

Supreme Court Case Threatens Public Workers

Talking Points on *Janus v. AFSCME*

This case is a purely political scheme to further rig the economy against working people by striking down the freedom of working people to come together in strong unions.

- The Supreme Court case aims to take away the freedom of working people to join together in strong unions to speak up for themselves, their families and their communities.
- Unions have played a critical role in building and protecting the working class in America. They help hardworking people build a good life.
- The corporate interests behind this case simply do not believe that working people should have the same rights CEOs have: the freedom to negotiate a fair return on our work so we can provide for ourselves and our families.
- This case is a blatant attempt to strip working people of our political power. [A recent article in The Guardian](#) highlights how this case is part of a blatant multi-million dollar campaign to “defund and defang” and weaken labor unions.

Strong unions are vital to unrigging this economy because they improve all communities and the lives of union and non-union members alike.

- [Unions raise wages](#) for both union and non-union workers.
- Unions are more important than ever – and Americans know it. New [Gallup research](#) shows that more than 3 in 5 Americans have a favorable view of labor unions. That’s the highest level in 15 years – and support is even stronger among younger people.
- When union membership is high, entire communities enjoy wages that represent a fair return on their work and [greater social and economic mobility](#). Unions use our collective voice to advocate for policies that benefit all working people – like increases to the minimum wage, affordable health care, and great public schools.
- Unions provide a path to the middle class for working people by increasing their income and creating economic security for their families. As union membership has decreased, income inequality has risen in the United States. Source: [Economic Policy Institute: How unions help today’s workers](#).
- Through collective bargaining, members of strong unions are scoring victories that help entire communities – like safer nurse-staffing levels that help patients and smaller class sizes that help students.

Strong unions advocate for equal opportunity for women and communities of color who have been systematically disadvantaged due to discrimination and prejudice.

- Today's rigged economy disproportionately hurts women and people of color. Unions can help them gain their fair share of the wealth they create.
- Those of us in the labor movement and the civil rights community know that economic justice and civil rights are inextricably linked. One cannot be achieved without the other.
- It's shameful that Minnesota is the second worst state in America for racial inequality, according to a new [report](#) by 24/7 Wall Street. The unemployment rate for black Minnesotans is 8.8 percent, but only 3 percent for white Minnesotans. The homeownership rate for black people is 21.7 percent; that number more than triples for white people at 76 percent. If you don't have a job or a home, how can you get ahead?
- Across the nation, more than half of African-American workers and nearly 60 percent of Latinx workers are paid less than \$15 an hour. [Source](#).
- Union jobs continue to be a path to the middle class for people of color, who often face low wages in their professions. Black union members today earn 14.7 percent more than their non-union counterparts. [Source](#).
- When Latinx are members of a union, their median weekly income increases by more than 38 percent and they are 41 percent more likely to have employer-provided health insurance. [Source](#).
- Minnesota unions negotiated equal pay for women who work in the public sector. Today, those women earn a dollar for every dollar a man makes. Meanwhile, most non-union women still earn only 78 cents for every dollar a man makes for comparable work. [Source](#).