

Fund our Contracts and Public Services

Why Lobbying Matters



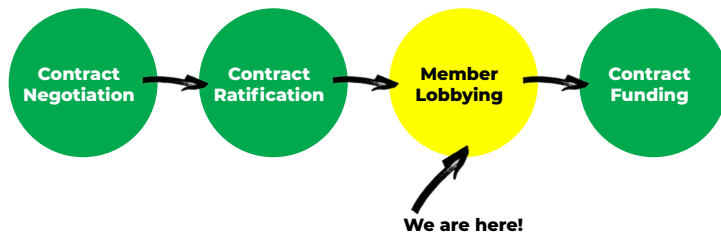
Our contracts are the written agreements negotiated by WFSE members elected to our bargaining teams. After a heroic show of collective action across the entire state, WFSE members won significant raises, despite alarming budget projections for the next biennium. Members voted to ratify (accept) these contracts, which also include desperately needed raises for support and trades staff.

Now, we need to go to Olympia to ensure our contracts are funded by the Legislature.

Until our state legislature votes to ratify and fund our contracts, they remain tentative. Each legislative session, we hear from lawmakers that YOUR VOICES AND STORIES strongly impact their decision-making about this allocation of funds.

What happens if the Legislature rejects our contracts?

If the Legislature rejects our contracts, we go back to the bargaining table and start over, delaying our pay raises for a year at best. Many elected officials will look at the size of our contracts and say, “No way! We can’t afford it.” It is our job to show them that our state cannot afford NOT to fund our contracts.



How can WFSE members make a difference?

We must educate legislators and help them understand that our contracts are not just about us; they’re about ensuring crucial services are available to all Washingtonians.

That’s why we always say: No workforce has more at stake in the decisions made by elected officials than state employees.

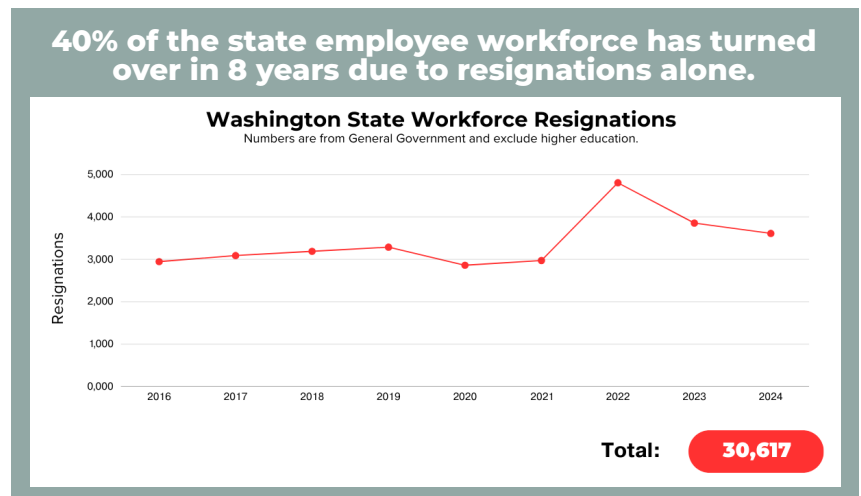
Saving Public Services, for All Washingtonians

The staffing crisis looks as varied as the different kinds of work WFSE members do.

At the Department of Transportation, it means more close calls, worksite injuries, and deaths. At DCYF, it means not having enough staff to help youth with rehabilitation. In residential institutions, it means more assaults on staff.



Progress made in recruitment over the last several years has been negated by rampant turnover. We must stem the tide—not just for the safety and wellbeing of public employees, but for every Washingtonian.



<https://ofm.wa.gov/state-human-resources/workforce-data-planning/workforce-data-trends/retention/workforce-turnover>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20201016173043/https://www.ofm.wa.gov/state-human-resources/workforce-data-planning/workforce-data-trends/retention/workforce-turnover>

Scan here to register for a day of fun and lobbying with fellow WFSE members in Olympia!

