

# insight

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS

OF PROTEC17

Summer  
2025  
Vol 30  
No. 3



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### On the Cover:

PROTEC17 showed up in force – including Snohomish County member Drew Nazarian (pictured) – at the annual May Day Rally and March in Seattle! Members representing six Chapters attended the event that started with rousing speeches at Cal Anderson Park on Capitol Hill, and was followed by a 1.5-mile march to the Federal building in downtown Seattle. Read more on page 8. ■

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## PROTEC17 Executive Board Election Notice

Nominations are now open for the following PROTEC17 Executive Board positions: Trustee #2 (King County Employees), currently held by Zori Pruneda, and Trustee #4 (City of Seattle Employees), currently held by Rachael Brooks. The terms are three (3) years and will expire in 2029.

### Details:

- (1) Only members who work for King County are eligible to be nominated for the King County Trustee position, and only members who work for the City of Seattle are eligible to be nominated for the City of Seattle Trustee position. The City of Portland, State of Washington, Greater Northwest, and Membership-at-Large Trustee positions will be up for election in ensuing years.
- (2) To be eligible for nomination to an Executive Board position, a member must have been in good standing in PROTEC17 for a period of at least six (6) months immediately prior to the nomination.
- (3) No member of PROTEC17 shall run for more than one Executive Board office concurrently.
- (4) Nominations must be in writing by the person making the nomination, and must be at the PROTEC17 office, 2900 Eastlake Avenue East, Suite #300, Seattle, Washington 98102, by 5 p.m. on Mon., Oct. 6, 2025.
- (5) Names of all nominees, except those who declare in writing that they decline the nomination, will appear on the ballot.
- (6) Candidates may submit a statement of up to 200 words and a photo of themselves. These will go out with the ballot and must be received at the union office by 5 p.m. on Fri., Oct. 10, 2025.
- (7) An electronic ballot will be emailed to each member in good standing at their last known email address the week of Oct. 13, 2025.
- (8) The ballots will be counted after 5 p.m. on Mon., Nov. 17, 2025.

To request a paper ballot, or if you have any questions regarding the election, please contact the PROTEC17 Election Chair at: PROTEC17 Election Chair, 2900 Eastlake Avenue East, Suite 300, Seattle, WA 98102, or union@protec17.org.

## insight

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## In the spirit of resistance

**S**ince the last edition of *Insight*, so much has happened. Workplaces have become the focus of ICE raids, detaining thousands of immigrant workers. Arrests of organizers and labor leaders, like David Huerta are increasing. Elected representatives in Minnesota have been assassinated in their homes for their work in public service. Federal lands are being privatized and jobs cut to pave the way for billionaire's tax breaks. Thinking about our nation's Independence Day, the Fourth of July, beckons us to consider some of the core values of our country – freedom, democracy, opportunity, a welcoming nation, a balance of power, and protection of individual rights. At this moment, we are facing a concentration of power from the government and billionaires to suit their interests, unabashed to use suppression or force for those that stand to oppose – the very definition of authoritarianism.

So, *what is the role of our labor movement and our union in response to this moment?* It's in our mission statement – we are a member powered union: inspiring action, advancing equity, building community. And we are part of a broader movement with a foundation of freedom, democracy, constitutional rights, and justice. If we are going to strive to uphold these values in both words and action, then we have a duty to lead in this moment and resist authoritarianism.

A few things that came to mind about how we can do this – *three acts of resistance to meet this moment*. It doesn't need to be grandiose, and as union members, many of us are doing these things already, as highlighted in this edition of *Insight*. These are things that are easily done from work, home, or anywhere.

