

The 93 Beacon

SPRING 2026

We Make Northern New England Happen!



Local 1404 Stops Privatization Effort in Dracut



Dracut, MA- A proposal to privatize custodial services in the Dracut School Department, and potentially cost twenty-two AFSCME members their jobs, has been defeated following a sustained advocacy campaign led by the members of AFSCME Local 1404. On Monday, March 23rd, the Dracut School Committee voted 5-0 to reject the plan, which would have shifted custodial jobs from the Dracut School Department to a private contractor.

With the assistance of the Council 93 campaign team, Local 1404 quickly mobilized a plan to fight back against the privatization effort and over the last several months was a constant presence at School Committee meetings and Town Elections, on social media, and local news outlets to educate residents on the pitfalls of privatization. The campaign showcased the power of grassroots organizing, generating hundreds of emails
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AFSCME Council 93 Headquarters Move to Westborough



Westborough, MA- After nearly 50 years of being headquartered in downtown Boston, AFSCME Council 93 has officially relocated to Westborough, MA. After careful planning, with direction and input from the Executive Board and Council 93 Leadership, this move- which has been several years in the making- will bring our four Massachusetts regional offices, Executive, Field Services and Organizing, Political and Legislative, Membership Mobilization, Legal, and Business Departments under one roof for the first time ever.

The new modern offices will allow for improved efficiency, collaboration across Departments, and training and meeting spaces open to all Council 93 Locals. This move allows us to better serve our members while being mindful of their hard-earned dues money by reducing overhead and reinvesting the savings into member services.

“Our new headquarters marks an important step forward for AFSCME Council 93,” said Executive

Director Mark Bernard. “By uniting our staff and resources in one location, we are strengthening our ability to operate efficiently and deliver greater value to our members while remaining mindful of how we utilize their dues.”

Council 93 President Tiger Stockbrige added, “I’m looking forward to welcoming all Council 93 Locals to our new headquarters. The ability to hold trainings, meetings, and workshops at our own building with plenty of parking that is easily accessible will only help to better serve our members.”



**116 Flanders Road
Westborough, MA
01581**

NH Anti-Union Legislation Defeated - Again

Concord, NH - In a major victory for New Hampshire public sector workers, AFSCME Council 93 and our labor allies successfully defeated HB 1704 in the New Hampshire House. Despite strong backing from Republican leadership, a bipartisan coalition—including roughly 20 Republicans and all Democrats—came together to stop the bill for the remainder of the legislative session.

HB 1704 would have allowed public employees to negotiate individual contracts directly with employers, bypassing their union. The legislation, backed by the notoriously anti-union American Legislative Exchange Council, was designed to weaken collective bargaining by encouraging workers to opt out of union agreements for short-term benefits.

The defeat marks the latest in a series of legislative wins for working people in New Hampshire. Over the past year, unions and allies have successfully blocked “Right-to-Work” legislation and a proposal requiring additional union re-certification votes—both seen as efforts to undermine organized labor following the 2024 elections.

Although HB 1704 advanced out of committee on a party-line vote, efforts to fast-track it in the House ultimately fell short. A coordinated campaign, bolstered by support from organizations including the New Hampshire



Municipal Association, helped build bipartisan opposition and secure the bill’s defeat.

“This victory is yet another example of the power of organized labor and our ability to secure significant bi-partisan support when it comes to opposing thinly-veiled attempts to weaken our labor movement under the guise of ‘freedom’, said Council 93 Political and Legislative Director Jim Durkin after the bill was defeated.

Durkin added “After countless failed attempts to implement right-to-work and the failure of the Janus Supreme Court decision to significantly impact our members’ support for their unions, anti-union legislators turned to this bill, which has been posted on the American Legislative Exchange Council’s website for more than a decade. But led by the New Hampshire AFL-CIO, AFSCME along with other public-sector unions, implemented a comprehensive education campaign to expose this legislation for what it is and win the support needed to crush it.”

Upcoming AFSCME Council 93 Events



Steward Training

- Westborough, MA
- May 2nd
- 9:00am to 4:00pm
- Register at afscme93.org

Steward Training

- Council 93 Maine Office
- May 2nd
- 9:00am to 4:00pm
- Register at afscme93.org

47th AFSCME International Convention

- Chicago, IL
- August 17-21st

Council 93 Organizing Update



Council 93 is growing and adding new members all the time. Here are just some examples of the progress Council 93 is making on the organizing front:

- **Boxborough, MA Town Employees** - 32 New Members
- **Rowley, MA Library Employees** - 15 New Members
- **Brookline, MA Council on Aging Caseworkers** - 9 New Members

Joining Council 93 starts with a conversation - to learn more contact our Organizing Staff at info@afscme93.org

Waterbury, VT Town Employees Unanimously Ratify First AFSCME Contract, Join Local 1369

Waterbury, VT- Members of the newest chapter of AFSCME Local 1369 in Waterbury unanimously ratified their first contract in January—marking a major milestone for the members and laying the foundation to build lasting union power.

