

The Power of the People

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT, ZENIA JAVALERA

Dear Union Family,

In recent weeks, we've seen heartbreaking mass shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde. We've seen the Supreme Court severely curtail a woman's right to decide whether and when to grow her family. We see the cost of living stretching families to the limit. It's no wonder that workers are banding together in unions with a fervor not seen in decades. Workers need each other, to hold our bosses accountable, to demand good government from our leaders, and to create the urgent changes we need.

Back in December, baristas at a Starbucks in Buffalo, NY voted to form a union. By March, the Starbucks on Denny Way in Seattle became the 7th in the nation and first on the West Coast. As I write this, there are 170 unionized Starbucks—and growing.

In April, workers at an Amazon warehouse in Staten Island voted to form a union, the first in the nation. Two best friends, Chris Smalls and Derrick Palmer, signed union cards at a bus stop, creating community among workers, and winning the vote by a wide margin.

These wins are happening despite full blown union busting. Starbucks is firing union leaders. Howard Schultz, the billionaire former CEO, came out of retirement amidst the union drive. Amazon spent more than \$4 million trying to crush warehouse organizing. Their tactics are expensive. And workers aren't buying it.

Right here at SEIU6, security officers spent weeks pressuring companies to step up at the bargaining table. Officers rallied, told their stories online, spoke out on TV news, and talked to their coworkers about the urgent need for higher wages, better benefits, and the need to curtail mandatory overtime. The SEIU6 security bargaining team made sure our members' voices be heard. As we celebrate this win, we won't slow down, because the contract fight at the airport is next.

Earlier this week, Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in to the Supreme Court. Justice Brown's stellar qualifications and strong character have left us inspired. Her years as a public defender signals knowledge with the struggles of working people that is only too rare among her colleagues. Seeing a working mom and Black woman whose exemplary service paved a path to the nation's highest court is a reminder of what our democracy can do.

We've got a lot of work ahead. Let's keep our wins close to our hearts, and keep going.

In Solidarity,
Zenja Javalera
President, SEIU6

Security Officers Ratify Strong New Contract, Raising Wages and Limiting Mandatory Overtime

Officers Vote to Ratify Strong New Contract

SEATTLE— On Friday, June 17, SEIU6 security officers voted overwhelmingly to ratify a new contract that will cover over 4,000 officers working in King County for the next 3 years.



The new contract includes the strongest annual wage increases ever won by this bargaining unit, increased paid time off including the Juneteenth holiday, faster vacation accrual rates, increased employer-paid healthcare premiums, and protections against mandatory overtime.

Overall, the contract is expected to bring an additional \$22 million in wages and benefits to union security officers over the next 3 years.

Security officers, who've seen their industry grow and their responsibilities increase since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, focused on winning wage increases in order to relieve staffing shortages and to retain experienced officers. The new contract puts limits on companies' ability to force officers to work overtime holdover shifts.

"The pandemic has been hard on security officers. We were left out of essential pay, and many officers had to quit for health reasons or fear of getting sick. We've dealt with staffing issues, with a lot of folks working mandatory overtime. We knew we had to address these issues going in, and I'm happy to say we did. Officers voted to approve this contract because our bargaining team listened to its members." — Demetrus Dugar, SEIU6 Executive Board Member and Security Officer

Sea-Tac Airport Workers Demand Full Time Hours as Travel Surges



On Friday, June 17th, passenger service workers at Sea-Tac Airport launched their campaign for their first new contract since COVID disrupted the air travel industry. Wheelchair agents, cabin cleaners, baggage handlers, and other passenger service workers are uniting to stabilize their jobs after mass layoffs and reductions in hours.

"Many of my coworkers want to work full time but companies do not schedule them full time. The employers expect full availability from workers and even require mandatory holdovers. But how can workers take care of our families with unpredictable schedules and short paychecks? Even Sea-Tac is getting too expensive and airport workers are moving further out." —Saba Belachew, SEIU6 Executive Board Member & SeaTac Airport Worker

Sea-Tac passenger service workers have provided vital services on the frontlines of a global pandemic—all while having inadequate sick days and health insurance. A recent SEIU6 survey revealed 33% of passenger service workers are on Medicaid and another 27% are uninsured. Over 400 passenger service workers will go into bargaining for full time hours and better benefits as air travel rebounds and ticket prices soar.

"It gives the appearance of a two-tiered system, with predominately immigrants and people of color doing essential work for these contractors who don't provide secure schedules or adequate benefits, and the airlines just looking away. Luckily, this is the group of workers who won the nation's first \$15 an hour minimum wage, so they know how to band together and demand more." —SEIU6 President Zenia Javalera

Janitors Unite to Restore Cut Hours at Starbucks

Temesgen recalls the night that the site supervisor came and told the night shift janitors that their hours would be cut. It was early in the pandemic, just over 2 yrs ago.

At the time, it seemed reasonable, and the site supervisor made it clear that the decision had come from above.

Then the night shift janitors learned that the dayshift janitors, who were under the same contract, had not lost any hours at all. When they questioned management, they couldn't get a straight answer.

Night shift janitors were working the same workload as before, but on reduced hours. Their frustration grew. Then workers began returning to their offices, and their workloads intensified, making it harder for them to finish their work without injuring their bodies. They started skipping lunches just to try to finish their routes. Some janitors quit, creating a staffing shortage, too. Some janitors were doing the work of two people and multiple floors on reduced hours.

Shop Steward Temesgen explains: "We reached a point where the workers had enough and we needed our voice to be heard."