1. **Know Your Rights.** As union members, we are good at enforcing our contractual rights, and we educate each other on constitutional rights like freedom of speech and assembly. Now is a good time to brush up on these. Whether you are protecting your right to remain silent regarding an immigration encounter, or standing firm for your right to peacefully protest, it's crucial to know what our rights allow us - or don't allow us - to do when in situations of resistance. And it's good to know best practices for safe, peaceful protests. You can find these resources on our website at: [protec17.org/racial-justice](https://protec17.org/racial-justice).
2. **Connect with others, and lean into community.** We know as union members that we can do more together than alone. Connecting with others will keep us going in this moment; whether it's joining a gym class, going to church, attending your union meeting, or simply talking with co-workers in the workplace. Engaging with each other, sharing information, forming relationships and leaning into our communities creates networks for support, care, and inspiration. It builds a unique kind of power that is hard to break once formed – a resilient, collective community.
3. **Breathe and keep going.** Something that I learned years ago as a college choir singer is called staggered breathing - different people take breaths at different times so the choir maintains a continuous unbroken sound. Everyone needs to breathe – and when we stagger our breaths to take care of ourselves knowing that others are continuing it allows all of us to keep going - so we can keep the music flowing. It's an important metaphor that we can use for this moment. Take a break, a step back, and know that others are stepping forward to give you rest, and then re-engage when you can. The music will continue. We got this together.

Our response in this moment impacts our communities, our workplaces, and our lives. Our Labor movement has the power to mobilize and change the future, if we engage. Many of us are there already, like PROTEC17 Stewards Jamie Fackler and Rocco Devito who are running for office (p. 6); the King County and Snohomish County negotiations' teams who fought long and hard to win strong contracts alongside their co-workers (p. 4); and the dozens of PROTEC17 members who took to the streets to protest and stand up for our values.

This Fourth of July, I will be celebrating the revolutionary spirit that exemplifies our country's independence – a spirit of resistance to overthrow oligarchs and to call out authoritarianism, one act of resistance at a time. I hope to see you out there! Just remember to breathe; we got you – we got each other.

In compassion and solidarity,

*Karen*



Karen Estevenin  
Executive Director

## Snohomish County members ratify hard-fought contract

**A**fter more than a year and a half of contentious negotiations with Snohomish County, PROTEC17 members secured a hard-fought victory on a multi-year contract that contains cost-of-living adjustments – including retroactive payments back to Jan. 1, 2024 – non-discrimination language, and many other language improvements and benefits.

Since Nov. 2023, when negotiations first began, PROTEC17 members took many actions in an attempt to move the County, including: petitions, attending public County Council meetings and arranging meetings with County Council members, holding solidarity days in the workplace, going to mediation, and flooding the Snohomish County Executive's inbox. While ultimately the negotiations team gave the final agreement a neutral recommendation due to it being presented by the County as a 'last, best, and final' offer, members overwhelmingly ratified the terms, which will give them a minimum 10 percent increase over the life of the contract, depending upon the results of the CPI-W wage formula in 2026 and 2027.

County Council voted to approve the contract in May, and the contract was implemented on June 1, 2025. The new pay rates were reflected on members' June 20 paychecks, with retro pay to come separately – please check your personal email for updates on retro pay.

A special thank you to the Bargaining Teams for the Allied Health, Environmental Health (EH), and EH Supervisors contracts who put in countless hours throughout this process! ■

## Furloughs avoided thanks to actions taken by PROTEC17 State members

**T**his year's Washington state legislative session ended on Sun., April 27 with legislators passing a final budget for the 2025-2027 biennium that attempts to balance a \$15 billion dollar budget gap, without furloughs for State employees.

The idea of furloughs for State employees were first floated as part of a larger budget-savings plan by Governor Ferguson early this year. Immediately, PROTEC17 members across the state jumped into action - sending emails, making phone calls, and speaking directly with lawmakers about how disruptive furloughs would be to State employees, services, and taxpayers.

Thanks to the power of collective action, PROTEC17 members not only saved their colleagues from furloughs, but will receive the negotiated raises in the fully-funded 2025-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement starting on July 1, 2025, which includes a three percent General Wage Increase (GWI) for 2025, and a two percent GWI for 2026, among other wins. In addition, members were able to stave off threats to take away the right to negotiate healthcare costs.

State members will take a quick victory lap, then begin gearing up for negotiations for the 2027-2029 contract which will begin early next year. To get involved, please reach out to your Union Representative. ■

## King County Coalition members reach a Tentative Agreement; small table negotiations continue this summer

**I**n February, the PROTEC17 bargaining team, alongside the King County Coalition of Unions, began negotiations with King County management on the next Coalition Labor Agreement (CLA), and in early June the team reached a tentative agreement (TA) on the terms of the main 2026-2028 contract. While each individual PROTEC17 bargaining unit within the CLA will continue to negotiate unit-specific language this summer as part of the contract appendices – called “small table bargaining” – the TA on the CLA already marks a huge victory for members.

