



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Washington state public service workers to walk off the job for a fair contract

*Contract negotiations between the state and 50,000 public service workers with AFSCME Council 28 have been underway since April, with little movement on core issues like compensation and staffing. Workers at 130 worksites have declared their intent to walk out.*

OLYMPIA, Wash. – On Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 12 p.m. PT, AFSCME Council 28/WFSE-represented public service workers at state agencies, community colleges and four-year universities will [Walkout for Washington](#) to demand livable wages, safe staffing levels, and respect for the Washingtonians that depend on their services.

The nearly 50,000 unionized public service workers have been at the bargaining table with Office of Financial Management (OFM) for months fighting to stem a staffing crisis that is negatively impacting key public services including behavioral health, transportation, and juvenile rehabilitation, and education. Nearly 40 percent of the state workforce has turned over in the last eight years due to resignations alone. Workers are demanding fair wages and benefits that will prevent more essential workers from leaving and recruit more qualified individuals to these critical jobs.

Despite the data and testimonials AFSCME members have presented at the bargaining table, OFM has essentially proposed a pay cut for members' 2025-27 union contracts. Since the state is not taking this crisis seriously, AFSCME members are taking action. They are walking off the job across the state to win a contract that will respect and protect them and our communities.

**WHO:** 50,000 AFSCME Council 28 (The Washington Federation of State Employees) members, the public service workers who keep Washington state running, as well as members of other unions representing public workers, who are joining in solidarity.

**WHAT:** A statewide [Walkout for Washington](#) to get a fair contract for Washington's workforce and bring attention to the staffing crisis impacting public services.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 12 p.m. PT

#### **LARGE SCHEDULED WALKOUTS:**

Walkouts are scheduled at [nearly every major city in Washington. See the list here](#). The largest walkouts are predicted to be:

##### **Olympia**

- **LNI HQ / Multiagency**, 7273 Linderson Way SW, Tumwater, <https://actionnetwork.org/events/walkout-for-washington-lni-hq-tumwater>
- **Dept. of Ecology HQ**, 300 Desmond Dr SE, Lacey, <https://actionnetwork.org/events/walkout-for-washington-department-of-ecology-headquarters-lacey>
- **DCYF, DES / Multiagency**, 1500 Jefferson St SE, Olympia, <https://actionnetwork.org/events/walkout-for-washington-des-olympia> and <https://actionnetwork.org/events/walkout-for-washington-dcyf-olympia>

##### **Seattle**

- **University of Washington (UW) Main Campus**, 1410 Campus Pkwy, Seattle, <https://actionnetwork.org/events/walkout-for-washington-uw-main-campus-seattle>

- **Harborview Hospital**, 325 9th Ave, Seattle,  
<https://actionnetwork.org/events/walkout-for-washington-harborview-hospital-seattle>

#### **Everett**

- **DSHS/DCYF/DOT/Everett CC**, 840 N Broadway, Everett,  
<https://actionnetwork.org/events/walkout-for-washington-dshs-dcyf-everett>

#### **Bellingham**

- **Western Washington University (WWU)**, 516 High Street, Bellingham,  
<https://actionnetwork.org/events/walkout-for-washington-western-washington-university-bellingham>

#### **Tacoma**

- **Western State Hospital**, 9601 Steilacoom Blvd, Lakewood,  
<https://actionnetwork.org/events/walkout-for-washington-western-state-hospital-lakewood>

#### **Spokane**

- **Lakeland Village**, 2320 S Salnave Rd, Medical Lake,  
<https://actionnetwork.org/events/walkout-for-washington-lakeland-village-medical-lake>
- **Eastern State Hospital**, 850 Maple St, Medical Lake,  
<https://actionnetwork.org/events/walkout-for-washington-eastern-state-hospital-medical-lake>

#### **Additional background:**

- OFM turnover data:

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

· OFM turnover data pre-2020:

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

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*AFSCME Council 28 (The Washington Federation of State Employees) represents over 50,000 state and other public service workers in Washington state. WFSE members care for the most vulnerable, keep us safe, protect our environment and so much more. That's why people who work in public service never stop. This isn't just a job; it's a calling. The work matters because it means something to make a community better.*