

## Legislative Update

There are just five weeks remaining of the 2019 legislative session. AFSCME members have been a constant presence at the Capitol. Here's what we're working on:

**Health and Human Services:** AFSCME opposes the Senate's HHS omnibus bill, a disappointing initial budget proposal that does not reflect the values of Minnesotans. We refuse to back down on staff safety and will not support any HHS bill that does not include sufficient funding for the crucial public services AFSCME members provide at HHS facilities and programs.

**Transportation:** The GOP-controlled Senate's transportation omnibus bill does not do enough to address our crumbling infrastructure or meet the needs of our growing population. In contrast to the House bill, the Senate proposal does nothing to increase revenue. We appreciate provisions to promote safe driving and the designation of the Officer Joseph Gomm Memorial Highway.

But without more serious investment in our infrastructure, roads will continue to deteriorate, and future Legislators may spend from the general fund to compensate, endangering funding for critical government services and the employees who provide them.

**Higher Ed:** The Senate's Higher Education omnibus proposal is also disappointing. The amount of funding it allocates for the Minnesota State and University of Minnesota systems does not even cover their operating costs. If this bill passes, colleges will be forced to cut jobs and increase tuition to make up the difference. The bill does include funds to staff a position to address sexual assaults on college campuses but does not help educate students on affirmative consent, which experts note is critical to preventing assaults. The bill fails to fund mental health counselors, which would decrease troubling rates of mental health problems on campuses across the state.

AFSCME supports our institutions of higher education because Minnesota needs them to educate our future workforce. We are pushing Senators to increase funding so AFSCME members who work at these colleges and universities can provide services that help our students thrive.

### AFSCME Council 5 Endorses Member to be St Paul's Ward 1 Councilmember

AFSCME Council 5 has endorsed Liz De La Torre to represent Ward 1 on Saint Paul's City Council. De La Torre is an advocate, a first-generation American, and a former staffer for Congresswoman Betty McCollum. She is also an AFSCME Local 8 member, serving as Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health's first Systems Change Coordinator. In this role, De La Torre helps sexual assault victims get access to the support, resources and medical care they need.

We are proud to endorse a leader who is committed to the principles of equity, transparency, and justice for all Saint Paul residents. De La Torre has worked alongside our union to provide excellent service to Minnesotans. We know she will bring our shared values of dignity, prosperity and justice to the Saint Paul City Council.

De La Torre is the daughter of Mexican immigrants. Growing up, her family struggled to make ends meet in a new country. De La Torre put herself through college working two full-time jobs for minimum wage.

"My history is like that of many immigrant families in this country, navigating entities and systems that were not meant to include us," said De La Torre. "My goal is to change how our city departments interact with us, so that decisions are made by us and not for us."

De La Torre will compete for the DFL endorsement at the Ward 1 DFL endorsing convention at Central High School on Sunday, April 28. If elected, De La Torre would join fellow AFSCME member Chris Tolbert on the Saint Paul City Council, who also earned the endorsement of his union family.

**The general election for Saint Paul City Council will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 5.**



AFSCME-endorsed St. Paul City Council candidate Liz De La Torre shows her union pride at Day on the Hill 2019



## We're Hiring!

AFSCME Council 5 is seeking qualified candidates for an open field representative position.

The deadline for application is this Friday, April 19.

Do you know someone who wants to build power and demand dignity for working people?

Are you interested in becoming a full-time AFSCME field representative?

Here's your chance!

Find application details at [www.afscmemn.org/field-representative](http://www.afscmemn.org/field-representative)

### Applications for NSJ Scholarship Award Due June 1

Each year, the Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Program awards scholarships - ranging from up to \$1200 for part time and up to \$2500 for full time - to students of color from union families who are enrolled in community or technical college, along with undergraduate and graduate programs. Students are eligible for consideration for up to two years for a community or technical college program, up to four years of undergraduate work at a university (including two years in a community or technical college), and up to two years of graduate work.

Visit [www.nelliestone.org](http://www.nelliestone.org) for more details and to fill out an application before the June 1 deadline.

### Hennepin HealthCare Surgical Technologists Join AFSCME Family

We're excited to welcome 32 new members to AFSCME Council 5! We successfully organized the Surgical Technologists at Hennepin HealthCare (formerly HCMC), and they're now accreted into the Local 2474 Technical/Paraprofessional bargaining unit.

### Local 1164 Reaches TA

The Local 1164 Negotiating Committee reached a tentative agreement with University of Minnesota Physicians on April 3rd. The Committee is recommending ratification. The new three-year contract will include general wage increases of 1.5% in the first year and 2% in the second and third years, plus a 2.5% adjustment for workers currently below their range midpoint. The TA also includes increases in evening and weekend shift differentials and simplifies the pay grid. On-site voting took place on April 11; mail-in ballots are due Wednesday, April 17.

### Attend a Financial Responsibility Training

There are three more Financial Responsibility Trainings on the calendar for 2019. The next one will take place at the AFSCME Council 5 office in South St. Paul. Trainings are scheduled on the

following dates:

- Thursday, June 13, South St. Paul
- Thursday, September 26, Duluth
- Thursday, November 14, South St. Paul

This training is conducted by AFSCME International. Any AFSCME member who signs checks or conducts audits for their local is encouraged to take the class. The cost to participate is \$20, which covers lunch and materials. Join fellow AFSCME leaders to develop these critical skills! To register, call our Member Action Center at **1-800-652-9791**, or by email at **Council5@afscmemn.org**.

Short on time, or just need a quick refresher? Members who deal with their local's finances are also invited to take advantage of the Financial Standards Code video tutorials at [www.afscmetreasurer.org/trainings](http://www.afscmetreasurer.org/trainings).

### Digital Tools for Locals

Is your local looking for ways to improve communication and keep members up to date? AFSCME Council 5 offers a variety of free digital tools, plus ongoing training and support, for all of our locals. Email [communications@afscmemn.org](mailto:communications@afscmemn.org) for more information.

### Get in on the Action

Action Update comes out every two weeks for locals and activists. Download a copy at [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.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
International Workers Day	May 1, 2019	
State Employee Policy Committee	May 3, 2019	Marriott Delta (Minneapolis)
AFSCME Council 5 Scholarship Deadline	May 10, 2019	<a href="http://www.afscmemn.org/scholarships">www.afscmemn.org/scholarships</a>
Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Deadline	June 1, 2019	<a href="http://www.nelliestone.org/scholarship-program">www.nelliestone.org/scholarship-program</a>
Financial Responsibility Training	June 13, 2019	AFSCME Council 5 (South St. Paul office)