

DECEMBER 9TH, 2021

AFSCME 3 NEWSLETTER

Veto Overridden: A Win for University System of Maryland Staff

The wins continue for University System of Maryland (USM) staff- last night Governor Hogan's veto of Senate Bill 9 was overridden. Late last week, AFSCME also won our fight to increase the \$15 minimum wage for all USM staff.

Now, consolidated bargaining and one contract covering 11 campuses with the University System of Maryland will become law. AFSCME higher education members can finally bargain with the University System of Maryland directly for one master contract!

Thank you to leaders in the Maryland House and Senate for your support enacting this change. Thank you Speaker Adrienne Jones, Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Delegate Jared Solomon, Delegate Pat Young, Delegate Ben Barnes and our allies in the Senate- Senator Bill Ferguson and Senator Ben Kramer!

Read more on our website: www.afscmemd.org

AFSCME 3 Higher Education Members Win Fight to Raise the Minimum Wage to \$15

AFSCME Council 3 members are proud to declare victory in our fight to raise the minimum wage for all workers at the University System of Maryland (USM) to \$15/hr. Representatives from the USM confirmed that this increase would go into effect on January 1st of 2022 after our union campaign across Maryland. When we fight, we win!

Since earlier this summer, AFSCME Council 3 members across Maryland have been organizing on campus and in the community to urge the USM to raise the minimum wage. Together, our union is fighting to improve Maryland's public universities and ensure all staff has a voice at the table. The pandemic has made it clear that we cannot return to the status quo and the voices of workers across the country are rising up for dignity and respect.

In the next week and a half, the Maryland Legislature will convene a Special Session and override the Governor's veto of our legislation to negotiate one single contract for every campus across the USM. This is a new opportunity for all workers and winning this raise is just the first victory in the fight ahead.

We have demanded bargaining impacts and implementation of the minimum wage increase with the USM and await dates to negotiate. Stay tuned for more updates!

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AFSCME Unanimously Endorses Brooke Lierman for Comptroller of Maryland

AFSCME Council 3 and AFSCME Council 67 are proud to jointly announce their endorsement of Delegate Brooke Lierman for Comptroller of Maryland. Together, the two councils represent over 50,000 state, county, municipal, school board and higher education employees across Maryland. The vote to endorse Lierman was unanimous, a testament to her fierce advocacy for organized labor, her unparalleled ability to deliver results for working families, and her vision to create an economy that works for all Marylanders.

"The Comptroller plays a critical role as Maryland's chief financial officer and one of the members of the Board of Public Works, and there's no one we trust more in that role than Brooke Lierman" said AFSCME Council 3 President Patrick Moran. "Recovering from the pandemic will require investing in our public services, and Brooke has an exciting vision for how the Comptroller can support Maryland families."

Read more about Delegate Lierman and the plan to win on our website:
www.afscmemd.org

Take the Pledge to Stand with Jody:
<https://bit.ly/AFSCME3Pledge>

"I love being able to help taxpayers through the frustrating process of doing your taxes. I do love the State of Maryland but where was the State of Maryland when it came to our steps, our wages, training and even recognition that we even are doing a good job?"

I'm proud of the work that I do, and I'm telling you all this because I think the State of Maryland should recognize the hard work that we do and start moving the steps and pay us a fair and living wage."



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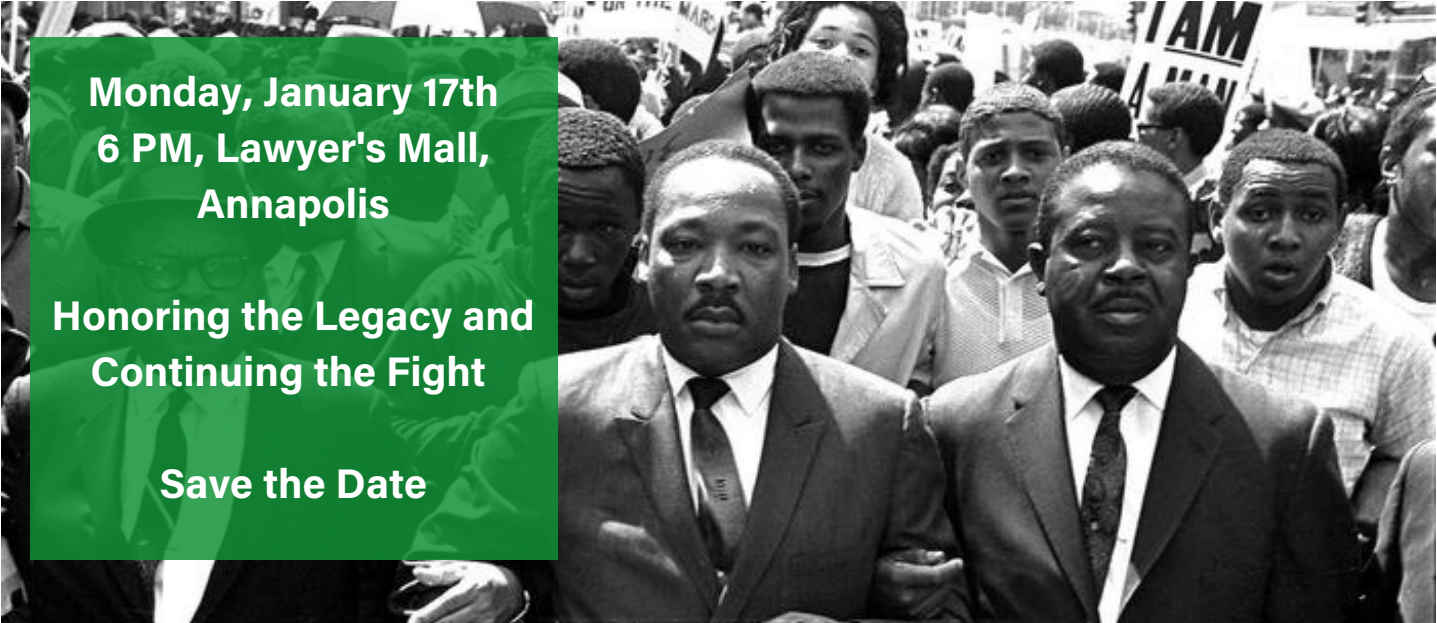
Preparing for the 2022 Legislative Session

As public employees, AFSCME members have a unique ability to elect our own boss. The Governor and Maryland Legislature determine the state's budget which contains funding for our pay and all of our state agencies. Our power comes from standing together to influence elections and ensure that candidates understand that AFSCME members are public employees and voters who pay attention.

Electing a new Governor in 2022 will allow AFSCME members to actually sit across the bargaining table from negotiators focused on improving state services instead of cutting them. By speaking out in Annapolis during the legislative session and building relationships with legislators, we can positively impact our agency's budget and build power for working people. Here are our priorities:

- December Special Session
- Funding for Annual Step/Merit and COLA increases
- Binding Arbitration
- Collective Bargaining for the Office of the Public Defender
- Health and Safety Legislation

To get involved in our legislative program, don't hesitate to reach out to our Member Resource Center at 410.547.1515 or email info@afscmemd.org. Our strength is our members and we are always excited to discuss your ideas and concerns.



**Monday, January 17th
6 PM, Lawyer's Mall,
Annapolis**

**Honoring the Legacy and
Continuing the Fight**

Save the Date