The contract includes a number of key provisions designed to strengthen worker voices, protect members' rights, and support long-term union growth. Among the gains in the contract are two general membership meetings per year held during working hours, ensuring members have regular opportunities to stay informed and engaged with their Union. The contract also provides for union representation on the town's hiring committees, giving workers a voice in shaping the future of their workplace.

Recognizing the importance of professional standards, the town has agreed to follow the American Library Association Bill of Rights and related guidelines—an issue of particular importance to members working in library services. The contract also guarantees one hour of paid new employee orientation for both new hires and a officer from Local 1369, helping to

ensure strong onboarding and an early connection with their Union.

Additional protections include just cause standards and a formal grievance procedure, as well as 20 hours of paid leave annually for the Chapter Chair to attend trainings, conventions, and other union activities. Members also secured solidarity rights to honor union picket lines without fear of discipline.

The agreement further affirms members' collective power, including the right to strike under specific conditions, participation in an annual general strike if called by AFSCME Council 93 or the Vermont AFL-CIO, and one 24-hour Union Solidarity Day each year.

Together, these provisions reflect a contract built not only to protect workers, but to empower members of Local 1369 for years to come.

Interested in forming a union with AFSCME Council 93? Reach out today!

Dracut

(continued from pg. 1)

to School Committee members opposing privatization and collecting 85 signatures from Dracut residents on a petition, thereby demonstrating broad community concern about the proposal.

Local 1404 emphasized not only the potential loss of good-paying union jobs but also the importance of continuity, trust, and familiarity that in-house custodial staff bring to the Dracut school community. The campaign extended beyond formal meetings and communications. Members conducted standout demonstrations and leafletted voters twice—once in bitter cold and once in driving snow—to raise awareness and encourage public engagement.

“We just kept fighting for our rights, and thanks to Council 93 for all their help and guidance every step of the way, we are able to say that we came out on top,” said Local 1404 President Chad Adamczyk.

Adamczyk, Vice-President Bill Desmond, and the Council 93 campaign team worked in close coordination and solidarity. Council 93 leaders and staff from across Massachusetts also joined the effort, attending School Committee meetings from as nearby as across the street from Dracut Town Hall to as far away as Western Massachusetts.

Council 93 has long argued that privatization leads to reduced accountability and lower service standards, while also removing good paying union jobs from the community and costing the taxpayer more in the long run.

“This victory is just one more example of the benefits of being part of a powerful and experienced union like Council 93 and shows how much we can accomplish when we leverage our experience, resources and expertise to fight for our members,” said Council 93 Executive Director

Mark Bernard. “Staff from multiple departments worked as a team to implement a broad range of tactics including legal strategies, grassroots lobbying efforts, community and media relations, and more. Members and leaders from our Executive Board used their own personal time to support Local 1404.”

Months of hard work paid off with the School Committee vote to keep custodial services in-house.



Bernard added “Of course, the custodians themselves played the most important role simply by quietly doing their jobs so well over many years before this fight. Because of their dedication and hard work throughout their careers, the Dracut community joined us in the fight. Despite the uncertainty they dealt with as their livelihoods were on the line, they proudly continued to show that same strong work ethic throughout the fight. When we fight, we win!”

AFSCME Council 93 Endorses Dan Koh for US House Race

Nashua, NH- On March 14th, the Council 93 Executive Board voted unanimously to endorse Dan Koh for the 6th Congressional District seat that current Congressman Seth Moulton is vacating. Dan Koh is a longtime friend of AFSCME, dating back to his days working as Chief of Staff for former Boston Mayor and U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Marty Walsh, and then directly for former President Joe Biden.

“The 2026 midterm elections and the two years that follow will be a turning point for our nation,” said AFSCME Council 93 Executive Director Mark Bernard. “For us, simply maintaining and growing congressional seats held by supporters of labor and working families is a good start, but it’s not enough. We need to fill as many of those seats as possible with people who will aggressively and



Council 93 President Tiger Stockbridge and Dan Koh, Executive Board Members and 6th District Residents Linda O’Keefe Local 2610, Sandra Dacunha Local 364, and Tommie Corbett Local 1067

vocally fight against policies and initiatives that place the needs of billionaires and corporations ahead of middle-class America. We are confident we have found such a man in Dan Koh and we look forward to his victory in the primary, and ultimately, in the general election.”

