Houston, and to oppose gerrymandered maps designed to silence working people.

AFSCME 1624 will continue to stand with working families and our labor allies to demand fair maps and protect our democracy.



## Family Day at Volente Beach



What a day to remember! Our annual AFSCME 1624 Family Day at Volente Beach was a huge success, thanks to the hard work of our Social Committee.

AFSCME families came together to beat the Texas heat, splash in the water, and share a day of laughter and community. Events like these remind us why we do the work we do—for our families, for each other, and for the joy of building a union that celebrates life outside of work.



## Solidarity in Action: Supporting Brother Ben Ray After the Floods

When devastating floods hit Liberty Hill, AFSCME 1624 member Ben Ray and his family were forced to evacuate as rising waters damaged their home, cars, and property. Thankfully, they made it out safely.

A fellow member reached out to alert us, and without hesitation, union leaders got in the car to check on Ben and his family. We were able to connect him with Texas AFL-CIO disaster relief resources to help with recovery.

With the help of family, friends, and his community, Ben has already begun the long process of cleanup and rebuilding. His resilience — and the solidarity shown by those around him — reminds us what our union is all about: standing together when it matters most.





# Celebrating Our 2025 AFSCME 1624 Scholarship Winners



AFSCME Local 1624 is proud to continue our long-standing tradition of supporting the next generation of leaders through our annual scholarship program. Each year, we provide financial assistance to help the children of our members pursue their dreams of higher education. This year, we are excited to award six \$1,500 scholarships to outstanding students whose hard work, dedication, and commitment to their communities embody the values of our union.

Congratulations to our 2025 scholarship recipients! Your AFSCME family is proud of you and can't wait to see all that you accomplish.



***From left to right: Ian Rowan, Evalinn Nichole Marquez, Fox Redmond, Anya-Rose Hannah, Uszee McKoy. Not pictured: Zoe Grames***

## AFSCME 1624 Celebrates Juneteenth in Austin & Travis County

AFSCME 1624 members showed up strong this year to honor Juneteenth at both the City of Austin Parade and the Travis County Juneteenth Jubilee.

On parade day, we marched alongside our community, honoring the legacy of freedom and recommitting to the fight for justice and dignity for all workers. From the streets to the worksites, our union carries the movement forward every day.

The celebration continued the next day at Travis County's Juneteenth Jubilee, where members connected with workers, community members, and allies — strengthening the bonds that fuel our fight for equity and fairness.

AFSCME 1624 is proud to stand in solidarity, not just in words, but in action — because when we show up, we make a difference.







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

## Carol Guthrie Joins the Texas Labor Management Hall of Fame!

On July 18, 2025, we proudly celebrated Carol Guthrie, AFSCME Local 1624's Business Manager, as she was inducted into the Texas Labor Management Conference Hall of Fame.

Carol has spent more than four decades fighting for public service workers and shaping the future of labor in Austin and Travis County. As the first female Business Manager of our local, she has broken barriers in spaces where women's leadership was often overlooked — proving through grit, intelligence, and fairness that she belongs at the table.

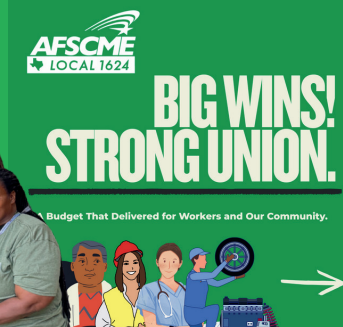
Congratulations, Carol — your union family is so proud!



## Big Wins at City Hall — Next Stop TRE

The FY2025-26 City of Austin budget is passed — and the Tax Rate Election is officially headed to Austin voters! After months of deep conversations and organizing, AFSCME 1624 helped secure:

- Fair raises for City workers
- Bad weather pay
- One-time \$500 stipend for workers ineligible for telework
- \$9M to stabilize future COLAs
- Funding for critical public health programs
- Support for key community services
- +More



This was a huge effort by our union — and we appreciate every member who worked to get it across the finish line. Now we push for raises at Travis County (Aug. 26) and to win the TRE in November. When workers rise, Austin rises with us.