

OCTOBER 28TH, 2021

AFSCME 3 NEWSLETTER

Message from President Moran: \$2.5 Billion Reasons to Fund a Raise for Maryland's State and Higher Education Public Employees

Recently, it was announced that Maryland has a \$2.5 billion dollar surplus this fiscal year. I want to make it clear where that surplus came from. By undercutting, underfunding, and understaffing vital public services at the State and county level, Governor Hogan can now claim Maryland has a surplus in the budget. This surplus came on the backs of depriving the employees here who keep Maryland's safety net functioning from being able to do their job. This surplus came by spending as little federal aid as he could and quite frankly putting money in the wrong places.

Now, the Governor has created a crisis in state services. Our state agencies are in a staffing crisis because of thousands of vacancies that the Governor has let grow in his time in office. 5,000 vacancies are an embarrassment to Maryland. We are here to fight for that surplus to be used where it is needed most: to support Maryland's public services and ensure all working people are able to recover from the pandemic.

Just like workers across the country, frontline heroes in Maryland are rising and standing together to fight for a voice on the job. Our work is valuable and better pay will lead directly to improving Maryland's state services. Together, with our allies, our union is ready to continue the fight for a better Maryland by expanding collective bargaining and demanding the Governor fund living wages for all frontline heroes.

We are here to fight for a shared vision of Maryland with our community and legislative allies with robust public services helping Marylanders in their toughest moments. Winning this change means investing in our public services and YOU the people who provide them. With news of our state's \$2.5 billion surplus and the USM's \$950 million fund balance, it is crystal clear, the time is now.



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SUPPORT COUNCIL 3 COVID-19 HEROES WHO SUPPORT MARYLAND EVERYDAY

Wes works at MVA but he defies the stereotype. He's helpful and kind, and takes pride in his job. His empathy and professionalism doesn't grow on trees, and it's a no-brainer that Wes and state employees in general should earn a living wage.

Wes Young on being a driving test administrator: "Guiding people through this potentially difficult thing. Making sure they understand the test, and if they fail, giving them a good explanation of why. I'm hoping to make them a better driver." Come on, Maryland, your workers deserve better!



Take the Pledge to Stand with Council 3 COVID-19 Heroes:
<https://bit.ly/AFSCME3Pledge>

AFSCME Endorses Tom Perez for Governor of Maryland

AFSCME Council 3 and AFSCME Council 67 jointly announced their endorsement of the candidate and former Maryland and U.S. Labor Secretary Tom Perez to be our next Governor. AFSCME members invited all major candidates, Republicans, and Democrats, to meet with our board. After we conducted candidate interviews our board unanimously voted to endorse Tom Perez.

AFSCME Council 3 President Patrick Moran said, "Working people in Maryland are counting on the next Governor to fund a real recovery from the pandemic. Tom Perez is the leader we need with the proven record of experience improving Maryland's public agencies. His history fighting for civil rights, labor rights and effectively running state and federal departments is what Maryland and our members need. Our members are sick and tired of Governor Hogan's failing administration and we are ready to usher in a new era of change in the Governor's Mansion."

Read more and learn more about Tom on our website: <https://www.afscmemd.org/>

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Special Legislative Session Means Special Things for AFSCME Members

Late last week it was announced that the Maryland General Assembly will go into special session from December 6 through December 15. For AFSCME, important legislation impacting our members that was vetoed by Governor Hogan will have the opportunity to become law through the General Assembly overriding the Governor's veto. In addition, maps that have drawn the boundaries of Congressional districts will be redrawn.

There are two pieces of legislation that AFSCME has a particular interest in becoming law this special session. The first changes the law impacting collective bargaining for our brothers and sisters who work in higher education. For years our members have had to negotiate contracts based upon the school campus where they worked, NOT the job they worked. This would be the equivalent of our brother and sister social workers having to negotiate one contract if they worked in Prince George's county, while our other social worker members would have to bargain a separate contract if they worked in Harford County. It makes no sense: they do the same job, it just happens to be in different locations. The same issue applies in higher education, and this legislation would consolidate collective bargaining for our people by having one contract, negotiated with the management that truly makes the decisions: the University System of Maryland Chancellor and the Board of Regents.

The second piece is an expansion of the union's ability to engage with newly hired state employees. AFSCME by law would receive more time to present and discuss the benefits of union membership, more flexibility in how that information was delivered, as well as improvements to our ability to effectively represent members and non-members.

The redrawing of Congressional maps, which occurs every ten years based upon the latest U.S. Census numbers, could mean changes to who represents you in the U.S. House of Representatives. AFSCME will be tracking those changes to ensure there is fairness and equity in our representation on Capitol Hill.

Look for more information - and calls to action to support these veto overrides - in the coming weeks.

