

OCTOBER 6TH 2020

# AFSCME 3 NEWSLETTER

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## NEW REVENUE ESTIMATES FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR ARE UP: HOGAN'S HEAVY CUTS WOULD HAVE BEEN UNNECESSARY

On July 1, Governor Hogan threatened to implement an across the board 5% pay cut, significant cuts to filled and vacant positions and an increase in the cost of health insurance. AFSCME refused to agree to these drastic and unnecessary cuts, organized to convince the Board of Public Works to vote down these cuts and has continued to vigilantly defend the rights of frontline employees in the workplace, in the budget and in Annapolis. Months later, new revenue estimates have come out proving that the Governor was attempting to unnecessarily cut frontline employees.

On Tuesday, September 29 the Board of Revenue Estimates (made up of the State Treasurer, State Comptroller and the Secretary of Budget & Management) met to receive, discuss and ultimately approve new state revenue projections for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 and FY2022 that significantly exceeded expectations. After predicting our economy was imminently on the verge of collapse in July without drastic cuts, revenues for the next fiscal year are projected to be \$1.4 billion higher than was originally estimated. AFSCME and our allies made clear that these types of cuts were absolutely preemptive and unnecessary given the unclear revenue projects, significant savings in the Rainy Day Fund and the potential for additional federal stimulus.

AFSCME and our allies will continue to fight against all budget cuts to frontline workers given the unclear economic picture, including protecting the 2% COLA negotiated in our MOU for January 2021. We will also continue to urge the Governor to utilize all available funding before cutting frontline workers including the Rainy Day Fund and other revenue raising measures we will update you on next week. After predicting our economy would collapse at the beginning of the pandemic, revenues for FY21 are projected to be \$1.4 billion higher than was originally estimated back in May.

Despite the revenue projections, we know the coronavirus continues to ravage our communities and our economy. We still don't know if more federal aid will be coming or how the upcoming Presidential election will impact our country's economic stability in the long term. With the potential for a second outbreak looming this winter, it is more important now than ever that our union stand strong and together. We are fighting to protect the vital work frontline workers do containing the spread in hot spots and helping our neighbors and community members recover from this unprecedented economic crisis.

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## Join AFSCME Council 3 for a Forum on Telework and Adjusting to Remote Work

On October 14 at 7 PM AFSCME Council 3 will host a virtual townhall highlighting how the pandemic has changed public services in Maryland, its' effects on families and the steps the state employees of Maryland must take to continue an effective fight against COVID 19.

Visit our website today to register for our forum **Adapting and Thriving Remotely: A Conversation on the Impact of the Pandemic on Public Service in Maryland**. Our panelists will discuss how we can best adapt in order to thrive in this challenging environment.

Guests include: Hosted by AFSCME Council 3 President Patrick Moran. Council 3 Members Cherrish Vick (AFSCME Local 112) and Jessika Burroughs (AFSCME Local 631) will discuss how providing state services remotely through telework can continue to improve.

Courtney Oatts Hatcher, Ed.S., NCSP, BCBA providing insights on the pressures on the family and what families can do to accommodate the difficulties of these unprecedented times.

Christopher Meyer, Research Analyst, Maryland Center of Economic Policy will discuss how the state can best adapt to the climate of the pandemic. What are the wise dollar decisions the state can make?

## ADAPTING AND THRIVING REMOTELY: A CONVERSATION ON THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON PUBLIC SERVICE IN MARYLAND

### FRONTLINE WORKERS SPEAK OUT

The AFSCME Telework Committee will share data from a survey conducted on over 1,000 frontline public workers in Maryland.

**Cherrish Vick**, AFSCME Local 112, Department of Human Services and **Jessika Burroughs**, AFSCME Local 631, Maryland Department of Health will share their experiences adapting to remote work as public servants.



### JOIN OUR ZOOM WEBINAR

Register to join our Zoom Webinar at 7pm on Wednesday, October 14th

Hosted by **AFSCME Maryland**  
**President Patrick Moran**

Watch the livestream on AFSCME Maryland's facebook page!

<http://bit.ly/Oct14Forum>  
[www.facebook.com/afscmemd](http://www.facebook.com/afscmemd)

### SPECIAL GUEST EXPERTS

Joined by special guest experts discussing Maryland's journey to adapting and thriving in the era of remote work and COVID-19.

**Courtney Oatts Hatcher**, Ed.S., NCSP, BCBA

**Christopher Meyer**, Research Analyst, Maryland Center on Economic Policy



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## OCTOBER 6TH BARGAINING UPDATE: UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE

Over the past month, members of AFSCME Local 1833 have been bargaining with management for a fair agreement minimizing the impact of budget shortfalls on frontline workers. The Bargaining Team at UMES is made up of Quiana Tilghman, Louise Gaile, Betty Hoskins and Relford Matthews and Deborah Robinson.

Together, we have pushed for management to set a final agreement. The Administration has verbally agreed to prevent any salary reductions for those making less than \$75,000 annually as well as put in place fair protections for those working in quarantine and isolation facilities. Instead of finalizing the agreement they are dragging their feet about signing the agreement. With COVID-19 numbers rising across Maryland and stories of outbreaks on campuses, we are urging management at UMES to sign our agreement to protect frontline workers.

Now is the time to get involved in your union- join today and become a dues-paying member to send a clear message to management that our union is standing strong in spite of these challenging times. We urge management from UMES to finalize the agreement as soon as possible to keep our campus safe.

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## MDU Hosts Successful Forum Ahead of Jury Trial Re-Opening

Congratulations to the Maryland Defenders Union (MDU), Local 423, AFSCME MD's newest local. For months support staff, attorneys and social workers from the Office of the Public Defender have been building their union. This week, in advance of the re-opening of the courts for jury trials on October 5th, the MDU took action on the fight for the health and safety in courts. On Tuesday night, hundreds of people took part in Building Power on the Frontlines, the MDU's forum on best practices in workplace health and safety. You can check out the full forum by visiting our youtube. Thank you to the MD NAACP, Common Cause, Courtwatch, Maryland Justice Project, and Maryland National Lawyers Guild as well as Locals 557, 1535, 1678, 3167, 3674, and 3478 who signed on to the letter to the judiciary demanding improvements and better communication. Coverage of the event can be found on WBAL, NBC4 and Maryland Matters.

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## BCCC Members Fought Back and Won!

AFSCME Council 3 members at Baltimore City Community College were recently informed they were going to be required to clean a new COVID-19 Testing Site. These members have not been trained on COVID-19 protocol nor trained on equipment needed to keep them safe. AFSCME Local 1870 President, Kahi Fraser requested a demand to bargain with management immediately. As a result of member's action, management reversed their decision to require members clean the COVID-19 clinic. AFSCME Council 3 members are on the frontline of containing the spread of COVID-19. Together, our members are fighting to ensure minimal spread at public universities across the State of Maryland. Our strength to win fights like these comes from having a strong and active membership. Join the union today to help us win fights like these!