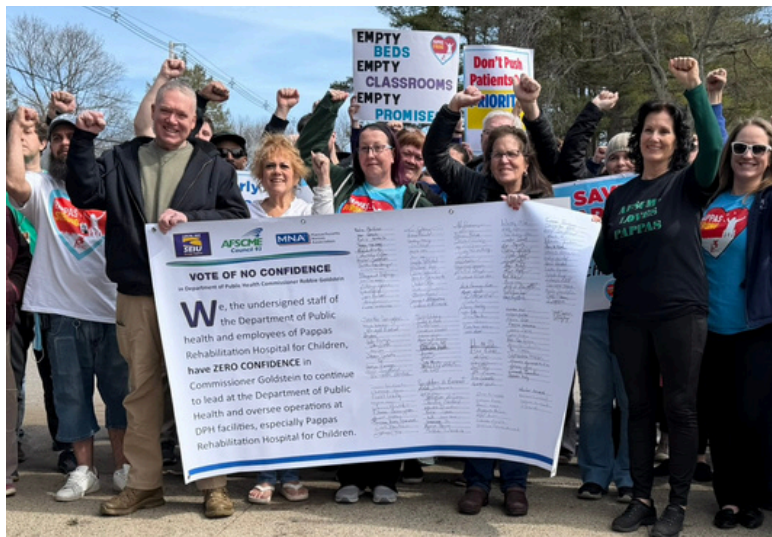
Council 93 in Action



It’s our members’ hard work – not corporate greed – that makes our communities stronger. AFSCME and Council 93 have been on the frontlines getting organized and fighting back. We are taking to the streets, taking our case to the courts, and fighting in the halls of government to build power together and tell those in charge that we aren’t going anywhere!

WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN!

Unions Take Vote of No Confidence in Pappas Leadership



Canton, MA- AFSCME Local 1517, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 509, and Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA) members at the Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children announced an overwhelming vote of “no confidence” in Massachusetts Department of Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein on March 25th, citing actions over the past year that “represent the abandonment of the vital mission of Pappas” as a rehabilitation hospital for children with significant disabilities.

The vote follows a year-long effort to discharge vulnerable children from the facility while halting long-term admissions of new patients—many of whom remain in acute care hospitals despite needing the specialized services Pappas provides. Over the past two years, the patient population has dropped from 48 to 22—a 54% decline—with additional discharges planned.

More than 95 percent of staff supported the no-confidence vote through a petition outlining concerns with Goldstein’s leadership. Participants included direct caregivers, support staff, facilities workers, and teachers represented by AFSCME Local 1517, SEIU 509, and the MNA.

Union members also point to last year’s push by Goldstein to close Pappas, which drew widespread opposition from the public and lawmakers. An online petition gathered more than 20,000

signatures, and supporters launched a “Pappas Strong” campaign to defend the facility. The response led the legislature to establish a special commission to study Pappas’ future, which held its first meeting on March 6. Although Governor Maura Healey’s FY27 budget includes full funding for Pappas, staff say ongoing discharges and limited admissions amount to a de facto closure.

Unions remain concerned that patients are being sent to settings that cannot match Pappas’ level of care, even as nearly 100 eligible children wait in acute care hospitals.

“Pappas is not just a school or a hospital or a rehab. It is so much more than the sum of its parts because it allows our patients to thrive and become their best selves in a special place that cannot be replicated. DPH should be investing and expanding Pappas so that children all across Massachusetts who need specialized services have access to them,” said Nancy Silva, president of AFSCME Local 1517. “DPH leadership, through their inaction, neglect, and shortsighted policy changes, is directly responsible for a steady and consistent decline in admissions which threaten the very existence of Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children. This vote of no confidence was not taken lightly, but the patients we serve deserve the very best and hundreds of workers at Pappas are speaking out for immediate change to save this essential facility.”



Council 93 Memorial Scholarship Fund Accepting Applications for 2026



Westborough, MA- As the cost of higher education continues to rise, AFSCME members and their families are finding it more and more difficult to make college dreams a reality. To help, the AFSCME Council 93 Memorial Scholarship Fund awards generous scholarships exclusively for AFSCME members and their families.

Each year, the AFSCME Council 93 Memorial Scholarship Fund provides ten individual one-thousand dollar (\$1,000) scholarships to students enrolled in a two or four-year accredited college, recognized technical, or trade school. Awarded in memory of all of our departed members, the scholarship is renewed for each year of attendance.

