

The 93 Beacon

SUMMER 2026

We Make Northern New England Happen!



WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN!

Council 93 Wins Retirement Reform for Maine Mental Health Workers and Stops Layoffs at Greenfield Community College



Local 1814 President Sally Nichols testifies in support of retirement reform legislation at the Maine State House last year (Left). Local 1067 members rallied at a recent Greenfield Community College Board of Trustees Meeting to protest proposed cuts to AFSCME jobs (Right).

Augusta, ME- AFSCME Council 93's incredible legislative winning streak continues in Maine with a landmark victory for workers at the state's two psychiatric hospitals.

Last year, Governor Janet Mills signed into law long-sought retirement reforms for nearly 80 Maine State Mental Health workers at Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center and Riverview Psychiatric Center. After years of advocacy by AFSCME Council 93 and Locals 1814 and 1825, these dedicated workers are now eligible to receive retirement benefits that recognize the dangerous nature of the work they perform every day.

Due to the high costs associated with the retirement reform, Community Response Workers
(*Maine pg. 3*)

Greenfield, MA- Local 1067 members at Greenfield Community College joined together with members of the Greenfield Community College Professional Association to oppose proposed budget cuts and layoffs that threatened the college's educational mission and the dedicated union members who support it.

(*Greenfield pg. 5*)

In this issue:

- Healey Endorsed
- AFSCME Scholarship Winner
- AFSCME Turns 90
- Union Discounts
- Organizing Victories
- And More!

Gov. Healey Re-Election Endorsed by Council 93



Governor Maura Healey with Council 93 President Tiger Stockbridge, Executive Director Mark Bernard and SUMMUP Leadership

Boston, MA— AFSCME Council 93 officially announced the endorsement of Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. Council 93's endorsement marks Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll's 34th labor endorsement of their re-election campaign so far.

"The leadership of our union is proud to support Governor Healey for re-election," said AFSCME Council 93 Executive Director Mark Bernard. "Our members serve in some of the most challenging jobs in state government and, as a result, it's not always easy to retain and attract workers who are willing to do this rewarding but difficult work. Governor Healey recognizes the importance of maintaining a stable and skilled workforce and that recognition, combined with the respect and appreciation for the work our members do, is reflected in the two collective bargaining agreements she has signed with our union. Governor Healey's accessibility and willingness to engage with us in meaningful conversation also played a major factor in our endorsement. We may not always agree with the Governor, but we know we can always count on her to return a call and listen to what we have to say."

"The November 2026 elections represent a turning

point for our state and our nation," said AFSCME Council 93 President Christopher Stockbridge. "While a great deal of attention is rightly being focused on federal races, gubernatorial races like the one we are facing in Massachusetts are also critical. As we look to expand our base of support in the U.S. House and Senate, we must also work to ensure that we elect governors who respect unions and the work our members do. In Massachusetts, the choice is clear. It's Maura Healey."

"Throughout our first term, AFSCME Council 93 has been an invaluable partner in our efforts to create good jobs and protect the workforce," said Governor Healey. "Our communities thrive when the hard-working people of Massachusetts have the security they deserve. I am honored to have AFSCME Council 93's support for our re-election, and I look forward to continuing our work to deliver real stability and opportunity for all working families."

"We're grateful for the continued support of AFSCME Council 93 members and the workers they represent," said Lieutenant Governor Driscoll. "By investing in our critical infrastructure, education, and healthcare systems across the state, we are enhancing vital public services allowing our economy to continue growing. Together, we are showing that when we move forward as a team, we build a stronger future for everyone in the Commonwealth."

In their first term, Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll have scored major wins for state, county, and municipal employees across the state, championing efforts to support workplace protections, benefits, and fair contracts while supporting the delivery of high-quality public services. Governor Healey is the first Massachusetts Governor in more than 50 years to create a Labor Advisory Council, ensuring workers always have a seat at the table on Beacon Hill, and she remains dedicated to fighting for a state that is more affordable and equitable for all.

