



AFSCME members are door knocking and phone banking across the state to elect worker-friendly candidates. Find out how to join them below.

## Help Mobilize Members and Get Out The Vote

The election is just two weeks away, and there's still time to make a difference.

The last Labor Day of Action is **Saturday** from 10 to 2, and it's especially exciting. We're welcoming two VIP guests: AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler and AFSCME International Secretary-Treasurer Elissa McBride.

These dynamic leaders will get us fired up for a day of door knocking in support of Tim Walz, Tina Smith and other candidates who share our values as union members.

The festivities kick off at 10 a.m. at the UFCW Hall at 266 Hardman Ave. N. in South St. Paul. Then we'll head out to knock on some doors and turn people out to vote.

Next weekend is the last big push. AFSCME volunteers can door knock at cities across the state in three-hour shifts on **Saturday, Nov. 3**

through Election Day on **Tuesday, Nov. 6.**

RSVP to the Day of Action or to help Get Out The Vote at <http://bit.ly/AFSCMEMN>. (The link is case-sensitive.)

Find endorsements made by your fellow AFSCME members at [www.afscmemn.org/vote](http://www.afscmemn.org/vote).

## Member Rights Expanded

AFSCME has added even more power to its Bill of Rights for members.

The new document guarantees no one can be denied membership due to prejudice. The increased number of protected classes includes:

"No person otherwise eligible for membership in this union shall be denied membership, on a basis of unqualified equality, because of race, creed, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or

## Support Safe Staffing

Members who work at the Minnesota Sex Offender Program in St. Peter are protesting Friday to call attention to unsafe staffing levels.

MSOP has cut staffing to dangerously low levels. Local 404 members want to tell management they won't be ignored, and they won't let management put workers' lives on the line in order to balance the budget. St. Peter is one of two Department of Human Services' sites that treats sex offenders; the other is in Moose Lake.

The Local is asking fellow AFSCME members to turn out and support their informational picket. Please join them at any time between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Friday at 100 Freeman Drive in St. Peter.

expression, disability, immigration status, or political belief."

You can find the entire Bill of Rights on MemberLink at [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org).

## Help CO's Family

Correctional officer Joseph Parise died shortly after helping stop an inmate attack on a fellow CO at Oak Park Heights. He left behind a pregnant wife and a toddler.

You can honor Joe and help his family at the same time. Buy an End of Watch T-shirt or sweatshirt. For each apparel item purchased, \$10 goes directly to Joe's family.

The last day to order is **Sunday, Oct. 28.** <https://www.agpestores.com/graffictraffic/groups.php>

## AFSCME demands hiring of more COs

Council 5 correctional officers demanded last week that lawmakers provide funding to hire 327 corrections officers and 75 to 100 other employees to keep workers, institutions and communities safe.

AFSCME also renewed its objection to reopening the privately owned Appleton prison.

Reopening a vacant prison is not the solution to creating a safer environment for correctional officers and workers. Two independent reports have found that buying and fixing the CoreCivic facility would cost nearly \$200 million, not including labor costs.

The state can't keep up with staffing needs in existing prisons. Reopening Appleton would stretch our correctional staffing even thinner and make safety issues worse.

Two correctional officers already have died in Minnesota's prisons this year and dozens more have been assaulted by inmates.

Union local leaders from each prison have worked hard to assess how many additional workers each facility needs to ensure safety and security.

This coming legislative session, we will demand funding to hire 327 additional corrections officers and 75 to 100 other staff, including LPNs and food service, clerical and maintenance workers, based on



The new Council 5 Executive Board, made up of members and elected by members, is raring to go.

existing inmate populations.

“Our union, AFSCME Council 5, has asked the Legislature for years for additional staff,” said Council 5 associate director Tim Henderson. “Every prison is dealing with staffing shortages that have put workers in danger. Hiring these additional workers will provide additional safety and security for our staff and the public, which is one of our most fundamental responsibilities.”

“We and the Department both recognize we need adequate staffing for security and programming to guarantee a safer and more positive work environment,” said Local 915 president Jeff Vars, a corrections officer at Oak Park Heights Correctional Facility.

AFSCME members will keep talking to legislators and candidates right up until the election, vote on

Nov. 6, and then continue showing up in force at the Capitol during the legislative session.

## Fighting for \$15

When workers rallied for a \$15 hourly minimum wage in Saint Paul,

AFSCME members were front and center. Several members and their children attended the Oct. 17 rally right before the wage ordinance was introduced to the City Council. They were joined by Mayor Melvin Carter, who spoke in favor of the wage hike. AFSCME members know that we all do better, when we all do better.

## Financial Training Webinar

The next Financial Responsibility Training class is full. Those who are still interested can take the same class as a webinar. Go to [www.afscmetreasurer.org](http://www.afscmetreasurer.org) and click on Trainings.

## Get in on the Action

Action Update comes out every two weeks for locals and activists. Download a copy from [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org). Share news and events by emailing [Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org](mailto:Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org).

### Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
Early Voting	Now through Nov. 5	<a href="http://www.sos.state.mn.us/">www.sos.state.mn.us/</a>
General Election	Nov. 6	<a href="http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/">pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/</a>