



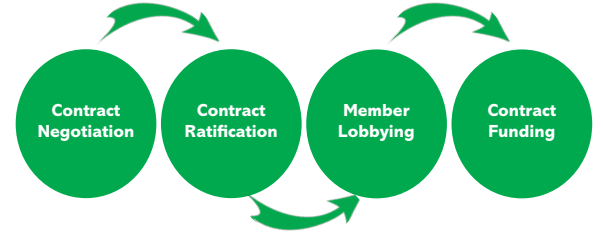
Fund our Communities, Fund our Contracts!



WFSE members must come to Olympia to lobby during the 2023 Legislative Session to ensure funding for our contracts, which will benefit our communities, workplaces and families.

Why Lobbying Matters

Our contracts are the written agreements negotiated by WFSE members elected to our bargaining teams. This fall, WFSE members voted to ratify (accept) contracts that include much-needed raises that will positively impact staffing levels, workplace safety, and the Washingtonians we serve.



But we aren't to the finish line yet.

Until our state Legislature votes to ratify and fund our contracts, they remain tentative. 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.

We must educate them that our contracts are not just about us; they're about fixing years of understaffing, ensuring our state can attract and retain the best, and making vital services 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.

The Governor and the Legislature control our wages, health care, pensions and job security. We need to make sure the voices of public servants are heard!

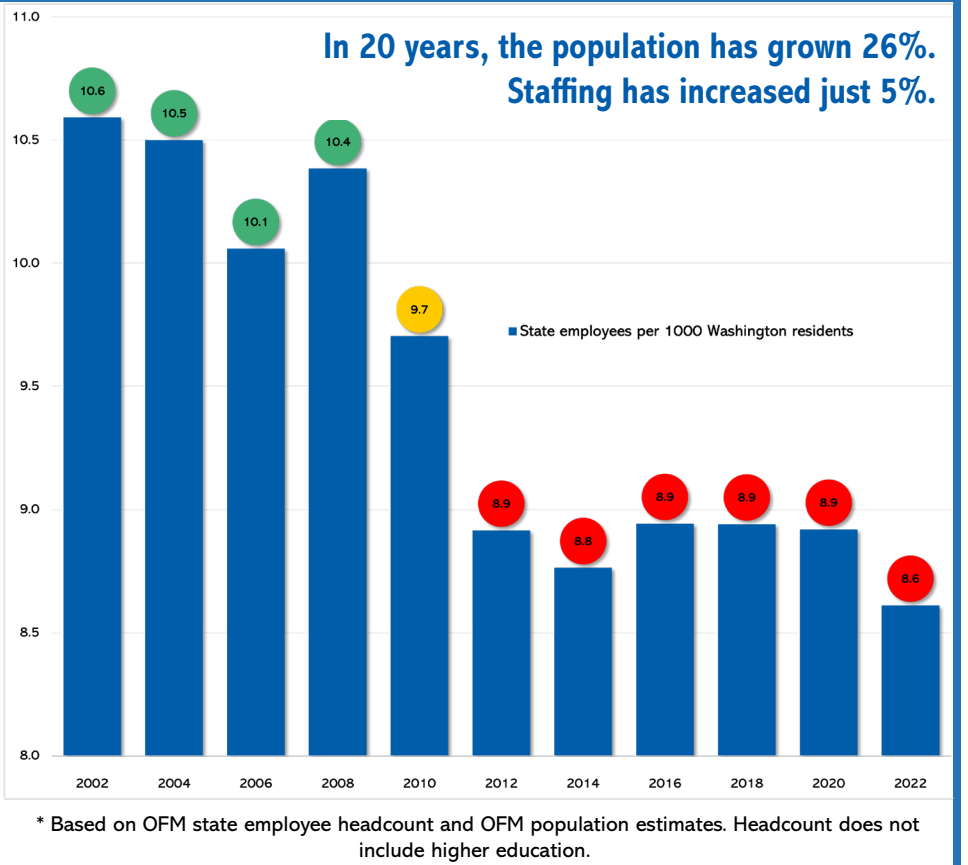
Population Outpacing State Workforce

Fewer and fewer public workers are available to provide Washingtonians with the services they depend on.

In 2002 there were just over 6 million residents with 63,975 general government employees serving them. In 2022, population has ballooned to 7.4 million residents but the state employee headcount has failed to keep pace, currently sitting at just 67,721.

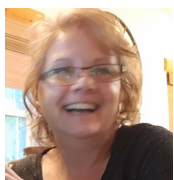
These aren't just numbers. They represent mandatory overtimes and burnout for dedicated public workers and fewer services for the most vulnerable Washingtonians.

WFSE's 2023-25 contracts are a good first step in addressing this crisis.



Nathional
DSHS
Attendant
Counselor

"We put our lives on the line when the world didn't have a vaccine for COVID-19. We got no hazard pay, yet we did our jobs. Pay us what we deserve."



Sherri
WSDOT
Secretary
Senior

"I support building better & safer roads. I ask myself, 'Would my fellow taxpayer be happy with the work I do?' After all, they are my true boss. We deserve a raise to keep up with the economy."

Fixing Washington's Inability to Recruit and Retain the Best

Washington is currently unable to attract and retain the skilled and dedicated public servants that Washingtonians deserve.

The state's own 2022 salary survey found that the state's overall compensation lags the market by over 16%. This number is the average. The disparity is even greater in many job classifications.

To begin addressing this disparity, our 2023-25 contracts include a 7% cost of living adjustment and other financial incentives that will make it easier for qualified applicants to choose public service.

We should be able to afford to live in the communities we serve. This is the message we need to take to legislators.

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