Maine

(Continued from pg. 1)

were initially left to wait. That wait is over as these members, who work alone in the community and are responsible for assisting mentally ill and developmentally disabled adults and children in times of crisis, are now covered by the same retirement reform. CRWs work around the clock visiting private homes and residential group homes and like their counterparts in the state hospitals, they are frequently victims of violent assaults.

At the start of the second year of the session last fall, Council 93 worked with State Senator Mike Tipping to file legislation that would provide CRWs with the same retirement we secured for our members working in psychiatric hospitals. However, as money has become tighter and tighter, hope of securing the funding needed to implement the legislation began to dim.

But thanks to the strong support of Maine Senate President Mattie Daughtry and House Speaker Ryan Fecteau, we secured the funding and legislative language needed in the supplemental budget, which was promptly signed into law by

Governor Janet Mills. CRWs will be eligible to retire under the new law starting this July.

The new law places mental health workers and Community Response Workers in the same state retirement plan as firefighters, law enforcement officers, and corrections officers, allowing them to retire at age 55 with 25 years of service. The reform is designed not only to allow long-serving employees to retire with dignity, but also to improve recruitment and retention at facilities that have struggled with chronic staffing shortages and workplace violence.

In total, despite increasingly limited state resources, we secured over \$4.2 million to provide what is probably the best retirement benefit for AFSCME human services workers in the United States. That translates into over \$25,000 per member!

While this legislation marks a historic milestone, our work is not finished. AFSCME Council 93 will continue partnering with Locals 1814 and 1825 to improve safety and working conditions because every worker deserves to return home safely at the end of every shift.

Council 93 Making its Mark on Westborough; Come Check Us Out at Our Open House September 26th

Westborough, MA - Council 93's move to our new headquarters in Westborough reached a major milestone in late April when the Council 93 logo went up on our newly renovated building in Central Massachusetts.

Council 93 is hosting an Open House to welcome members in good standing to our new headquarters on **September 26th from 11:00am to 3:00pm**

Join us to meet AFSCME Council 93 leadership, staff, and union brothers and sisters: enjoy food and drinks; tour our new space; and enjoy fun and games for the whole family!

RSVP Today- <https://shorturl.at/sl0lw>



Local 1517 and AFSCME Council 93 Continue Fight to Save Pappas

Boston, MA - AFSCME Local 1517, families, and advocates continue their fight to preserve Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children, urging state leaders to protect the nationally recognized facility and the specialized care it provides to children and young adults with complex disabilities.

At a June public hearing before the Special Legislative Commission studying the future of Pappas, workers, parents, union leaders, medical professionals, and community supporters delivered emotional testimony calling on the Commonwealth to maintain and strengthen the Canton Hospital rather than allow its services to be reduced or relocated. Speakers warned that admissions have slowed while patients continue to be discharged, raising concerns that the Hospital is being quietly downsized despite legislative action establishing the Commission to evaluate its future before any permanent decisions are made.

AFSCME Council 93 Legislative and Political Director Jim Durkin urged commissioners to act decisively to preserve the Hospital's unique rehabilitation, educational, and residential programs. Council 93 has suggested using temporary field hospitals to continue providing access to the specialized, interdisciplinary care that only Pappas provides for children with complex medical needs while a more permanent solution to reimagine the 160-acre campus is developed and implemented.

Families shared powerful personal stories about the life-changing care their children have received, while frontline caregivers described the dedication and expertise of the Hospital's workforce and the devastating consequences that closure or consolidation would have for patients and their families.



AFSCME Local 1517 members listen to former Pappas student and longtime advocate Michael Porier testify before the Special Legislative Commission (Above) and AFSCME Council 93 Political and Legislative Director Jim Durkin presented the Commission with ideas to reimagine what Pappas can look like as an innovative home for rehabilitation, educational, and residential programs (Below).



For over a year, AFSCME members have organized alongside families, disability rights advocates, elected officials, and community supporters to oppose any effort to dismantle the Hospital. The union has consistently argued that Pappas is an irreplaceable resource whose highly specialized services cannot simply be replicated elsewhere without disrupting patient care.

The Special Legislative Commission is expected to issue recommendations on the future of the Hospital later this year. Until then, AFSCME Council 93 remains committed to standing with workers, patients, and families to ensure Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children remains open and continues providing world-class care to the children who depend on it.