They reached out to Brenda, their union organizer.

"I am so proud of my co-workers because we gave up our lunches to meet up with our union representatives to find a solution. We meant business," Temesgen said. SEIU6 Organizer Brenda spoke to each worker at the site and compiled a signed letter to management detailing the issue.

After weeks of meeting with management and waiting for a response, the night shift janitors won back 8 hour days, effective April 1st. After having reached their goal, the group realized there were other underlying issues at the worksite that needed to be addressed. So they kept organizing. They set a labor management meeting to discuss issues like changes in management, that created confusion on who to report to.

Temesgen and her co-workers attended the meeting with management to discuss these issues. By the end of the meeting, management agreed to the following:

- To establish a monthly labor management meeting to address workplace issues
- For the company to hire more janitors to help alleviate heavy workloads
- For management to respect janitors, who deserve respect in their workplace

"To us it was not about just resolving issues but also building the right foundation so we can have happy workers at the site," Temesgen said.



Justice for Cholly Elope: Airport Workers Petition for Safe Crosswalks in City of SeaTac Workers gear up for the Next Contract Fight at SeaTac



Beloved SEIU6 member Cholly Elope was killed in a hit and run on the night of February 28th, 2022, in the City of SeaTac. She was a mother, a grandmother and a respected union member. Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences are with her family.

The incident took place at the intersection of International Blvd and S 182nd Street at a crosswalk that many airport workers use when commuting to work everyday. Airport workers have reported that this intersection has issues with lighting, visibility, and cross times.

In response, SEIU6 Airport Workers United made a petition in honor of Cholly, making two demands to the City of SeaTac. The first is for the city to immediately take all necessary steps to improve this intersection for worker and public safety. The second is to place a memorial at this intersection to honor the life of Cholly Elope, and to signal the city's commitment to keeping our community safe.

Within the last two months, Airport Workers United collected over 300 signatures which were presented to SeaTac City Council during their monthly meeting. Airport worker Celso Angeles spoke on the importance of pedestrian and worker safety as well as honoring the memory of Cholly.

In response, SeaTac passed a motion to enact the SeaTac Road Safety Plan. The plan would launch a study on the intersections where accidents frequently happen and find ways to make them safer for pedestrians and drivers.

Cholly Elope story in King 5 News

SEIU6 August Primary Endorsements

The SEIU6 Political Committee recommends the following endorsements, approved by the SEIU6 Executive Board. Ballots will be mailed by July 15, 2022. Ballots are due by August 2, 2022. Voter information, including how to register and where to return your ballot.

FEDERAL

United States Senator Patty Murray
US Representatives
Congressional District 1 Suzan DelBene
Congressional District 2 Rick Larsen
Congressional District 7 Pramila Jayapal
Congressional District 8 Kim Schrier
Congressional District 9 Adam Smith
Congressional District 10 Marilyn Strickland
STATE
Legislative District 3
State Representative Marcus Riccelli
State Representative Timm Ormsby
Legislative District 5
State Representative Position 1 Bill Ramos
Legislative District 10
State Senator Dave Paul
Legislative District 11
State Representative Position 1 David Hackney
State Representative Position 2 Steve Bergquist
Legislative District 21
State Senator Marko Lillas
State Representative Position 1 Strom Peterson
State Representative Position 2 Lillian Ortiz-Self
Legislative District 22
Beth Doglio Position 1
Legislative District 23
State Representative Position 1 Tarra Simmons
Legislative District 26
State Senator Emily Randall

Legislative District 27
State Senator Yasmin Trudeau
State Representative Position 1 Laurie Jenkins
State Representative Position 2 Jake Fey
Legislative District 28
State Representative Mary Leavitt Position 1
State Representative Dan Bronoske
Legislative District 29
State Representative Position 1 Melanie Morgan
State Representative Position 2 Sharlett Mena
Legislative District 30
State Senator Claire Wilson
State Representative Position 1 Jamila Taylor
State Representative Position 2 Kristine Reeves
Legislative District 32
State Representative Position 1 Cindy Ryu
Legislative District 33
State Senator Karen Keiser
State Representative Position 1 Tina Orwall
State Representative Position 2 Mia Su-Ling Gregerson
Legislative District 34
State Senator Joe Nguyen
State Representative Joe Fitzgibbon
Legislative District 36
State Senator Noel Frame
State Representative Position 1 Julia Reed
State Representative Position 2 Liz Berry

Legislative District 37
State Senator Rebecca Saldaña
State Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos
Legislative District 38
State Senator June Robinson
State Representative Position 1 Tana Senn
State Representative Position 2 My-Linh Thai
Legislative District 42
State Senator Sharon Shewmake
Legislative District 43
State Representative Position 1 Nicole Macri
State Representative Position 2 Frank Chopp
Legislative District 44
State Senator John Lovick
State Representative Position 1 April Berg
State Representative Position 2 Brandy Donaghy
Legislative District 45
State Senator Manka Dhingra
Legislative District 46
State Senator Javier Valdez
Legislative District 47
State Senator Satwinder Kaur
State Representative Position 1 Debra Entenman
State Representative Position 2 Chris Stearns
Legislative District 48
State Representative Position 1 Vandana Slatter
State Senator Patty Kuderer
Legislative District 49
State Representative Position 1 Sharon Wylie
State Representative Position 2 Monica Stonier



SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL NO. 6
PO BOX 3716
SEATTLE WA 98124

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Word from Our Union

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f @SEIU6
t @SEIU6