Some of the highlights of the CLA agreement include: a guaranteed 10.5 percent increase over the life of the three-year contract; new bilingual pay premiums across the coalition; increased vacation accruals in the first four years of employment; stable, long term funding for

professional development; improved holiday pay language for employees who work alternative schedules; and an increased boot allowance.

The goal is to complete small table negotiations by September 5 to ensure the agreements can be successfully transmitted through King County Council for final approval in time for implementation in 2026, pending ratification of the agreements by the membership. King County members represented by the CLA will vote on the contract as an entire package once small table negotiations are complete. The team is also close to finalizing the details of an agreement on healthcare negotiations, which will also be included in the final package.

Check your personal email for the latest updates, visit [www.protec17.org/member/king](http://www.protec17.org/member/king), or reach out to your Union Representative. ■

**Find more news on our website: [www.protec17.org/news](http://www.protec17.org/news)**

## Introducing the **\*NEW!\*** PROTEC17 Member Discount Program through Working Advantage!

**A**s part of one of the goals in the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan, PROTEC17 has teamed up with a company called Working Advantage to offer enhanced member benefits to dues-paying members. The new PROTEC17 Member Discount program gives members special access to discounts on travel, tickets, dining, shopping, services, and more when they register through the Working Advantage website. This reputable company has worked with unions like Teamsters and SEIU to offer hundreds of discounts on things that working people use everyday.

To sign up, visit [workingadvantage.com](http://workingadvantage.com) and use our access code: PROTEC17 to create an account. Participation is completely optional and on an opt-in basis – we do not give Working Advantage any member information. If you do create an account with them, we have been

assured that they do not sell or store your personal information. You may also adjust your communications and cookie options once you create an account based on your personal preferences.

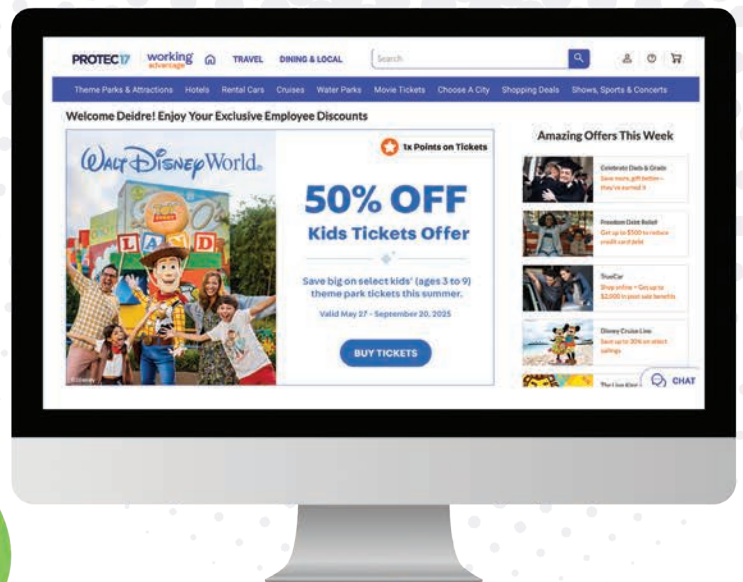
The Strategic Planning Committee continues to explore other options to bring additional benefits to dues-paying members. Benefits now include: the Professional Development Fund, the Scholarship Program, and the Member Discount Program. The Professional Development Fund offers dues-paying members up to \$200 each year to reimburse members for job-related coursework and training. The Scholarship Program - *now in its 14th year!* - offers the children, grandchildren, and dependents of dues-paying members, the opportunity to apply for one of two \$5,000 college scholarships. Full details on all of our member benefit programs can be found at: [protec17.org/benefits](http://protec17.org/benefits).

In addition, the committee is currently researching options for union membership cards that could be connected with the discount program, as well as used to access information, check into events, etc. Based on information collected from polls in our member portal and in other ways, PROTEC17 members have indicated that they'd be interested in both a physical (credit card sized) card and a digital card. Keep your eyes peeled for more info on this in 2026! If you have other ideas for discounts or membership card options, please reach out to the Strategic Planning Committee at [future@protec17.org](mailto:future@protec17.org).