Greenfield

(continued from pg. 1)

College administrators projected a \$2.86 million budget deficit for fiscal year 2027, citing lower-than-anticipated enrollment growth, rising payroll and employee benefit costs, technology expenses, and other operational increases. Early proposals called for reducing payroll by approximately \$1.15 million, potentially eliminating around 15 positions, consolidating academic departments, and increasing class size caps.

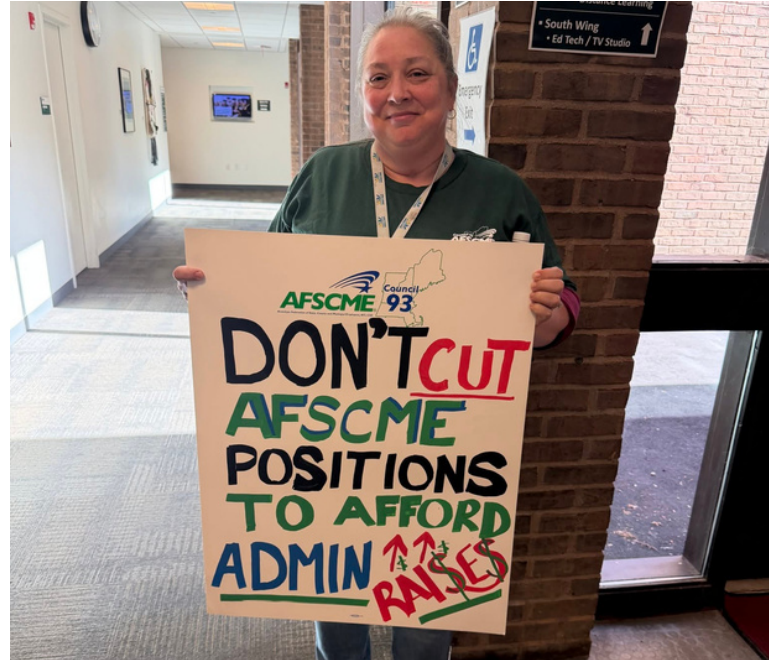
Local 1067 members quickly organized to attend Board of Trustees meetings where they advocated alongside students and community supporters to maintain staffing levels and to protest the College's top heavy administrative spending. AFSCME members have decried the lack of transparency from College leadership regarding the causes of the deficit and leadership's decision-making process. They also argued that administrative spending should be examined before cutting frontline faculty and staff, emphasizing that reductions to teaching and student support positions would undermine the personalized education Greenfield Community College is known for.

The united advocacy of Greenfield Community College's unions produced meaningful results that protected union jobs on campus. After the Legislature increased the College's anticipated state appropriation by approximately \$300,000, while several vacant AFSCME positions will go unfilled, college officials announced that no union faculty or support staff would be laid off as part of the final FY27 budget. Instead, the College balanced its budget through management reductions and other cost-saving measures while preserving union jobs.

"Management has cut the AFSCME workforce by one-third while expanding administrative non-union positions causing payroll costs to skyrocket. We are demanding that this pattern stop and that the administration be held accountable for

prioritizing administrative growth over the frontline workers who keep the college running," said Local 1067 Information Steward for Greenfield Community College Beth Sessions.

"Our union has been trying to address these concerns through stand outs at board meetings, speaking at board meetings, sending emails to board members and by using our CBA to ensure proper procedures are being followed."



While the immediate threat of layoffs was averted, Local 1067 members stress that significant challenges remain. They continue to advocate for increased state investment in public higher education, greater transparency in financial planning, and collaborative leadership that includes workers in decisions affecting the College's future.

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:

- **Tewksbury, MA Librarians-** 17 New Members
- **Worcester Polytechnic Institute Library Workers-** 10 New Members
- **Methuen, MA Municipal Workers-** 23 New Members

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

Local 413 Helps Win Easthampton Proposition 2½ Override



Easthampton, MA- AFSCME Local 413 members joined a broad coalition of labor organizations, community groups, and residents in supporting Easthampton's successful Proposition 2½ override, which voters approved in a June special election.

