

## State Multi-Unit Contract Vote August 5-9

AFSCME state employees in the executive branch will have the opportunity to vote on our new contract on August 5-9. Voting sites are conveniently located across the state.

The contract proposal includes wage increases, insurance improvements, and other wins that will benefit state employees for years to come. The tentative agreement has been unanimously recommended for approval by the state executive branch negotiating team.

Only active union members may participate in contract votes. AFSCME leaders will be available at voting sites to help non-members join on the spot. You can also call our Member Action Center (1-800-652-9791) to become a member over the phone.

Log in to MemberLink  
([members.afscmemn.org](http://members.afscmemn.org))  
for TA details and voting sites.

### AFSCME Proudly Stands with Ilhan

Following President Trump's racist attacks on Congresswoman Ilhan Omar last week, AFSCME members joined a throng of supporters at the airport to welcome Rep. Omar home to Minnesota. We proudly endorsed Rep. Omar in 2018, and we stand with her now in the face of these heinous, bigoted attacks.

Our mission as a union is to fight for dignity for everyone. The impact of Trump's racist rhetoric reaches far beyond the personal harm caused to Rep. Omar. It fans the flames of white supremacy, puts immigrants and people of color at an even higher risk of violence, and further divides working people - harming each and every one of us.

AFSCME Council 5 is proud to stand with Congresswoman Omar – and all immigrants and refugees. To all the AFSCME members and labor siblings who came to the US as immigrants and refugees: we are family, and you belong here with us.



AFSCME members join hundreds of community allies to welcome Congresswoman Ilhan Omar home after Donald Trump's heinous, racist attacks. Photo: Brad Sigal, Sigal Photos

## Locals Ratify Contracts

**Local 722 Regions Hospital** service workers ratified a new contract that includes a general wage increase: members will receive a 2.25% raise starting July 1, 2019 and a 2% raise on July 1, 2020. The salary range minimum and maximums will increase by the same percentages as the general increase for both years. The TA also includes increased evening and overnight shift differentials, a boosted merit matrix, and better language overall.

**Local 2938 – Essentials**, representing prosecuting attorneys in the Hennepin County Attorney's office, ratified a three-year contract on June 19. The new contract includes retro pay to January 1 of 2019, employer-paid short-term and long-term disability, and an increase in the employer's share of health insurance premiums. Other highlights include a 40% subsidy for dental (up from zero) and an increase in public transit reimbursement. The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners approved the new contract on July 9.



**Hennepin County Unions Unite in Fight for Health Care**

Last Thursday, delegates from all seven AFSCME bargaining units in Hennepin County and delegates from our sister unions and associations representing Hennepin County employees came to consensus as a united front to present health care benefit recommendations to the county board and administration.

Hennepin County's self-insurance fund is remarkably healthy, thanks to stewardship of the plan by all representatives at the table each year.

The outside actuarial firm that analyzes the county's self-insurance fund annually came to the table recommending a -0.83% decrease to the plan.

We must return these benefits to members of the plan in an equitable and sustainable manner.

Labor and management did agree to recommend all interest earned on the health fund's reserves be allocated back to the plan.

Per Minnesota state statute, interest from the plan must be sent back to the county's general fund, but the same amount of money can be reallocated back to the plan.

This is an exciting victory that our Hennepin County AFSCME locals have been working toward for years.

The proposal labor reached consensus on is as follows:

- Reduce urgent care copays from \$50 to \$35
- Eliminate all office visit copays for all members of the plan
- Reduce prescription copays by 50%

A recommendation was also made for a one-time rebate in the amount of \$300 to employees enrolled in single plans and \$600 to employees enrolled in family plans. These amounts match the highest deductibles of those plans.

This kind of collaboration between unions is extremely powerful when it comes to standing up to the boss – and it's a first for Hennepin County workers.

Because all of the unions reached consensus, our proposal must be formally presented to the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. Check our website for updates.

**AFSCME Family Picnic is August 18**

Save the date and come join your AFSCME family for great food, fellowship and lots of fun on **Sunday, August 18!** We'll enjoy performances by the Minnesota Labor Chorus, face painting, and even free water park access for the first 100 kids.

Volunteers and cash donations are still needed in order to make this annual AFSCME tradition happen. To get involved, call Duane Gatzke at **651-472-2787** or by email at **kkirk77dg@comcast.net**.

**Knock Doors for Pro-Worker Candidates in Duluth**

With the primary election quickly approaching on August 13, AFSCME members are ramping up efforts to elect our endorsed pro-worker candidates. AFSCME members in Duluth are invited to join us for weekly door knocking events throughout the summer. Door knocks will take place weekly at the following times:

- Mondays: 5 – 8:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays: 5 - 8:30 p.m.
- Saturdays: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Sundays: 2 – 5 p.m.

Volunteers will meet at the AFSCME Council 5 office in Duluth for these events. You can find a list of our endorsed candidates at [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org).

Contact Zach Sias with questions at **218-341-9117** or at **Zach.Sias@afscmemn.org**. Watch our Facebook events page for updates.

**Get in on the Action**

Action Update comes out every two weeks for locals and activists. Download a copy at [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org). Email [communications@afscmemn.org](mailto:communications@afscmemn.org) with news and events you'd like shared in our next update.

**Mark Your Calendars**

Event	Date	Place/details
Labor Movie Night: "The Public"	July 26, 2019; 7-10 p.m.	4200 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis
State Executive Branch Contract Vote	August 5-9, 2019	<a href="http://members.afscmemn.org">members.afscmemn.org</a>
AFSCME Family Picnic	August 18, 2019	Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood
Financial Responsibility Training	September 26, 2019	AFSCME Duluth Office (211 W. 2nd St.)
AFSCME Council 5 Convention	October 3-5, 2019	DECC, Duluth