As we continually work to expand this program, we hope you find that the benefits of being a dues-paying member — *in addition to the benefits that come from having a strong contract and being a part of a unified community of workers!* — are truly unsurpassed! ■

**PROTEC17**  
+ **working**  
advantage

**= Savings  
for you!**



**To create your account, visit:**  
**[workingadvantage.com](http://workingadvantage.com)**  
**Use access code: PROTEC17**



# Two PROTEC17 Stewards run for office!

## Meet Rocco DeVito and Jamie Fackler

If you've attended a PROTEC17 Chapter meeting, Regional Executive Committee meeting, rally, or event in the Seattle or King County area, you've likely run into Rocco DeVito and Jamie Fackler. The two PROTEC17 Stewards are well-known in their respective Chapters for steadfastly supporting their union colleagues and causes. Now, both DeVito and Fackler are hoping to bring their pro-worker platforms to politics as they run for City Council members in their communities.

As a Steward, Fackler – who works as a Building Inspector for the City of Seattle – has helped his colleagues stand up for safer working conditions, pushed back against discrimination and fought to protect jobs. He also played an instrumental role in contract negotiations with the City in 2022 and 2023. As one of the most active members of PROTEC17's Seattle contract action team, he helped to

organize a historic rally for city workers that ultimately resulted in big wins in the contract.

Fackler is running for Seattle City Council Position 2, which represents South Seattle, from Yesler Terrace to Rainier Beach. He wants billionaires to pay their fair share so that the City can address the issues impacting working families – like affordable housing, safe streets, mental health, and the drug crisis.

“Being in a union has taught me that we don't have to accept things the way they are,” says Fackler. “We don't have to accept a city that only works for a select few. If we organize, we can build a Seattle where everyone has a home, where every kid feels safe walking to school, where our communities are rooted, strong, and filled with hope, not fear.”

As a father that has served on the Parent Teacher Association, a Board member for Washington's 37th Legislative District,

and a community organizer for last year's Social Housing Initiative, Fackler knows what Seattle can achieve by working together towards a common good.

“I believe in what we can do when we stand together - I have seen it,” he continued. “I've seen people win fights no one thought they could win and I believe we can do it again.”

Like Fackler, DeVito also has a long history of community and public service. As the child of a military, working class, and union family, Rocco was drawn to public service, serving in the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps before starting his career with King County Metro where he has helped residents get connected to transit options, including launching programs that provide transit passes to those who need them the most.