The override vote will ensure that funding for public schools, public safety, the library, and essential municipal services will be maintained while also helping to stabilize the city's finances.

AFSCME Local 413 joined together with their union brothers and sisters from Easthampton Firefighters Local 1876, the Easthampton Education Association, the International

Brotherhood of Police Officers Local 99-367, and the National Association of Government Employees Local 1-331 to form the "Yes for Easthampton Coalition."

The group was outspoken in urging residents to support the override to preserve strong public services and investment in the workers who deliver them each and every day.

The successful vote helps prevent deep budget cuts, preserves public service jobs, and protects the services Easthampton families rely on, while demonstrating that when unions and residents work together, they can protect the quality public services that make their communities stronger.

Behind Every World Cup Match Were World-Class Workers

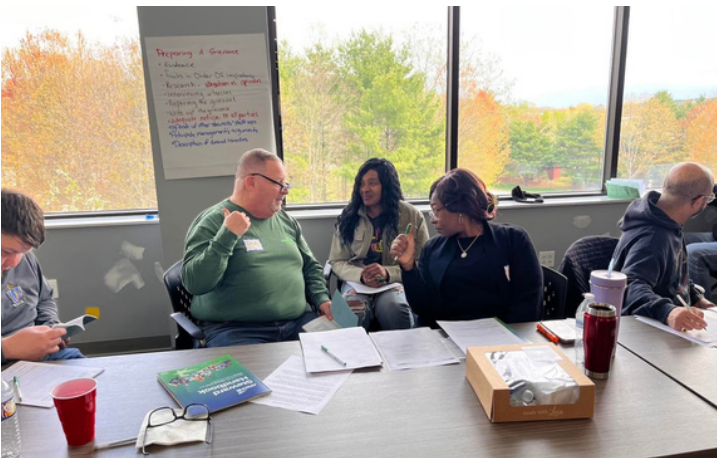
Boston, MA - When the FIFA World Cup came to Boston and Foxborough, fans from around the globe saw world-class soccer on the field. What they may not have seen were the thousands of AFSCME members and other public employees working behind the scenes to make every match and event a success.

From preparing venues and maintaining public spaces to directing traffic, managing crowds, enforcing parking restrictions, conducting building and safety inspections, ensuring code compliance, and cleaning up after the final whistle, public workers play a critical role before, during, and after every event.

Hosting an international event of this magnitude requires months of planning and coordination. AFSCME members and other public employees were on the front lines, helping keep residents and visitors safe while ensuring that essential municipal services continued uninterrupted. Whether welcoming fans to Boston or managing operations in and around Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, these dedicated workers showcased the professionalism and commitment that define public service.

The World Cup may be remembered for unforgettable games, but its success was also dependent on the workers who make everything happen behind the scenes. Simply put, world-class events require world-class workers—and Massachusetts has them.

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!

AFSCME Celebrates 90th Anniversary in 2026



Washington, DC- 2026 marks the 90th anniversary of our union — nine decades of working people coming together to build their collective power, to gain a voice on the job, and to strengthen their communities.

From the 1930s, when a group of state workers in Wisconsin banded together to protect their jobs and block political cronies from corrupting public services, to the 1.4 million members fighting today — we haven't just survived 90 years of history, we've SHAPED it.

It's a history of contracts won and lives improved. Of collective bargaining wins and civil rights progress. And of courageous members who, in moments of crisis, ran to the frontlines.

Across 90 years of history, time and time again, AFSCME members haven't chosen this line of work to get rich; they've done it because they want to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors. They've done it because they believe public service is more than a job, it's a calling.

Today, we continue to face big challenges to our rights and freedoms. But this anniversary, we're reminded that we are heirs to a history of activists, organizers, and fighters. And when we come together, there's nothing we can't overcome. AFSCME was born in the depths of the Great Depression on a simple but powerful idea: that a professional civil service is essential to a strong democracy.

The business of the people should be carried out by those dedicated to serving their communities, not political insiders with powerful connections.

