

TOGETHER WE RISE: United We Bargain/Divided We Beg

Everyone knows someone who works a low-wage, non-union job. Poor health insurance, no job security, and no way to afford a vacation. These jobs save money for corporations, but they cost workers a lot.

Workers have power to fight for good jobs by coming together in a union. That's why states like Washington, where unions are strong, have higher wages than states where unions are weak.

But not everyone is a fan of worker power. Corporate bullies work to give unions a bad name, and the politicians who serve them aim to make workers weak across the nation. If they succeed, policies could come into effect that would make it harder for workers to exercise their power as a group, and harder to bargain for those higher wages and benefits. That's why it's more important than ever that we keep our union strong. With a strong union, we can:

- Keep fighting for the best wages and benefits
- Keep calling for safe working conditions, fairness, and dignity
- Keep standing together against attacks on our communities

To fortify our union, members have been talking to members in the workplace and at their homes. Since July, we've had 1661 members sign commitment cards—pledging to protect our house by standing with our union. We also have 224 new commitments to contribute to the Worker Power Fund—our shared fund for political action.



"Workers have power when we come together, and our union is a tool for using that power. That's why I take time to talk to other members about our union. The more we connect with each other, the better we can protect our wages and benefits, and provide the best foundation for our families."
— Lalesa Gurmessa, SEIU6 Janitor

Thank you to our member leaders who came out to talk about our union!

Lalesa Gurmessa Rob Costie
Edin Djodic Gneet Abebe
Brian Dubick LuLu Carrillo
Mimi Culcleasure Heather Giaudrone

GET INVOLVED: We need strong voices to keep these conversations going! If you can help, contact your union rep!

Union Working Toward Smooth Transition for Airport Janitors

Airport janitors are awaiting news on which companies the Port of Seattle will choose to contract with for SeaTac janitorial services. Our union has made it clear to the Port that we want our workers' lives—including their schedules—to be disrupted as little as possible when this change occurs. We expect to hear the Port's decision very soon, and in the meantime, we're working to oversee a smooth transition. Elsa Ogbe, the SEIU6 Airport Coordinator urges janitors to contact her at 206-619-9105 for the latest info.



SEIU6 Active Retirees Enjoy a Visit from Seattle's Raging Grannies

The SEIU6 Active Retirees enjoyed songs and conversation from the political activist group, The Raging Grannies. The Grannies, who are known to lend their clever and incisive voices to social justice causes around the nation, sang several hits from their songbook on topics such as budget cuts, environmental justice, and the minimum wage.

The SEIU6 Active Retirees are a politically active social group that meet once a month to discuss politics and to organize their support for local movements. "It's a unique group of people who, even after retirement, are willing to participate in actions for local labor issues," said Bruce Berkbigler, the group's president. Each meeting features 1-2 critical topics for discussion, and a potluck—folks are welcome, but not required, to bring something to share.

Are you a retired member of SEIU6? Come join the Active Retirees!

SEIU6 Active Retirees Meetings

First Thursday of Every Month - 12pm to 2pm
3720 Airport Way S

Questions? Call our union hall! 206-448-7348

SEIU Disaster Relief Fund

As part of SEIU, our union is over 2 million strong. We have the power to contribute directly to our sisters and brothers in Puerto Rico, Texas, and Florida, who are rebuilding after hurricanes, as well as those in California impacted by wildfires. To contribute to the SEIU Disaster Relief Fund, follow the link below. Let's use our strength in numbers!



Worker-Friendly Candidates on the Ballot for Port Commission

Port of Seattle Commissioners are elected officials who set policies that impact jobs at the airport. That's why it's important for our union to support candidates who pledge to keep our jobs strong and to do what's best for working people—not just help corporations make money. Recently, Port Commissioner Candidate Ryan Calkins met with our union members at SeaTac to talk about workers' interests. We're endorsing Calkins, Ahmed Abdi, and Preeti Shridhar in the General Election on November 7. Elected officials at the airport can affect our work there in many ways so it is important that we choose candidates that will make politics work for us.

SEIU6 November Endorsements

The next General Election is November 7—your ballot should be arriving in the mail soon! The SEIU6 Political Opportunity Committee has met with many candidates to find those who will pledge to stand up for workers.

