

**Council 61**

**AFSCME®**

# Member Connection

## FALL 2022 RECERTIFICATIONS

Here we go again...

That's right folks...it's once again time to perform the ultimate act of political insanity that is Union Recertifications! That's right it's that time of year again. This year along with select city, county and school units, the STATE of IOWA EMPLOYEES get to play too!

I know you all will remember how this goes—  
WE pay YOUR money to the State so you can vote to keep your union. And if you do not vote, well then the state votes NO for YOU! Isn't that democratic?? ALL people covered by your contract must vote. Members and non-members must vote. Insanity.

Yes, this edition is dripping with false enthusiasm and genuine sarcasm. I just can't believe the state still makes you do this ridiculous exercise. Here are some quick facts about re-certifications that you may or may not know:

- It was put into law by the Iowa Republican leadership in 2017 along with the other changes to Chapter 20.
- It's administered by the Iowa Public Employees Relations Board (PERB).
- It's run by a third party company who counts the votes.
- AFSCME has to pay a fee for every person who is eligible to vote in order for them to be allowed to vote, whether they vote or not.

- This year we paid over \$30,000 of your dues money to the state so you could tell them you still want your union benefits and contracts.
- This vote period is open for two weeks but we as the Council spend months preparing on top of our other representing and organizing duties.
- This law was put on us by politicians with a grudge. It can be changed by new politicians. It's an election year. Just saying.

Maybe when you vote for re-certification this year, while you have your phone out, maybe call or email your State Representative or Senator or the Governor and tell them to change this ridiculous, punitive, needless requirement that forces you to pay to maintain your rights every two years.

Lastly, go talk to your co-workers. Make sure they are aware of this vote and educate them. Ask them to join. Let them know what they stand to lose.

Most importantly, thank you. Thank you for your membership, your support and your YES vote. If each of you gets two people to vote yes and even one of them to sign up, think of how huge we can be next year.

Solidarity.





AFSCME fights to promote freedom and opportunity for all working people wherever, and whoever, they are. But Sisters & Brothers, nothing changes when *nothing* changes...

This election is about putting *People* over *Politics*, it's time for us all to do just that!

Every election is decided by the people that show up.

Here are some helpful tips:

1. Make sure you are registered to VOTE ([www.sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation](http://www.sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation))
2. Make a plan to VOTE (absentee or in person)
3. SHOW UP and **VOTE November 8!!!**

Endorsed Candidate Information can be found here:

[People Over Politics](#)

[Iowa House Candidates](#)

[Senate Candidates](#)

[Federal & Statewide Candidates](#)

# Celebrate Good Times!

- After a long fight through two PERB hearings ,we won a termination for a DOT employee with full reinstatement as well as back pay and benefits!
- Local 2987 donated money for Backpacks for School Kids and money towards team shirts for high school kids on a basketball team.
- Local 2987 also had two retirements, Alberta Conrad & Kym Salow. Alberta has been an AFSCME member since the late 1970's and Kym has been a member for 18+ years. Congratulations to Alberta & Kym!
- Council 61 held their first Zoom Secretary-Treasurer Training on August 27th put on by AFSCME International.
- Council 61 held their first Hybrid Steward Training where we had folks in both the Council 61 office and in Zoom. A good time was had by all!
- This past Labor Day, Council 61 took time to celebrate the work we do for our communities and the freedoms we enjoy as union members. Check out the virtual Labor Day parade showcasing AFSCME's strength in our stories.

#AFSCMELaborDay



## Have News to Share?

Do you have news to share about your local that we can add to the next MemberConnection? Please submit them to [membership@afscmeiowa.org](mailto:membership@afscmeiowa.org).



## 2022 Recertification Elections are now open!!!

REMEMBER! All Iowa contracts with an expiration date of June 30, 2023 are set to vote beginning TODAY, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11TH.

**THIS INCLUDES ALL STATE OF IOWA EMPLOYEES!**

### **How do you vote?**

Voting online is the fastest and easiest way to have your vote count.

You may visit the following website to cast your vote:

**<https://vote.yeselections.com/iaperb/>**

If you're reading this on a computer, you can use the QR code at the bottom of this page by opening your camera app on your phone, point the camera at the QR code, and click on the link that pops up.

If all else fails, you may also vote by phone by calling 1-855-443-5889 although it may be a bit confusing.

Please talk to your co-workers about why voting is so important and the unfortunate series of consequences if they don't vote.

Lastly, don't forget to let us know you voted by contacting the Recertification Hotline at (515) 246-2647 or [recert@afscmeiowa.org](mailto:recert@afscmeiowa.org).



# **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

## **Weingarten Rights**

**(Right to Union Representation during an investigatory Interview)**

**"If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my union representative, officer, or steward be present at this meeting.**

**Without union representation, I choose not to answer questions."**

**NOTE:** It is the employees' responsibility to request union representation. The employer does not have to offer it.



Our union is stronger with a well-trained activist core. We are dedicated to providing high-quality training and leadership development for all levels of our union.

#### **Steward Training:**

The Steward takes on a number of roles in the union. Stewards represent employees' during investigatory interviews and assist employees' in filing grievances, when necessary. They provide leadership in the workplace, organize co-workers to take collective action, communicate with workers, union leaders and management. Stewards educate members about solidarity, justice and the importance of political and legislative action.

#### **Secretary-Treasurer Training:**

The Secretary-Treasurer of a local union performs many financial duties. Whether the individual is depositing a check, reconciling a bank statement or completing IRS forms, each duty is extremely important. The President and Executive Board also have financial responsibilities. The President, as a second signature, verifies that payments are for approved expenses only and that supporting documentation is maintained for all payments. The Board approves expenses, adopts policies, and monitors the union's financial condition.

#### **UPay Training:**

This training will allow you to organize your co-workers at a whole other level. You will be provided with the tools needed to sign up new members using our secure and efficient online system. Grow your union right from your phone or tablet!

Are you interested in the plethora of training opportunities offered by Council 61?

Feel free to contact us at [membership@afscmeiowa.org](mailto:membership@afscmeiowa.org).

# **AFSCME Council 61 Executive Board**

Rick Eilander, Council 61 President  
Todd Copley, Council 61 Secretary-Treasurer

**DISTRICT 1 VICE PRESIDENTS**  
Stacy Biondi - Local 1868  
Scott Thompson - Local 3450

**DISTRICT 3 VICE PRESIDENTS**  
Daryl Erickson - Local 2998  
VACANT

**DISTRICT 5 VICE PRESIDENTS**  
Jeremy Martin - Local 2989  
Terry Nixon - Local 887

**DISTRICT 2 VICE PRESIDENTS**  
Mike Morse - Local 2844  
Susan Rowe - Local 2990

**DISTRICT 4 VICE PRESIDENTS**  
Shelly Hill - Local 2659  
Curt Salow - Local 2987

**DISTRICT 6 VICE PRESIDENTS**  
Ray Druger - Local 620  
Richard Frauenholz - Local 12

**DISTRICT 7 VICE PRESIDENTS**  
Andrew Washburn - Local 1707  
Michelle Mason - Local 2730

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