That belief has carried AFSCME from a grassroots group of a few thousand workers to one of the biggest powerhouses in the labor movement. Every member helps write the next chapter of AFSCME's story. Over the past 90 years, we've been on the frontlines of history, fighting back, never backing down, and never quitting. Every struggle, every victory, and every moment of solidarity has been written by proud members like you.

For nine decades, when others stood down, AFSCME organized and took a powerful stand and we won't stop now.

AFSCME Council 93 Charitable Foundation Golf Tournament Sold Out

Plymouth, MA- For the second year in a row the AFSCME Council 93 Charitable Foundation Golf Tournament, scheduled for July 20th at Crosswinds Golf Club, is officially sold out! Thank you to our members, Locals, and supporters who have registered. We look forward to a great day out on the course.

Since its inception, the Charitable Foundation has raised tens of thousands of dollars to provide scholarships, disaster relief, and assistance to Council 93 families in need throughout our Northern New England region.

Although player registration has closed, you can still make a donation to support the Charitable Foundation's mission.

To make a donation contact Executive Administrative Assistant Kerri Sundeen
ksundeen@afscme93.org | 617-367-6015
or your AFSCME Council 93 Staff Representative

Every contribution helps make a meaningful impact and is greatly appreciated.

Council 93 Families Earn National Scholarship Honors



AFSCME Family Scholarship winner Morgan Weaver with her mother Alison Sheehan who is a member of AFSCME Local 939

Washington, DC- Two family members of AFSCME Council 93 members have received national scholarships recognizing their academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to service.

Morgan Weaver, daughter of Local 939 member Alison Sheehan, was named one of 10 recipients of the 2026 AFSCME Family Scholarship. A graduate of Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School in Haverhill, Massachusetts, Weaver plans to study dentistry, a career she says is "rooted in my desire to help others and give back to the community."

In her winning essay, What AFSCME Has Meant to Our Family and Community, Weaver reflected on how her mother's union membership provided stability and security for their family. "For us, AFSCME was more than a union—it was security," she wrote, noting that union protections helped her family through the COVID-19 pandemic and other personal challenges. The AFSCME Family Scholarship awards ten graduating seniors with renewable scholarships worth up to \$8,000 over four years.

The daughter of a Council 93 member was also recognized through the 2026 Union Plus Scholarship Program. Olivia Megan Bate of Easton, Maine, whose mother, Kristie Bate, is a member of Council 93 Local 2117, received a \$1,000 Union Plus Scholarship. Bate was one of 181 students representing 42 unions to receive a share of \$300,000 in scholarship funding this year.

AFSCME Council 93 congratulates both Morgan Weaver and Olivia Megan Bate on their outstanding accomplishments and wishes them continued success as they pursue their educational goals.

Applications for the various scholarships available to AFSCME Council 93 families come out at different times throughout the year so be sure to check our website and social media for updates!

Scholarship Opportunities!

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. Each year, AFSCME Council 93 and AFSCME International awards generous scholarships exclusively for AFSCME members and their families.

- **AFSCME Council 93 Memorial Scholarship**
- **AFSCME International Scholarships**
- **Massachusetts AFL-CIO Scholarships**
- **New Hampshire AFL-CIO Scholarships**
- **Union Plus Scholarship Program**
- **And Many More.....**

A number of AFSCME Council 93 Locals also offer scholarship programs to their members- reach out to your Local to find out if you or your family is eligible for any scholarships they might provide.

Learn more at AFSCME93.org

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 between 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!**



Upcoming AFSCME Council 93 Events



Refresher Training- Weingarten Rights and DFR

- Virtual
- July 22nd
- 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Steward Training

- Boston, MA
- July 25th
- 9:00am to 4:00pm

Steward Training

- Westborough, MA
- November 7th
- 9:00am to 4:00pm

47th AFSCME International Convention

- Chicago, IL
- August 17th-21st

AFSCME Council 93 Legislative Conference

- Danvers, MA
- September 11th-13th

AFSCME Council 93 Open House

- Westborough, MA
- September 26th
- 11:00am to 3:00pm

To learn more or to register for any AFSCME Council 93 Trainings or Events Visit: afscme93.org/calendar-events

Stay Connected with Council 93