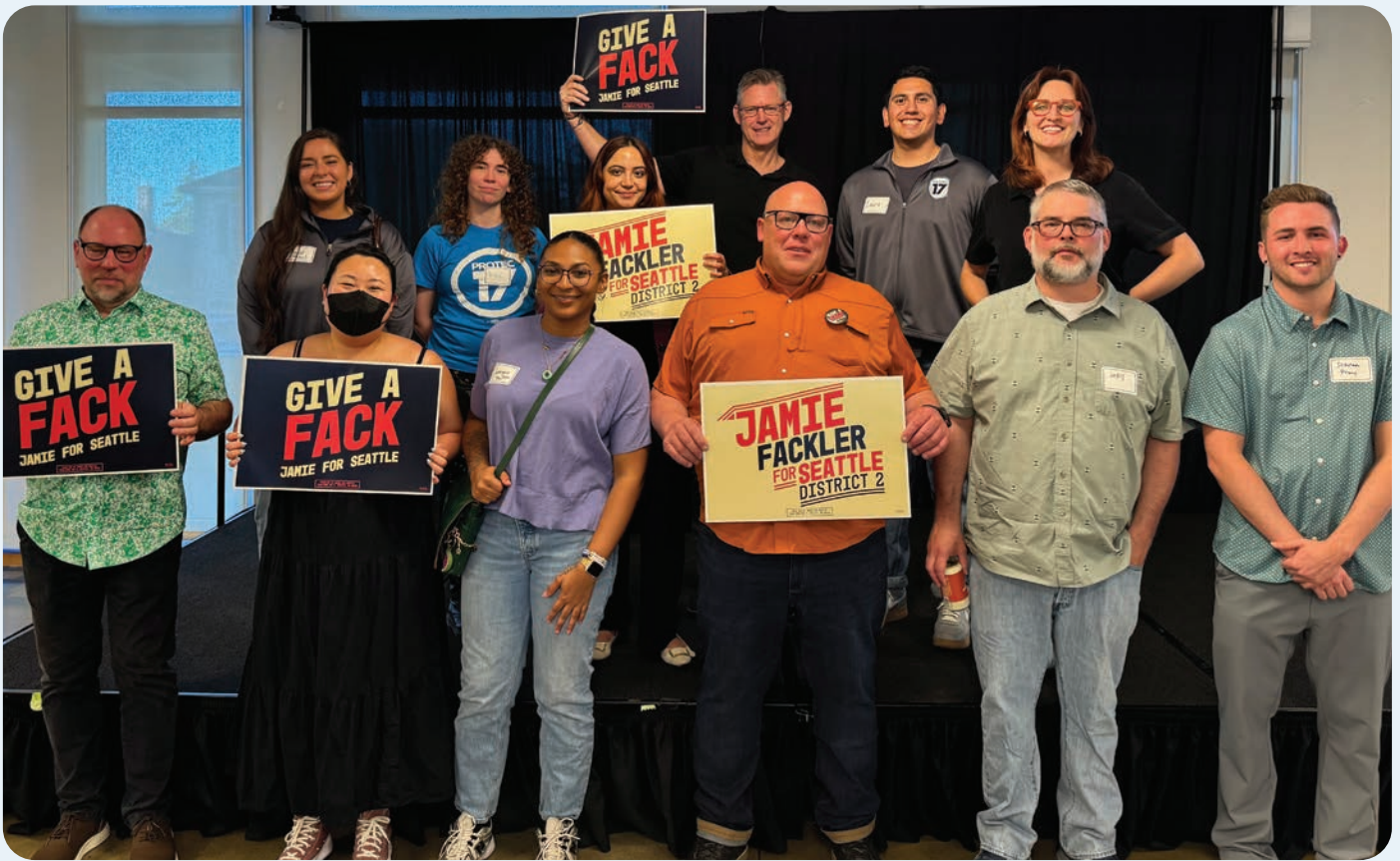
By running for Councilmember for the City of Burien, Wash., DeVito wants to help his community achieve more afford-

**“Being an active union member helped me to fully see that when we are organized, and fight for what we deserve, we win! I want to bring that same union spirit to Burien City Council to make sure the city listens to and works for our working families.”**

Rocco DeVito  
PROTEC17 King County Steward and  
Candidate for Burien City Council



PROTEC17 Steward Rocco DeVito, pictured at the May Day Rally, is running for Burien City Council.



*PROTEC17 members and staff attended Jamie Fackler's campaign kickoff in May. Jamie, pictured in the orange shirt in the center, is running for Seattle City Council District 2.*

ble housing, safer streets, stronger youth programs, and to have a government that works for working people.

"I'm running because I love my city," exclaimed DeVito. "Folks want their city government to work on everyday issues, and they want to be able to interact with our leaders, and that isn't happening in Burien right now. I want to help bring people together to solve problems and to make our town a place where everyone can work, live, and thrive!"

The PROTEC17 Workers' Roundtable, (PWR) which interviews candidates for office and makes endorsement recommendations, has unanimously endorsed both DeVito and Fackler.

"No one will fight harder for the issues that impact working people than Jamie and Rocco," said PROTEC17 Political Director Mark Watson, who provides support to the PWR group.

"We need the experiences and perspectives of working people to be better represented in our local governments," he continued. "Having a union member in office is key to creating more of a balance of power."

In recent years, union members across the Pacific Northwest have been stepping up to run for office, including PROTEC17 member Sadie Silke in last year's Portland City Council race. If you are interested in learning what it takes to run for office, the Washington State Labor Council hosts an annual training called Path-to-Power – typically held each spring – to get union members up to speed on the ins-and-outs of running a political campaign.