Here are our recommendations:

GENERAL ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS

Port of Seattle Ryan Calkins, Position 1 Ahmed Abdi, Position 3 Preeti Shridhar, Position 4	Seattle Mayor Cary Moon	Kent City Council Satwinder Kaur Tye Whitfield
Bellevue City Council Karol Brown	Seattle City Council Position 8 Teresa Mosqueda	Tukwila City Council Zak Idan De'Sean Quinn
Burien City Council Pedro Olguin Krystal Marx Jimmy Matta Nancy Tosta	Seattle City Council Position 9 Lorena González	Des Moines City Council Chad Harper Anthony Martinelli
SeaTac City Council Kathryn Campbell	State Senate 37th Legislative District Rebecca Saldaña	Federal Way City Council Jesse Johnson
Renton City Council Ruth Pérez Diane Dobson	State Senate 45th Legislative District Manka Dhingra	Auburn City Council Larry Brown
	King County Executive Dow Constantine	Spokane City Council Kate Burke Breean Beggs
	King County Council Dave Upthegrove	
	King County Sheriff John Urquhart	

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Word from Our Union

RESISTING DIVIDE-AND-CONQUER

A Message from Our President, Sergio Salinas

Divide and conquer politics are used too often these days—with the goal of keeping American workers separate, and fighting each other over employers' table scraps. When politicians target groups like immigrants, they make one group vulnerable in order to keep wages down for all.

But workers know that when we come together, we raise the standard of living for everyone. That's why we act when we see our sisters and brothers in trouble, such as those rebuilding from hurricanes in Puerto Rico, Texas, and Florida. And it's why we act when we see attacks on our immigrant brothers and sisters, such as those threatened by the end of DACA, TPS, and assaults on sanctuary cities.

The City of Burien became a sanctuary city earlier this year, choosing to prohibit city employees from asking residents about their immigration status. It was a move to ease the threat of separation that some immigrant families face. When a group tried to end Burien's sanctuary city status, our union, together with a coalition, successfully fought back the attack.

When we stand together, workers and communities united, we are able to secure real, positive changes that affect the lives of real workers here in Washington. A great example of our united power is Initiative 1433, the statewide ballot initiative that increased the state minimum wage and ensures paid sick and safe leave for workers.

The new law, which begins January 1, 2018, will allow more than 1 million workers access to 40 hours of paid leave each year to take care of themselves or family members when they are sick or facing crisis. I am very proud of our union, SEIU6, for leading on these efforts and raising the standards for workers—first in SeaTac, then Seattle, and now the entire state. Watch for our next newsletter for more info on how you and your family can benefit from the state's new sick leave law.

—Sergio Salinas, SEIU6 President

JANITORS VOTE UNION AT SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

When We Fight, We Win!



WFF Janitors speak out during the 2017 Justice 4 Janitors March & Rally. The group came together for a safer workplace, affordable healthcare, and a path to pay raises.

Janitors who clean the office buildings at Seattle University just voted YES to joining our union. This group of workers was non-union for over ten years, until they came together this summer and decided to fight for better wages, better healthcare, and a safe workplace.

The next step for the WFF janitors is to negotiate their work contract. In coming together over the past several months, these workers have formed a strong bond and found their voice. They've elected a bargaining committee to represent them in negotiations with their employer, and they're ready to fight for better jobs and better lives for their families. Justice for Janitors!

Our union is social!

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Word from Our Union

SECURITY OFFICERS GET READY FOR BARGAINING

SECURITY OFFICERS, we are months away from our contracts expiring, and we'll start bargaining at the start of the New Year.

Many of you gave us your input on what you need your job to provide for your family, and right now, we're compiling those results.

We're aiming to have our bargaining goals defined by November. It's time to gear up for the fight!

Security Bargaining Prep Meeting

October 28
12pm - 2pm

SEIU6
3720 Airport Way S

- ▶ Go over survey results
- ▶ Plan next steps in our contract fight
- ▶ Halloween Grab Bags to take home for the kids! (Or to enjoy yourself...)



Officer Yasmeen compiling surveys, ready to #StandForSecurity!

This is your union!

If you have any questions or comments, please e-mail Fred Prockiw at fprockiw@seiu6.org