Council 93 members and their spouses, children, stepchildren, grandchildren, or legal dependents are eligible to apply for the AFSCME Council 93 Memorial Scholarship. Applicants must be accepted or already attending an accredited college or university, community college or recognized technical or trade school at the time of the award.

Over the past two decades, tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships have been awarded to deserving AFSCME families.

Council 93 Memorial Scholarship Fund Criteria

Who is eligible?

Council 93 members and their spouses, children, stepchildren, grandchildren, or legal dependents (Proof of AFSCME Council 93 membership required). Applicants must be accepted or already attending an accredited college or university, community college or recognized technical or trade school at the time of the award. (Graduate students are not eligible.)

How to Apply?

Applicants must complete an application and submit a 500-750 word essay on "Why Unions Have Been Important to my Family." Applications can be found online at:

www.afscme93.org/council-93-memorial-scholarship

Applications Should Include the Following:

- Essay
- Proof of Acceptance or Attendance at an accredited college or university, community college or recognized technical or trade school
- Proof of AFSCME Council 93 Membership or Affiliation

Timeline

The applications and essays are due by June 30th to be considered for an award.

Completed applications and essays must be submitted by the deadline via email:

ksundeen@afscme93.org

Winners will be notified by July 31, 2026.

The Scholarship Committee will review and rate each essay; the top 10 rated essays will be selected. Personal specifics such as names, local numbers, and Cities/Towns will be redacted when presented to the Committee for rating, to ensure complete impartiality. The decision of the Committee is final. Essays will be scanned for use of AI technology.

Local 1703 Members Honored by Stoneham Police Department for Exceptional Duty to Community



STONEHAM, MA – Several Local 1703 members serving the Stoneham Police Department were recently recognized for their dedication to the community. Office Manager Erin Sinclair was named Civilian Employee of the Year, Jeremy Cefalo was honored as Unsung Hero, and Dispatch Supervisor David Luciano received a commendation from the Chief of Police.

Sinclair was recognized for her exceptional professionalism, commitment, and vital role in supporting daily operations. Chief James O'Connor praised her work ethic, positive attitude, and ability to manage complex challenges with calm efficiency. He noted that Sinclair is often the first person staff turn to for solutions, citing her institutional knowledge and sound judgment. Whether coordinating resources, resolving issues, or preventing problems before they arise, she consistently delivers. She also embraces community policing, representing the Department with integrity while building trust. O'Connor added that her support for colleagues—both professionally and personally—makes the Department stronger.

Cefalo was honored for his work as a public safety telecommunicator, serving as a critical link between callers and first responders. He is

Erin Sinclair 2025 Civilian Employee of the Year (Left) and Dispatcher Jeremy Cefalo Unsung Hero for the Stoneham Police Department (Right). Both are members of AFSCME Local 1703.

known for handling high-pressure situations with composure, maintaining clear communication during fast-moving incidents. O'Connor emphasized that Cefalo's consistency, preparedness, and professionalism have earned the trust of officers in the field, particularly during busy shifts when steady communication is essential.

Luciano received a commendation for overseeing the year-long renovation of the Department's dispatch center, managing planning, budgeting, and temporary relocation. The project was completed on time and within budget, resulting in a modernized facility that will serve the Department and community for years to come.

"These awards recognize more than individual achievements; they recognize the professionalism, teamwork and dedication that define the Stoneham Police Department," said O'Connor. "We are proud to honor the men and women who take the extra step every day to serve the Stoneham community."

Member Benefit: Liberty Mutual



Exclusive Council 93 Benefit!

We are excited to introduce a new benefit designed to help you and your family save money—an exclusive Home and Auto Insurance program with Liberty Mutual available to all AFSCME Council 93 members. This collaboration with AFSCME Council 93, our longtime friends at Membership Benefits Group, and Liberty Mutual leverages the collective strength of our membership with trusted partners to provide real savings to our members.

AFSCME Council 93 members, and their families, can access competitive rates and potential savings of **up to \$950 on customized home and auto insurance with Liberty Mutual** to deliver real value with no compromise on coverage or service. **You can also protect your pets for less with an extra 10% discount for AFSCME members!**

**Start a quote today
to see how much
you could save!**



AFSCME Council 93 2nd Annual Charitable Foundation Golf Tournament

July 20th | Crosswinds Golf Club Plymouth, MA

Shotgun Start Scramble Golf Tournament
50 Teams | Skills Competitions | Breakfast
Banquet | Raffle | Prizes | Awards Ceremony

The golf tournament is the premier fundraising event for the Council 93 Charitable Trust to help AFSCME Council 93 members in times of need. All proceeds raised benefit the AFSCME Council 93 Charitable Trust!



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