



We Make Politics Happen

WHY PEOPLE?

Politics shapes our jobs whether we work in nursing homes or health clinics, on the highways, in airports, or in schools and colleges. Laws and policies enacted at the state and federal level affect our paychecks and how and where we work. Gains made at the bargaining table result from relationships we've forged with our political allies and AFSCME-supported elected officials.

You say politics doesn't matter? Last November, AFSCME and union-led GOTV efforts changed the balance of power in this country. In election after election, we have replaced pro-business state and federal politicians with elected officials who vote right on issues important to workers. We helped elect or re-elect worker-friendly governors in Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Wisconsin and elsewhere. We defeated public service cuts in Maine and led community coalitions that saw minimum wage increases in Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Montana, Nevada and Ohio.

These victories, ignited by thousands of members who contribute to AFSCME PEOPLE, our union's political action committee, show what we can do when we have the right tools and enough resources.

Federal election laws restrict how we can use treasury funds, meaning we cannot rely on dues to run our important political activities. It is the voluntary contributions from members to AFSCME PEOPLE that enable us to support and elect pro-worker candidates. Let's face it: Big business is always a big spender for their candidates. Without our members' voluntary contributions, pro-worker candidates face incredible odds of getting elected.

AFSCME delegates and leaders got the connection between politics and what we win at the bargaining table when they overwhelmingly voted for the 21st Century Initiative. Now called Power to Win, it is AFSCME's bold plan to boost our political power with a union-wide commitment to increase PEOPLE MVP participation to 25% over a 5 year period ending in 2011.

No other group of workers in this country is tethered to politics as we are. The stakes are high – our wages, pensions and working conditions play out in a political arena at all levels of government. Let's keep the momentum we have garnered since last November and make the commitment to PEOPLE. Sign your payroll deduction card, or make that contribution today. Contributing forty cents a day to AFSCME PEOPLE may seem like a small step but, collectively, thousands of members doing the same will help us keep those victories coming and strengthen us for the future.

**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ORGANIZED TO PROMOTE LEGISLATIVE EQUALITY
AFSCME'S FEDERAL PAC**