If you want to talk more about what running for office entails, please reach out to Mark Watson at [mark@protec17.org](mailto:mark@protec17.org) for more information. ■

**"Being in a union has taught me that we don't have to accept things the way they are. Having people in elected office who don't need convincing to do the right thing for working families is the primary reason that I am running."**

Jamie Fackler  
PROTEC17 Seattle Steward and  
Candidate for Seattle City Council

**For more endorsements, visit: [protec17.org/endorsements](https://protec17.org/endorsements)**



## 2025 May Day March and Rally highlights federal attacks on immigrants, workers, public institutions, and more

**I**n the face of escalating attacks on working people, organized labor turned out en masse for actions on International Workers' Day – also known as 'May Day' – on May 1st across the Pacific Northwest. PROTEC17 members from Portland, Seattle, Tacoma, and beyond lent their voices in support of immigrants' rights and workers' rights, which they see as wholly intertwined.

The rally in Seattle – the area's largest – was held at Cal Anderson Park on Capitol Hill and attended by over a thousand people. Following the rally, supporters took to the streets to march to the Federal Building in downtown Seattle. The annual rally and march was organized by a coalition of immigrants rights and community groups, and supported by dozens of local labor unions.

Seattle's action addressed several issues, from defending federal workers and the right to organize, to standing up for immigrant workers and families – particularly local workers and union leaders who have been unjustly detained. Just one month before the May Day rally, a rally was held outside of the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma to call for the release of union siblings Lelo Juarez and Lewelyn Dixon, who were still detained as of May Day.

"As a union, we will continue speaking out boldly to protect the rights of all people, to fight oppression and racism locally, nationally, and globally, and to stand in solidarity with union members across our region," said PROTEC17 Executive Director Karen Estevenin who attended the rally and march alongside dozens of PROTEC17 members from employers across the region,

including the City of Seattle, King County, Sound Transit, King County Regional Homelessness Authority, WSDOT, Snohomish County and more.

Earlier this year, Estevenin released a statement condemning the federal attacks, and committing PROTEC17 to working with Labor councils, community organizations, and employers in Washington and Oregon to create strategies to resist harms to working people.

"We are committed to our values that every workplace needs to be welcoming and safe so people can do their jobs – including immigrants and refugees, women, transgender people, LGBTQ+ folks, people of all racial identities, people with disabilities, and people of every religion, or of no religion."

You can read the text of the full statement at: [protec17.org/racial-justice](https://protec17.org/racial-justice). ■

*Below: The PROTEC17 contingent at Cal Anderson Park in Seattle on May Day.*





# PROTEC17 EVENT CALENDAR

## JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 1 - PROTEC17 Presents: Union 101!

July 1 - Portland Chapter Meeting

July 2 - Steward Training - Part 1

July 3 - Future of Work Member Action Meeting

**July 4 - Fourth of July/Independence Day**

July 9 - Steward Training - Part 2

July 9 - WSDOT Chapter Meeting

July 9 - Tacoma Chapter Meeting

July 10 - Seattle Chapter Meeting

July 15 - Benton-Franklin Chapter Meeting

July 16 - Portland Chapter Meeting

July 17 - King County Steward Meeting

July 23 - King County Chapter Meeting

July 24 - Seattle Steward Meeting

July 31 - Sound Transit Contract Action Team Meeting

Aug. 5 - Portland Chapter Meeting

Aug. 6 - Steward Training - Part 1

Aug. 7 - Future of Work Member Action Meeting

Aug. 13 - Steward Training - Part 2

Aug. 13 - WSDOT Chapter Meeting

Aug. 13 - Tacoma Chapter Meeting

Aug. 14 - Seattle Chapter Meeting

Aug. 19 - Benton-Franklin Chapter Meeting

Aug. 20 - Portland Chapter Meeting

Aug. 21 - King County Steward Meeting

Aug. 21 - Snohomish County Chapter Meeting

Aug. 27 - King County Chapter Meeting

Aug. 28 - Sound Transit Contract Action Team Meeting

Aug. 28 - Seattle Steward Meeting

**Sept. 1 - Labor Day**

Sept. 2 - Portland Chapter Meeting

Sept. 3 - Steward Training - Part 1

Sept. 3 - DOL Revenue Auditors Meeting

Sept. 4 - Future of Work Member Action Meeting

Sept. 10 - Steward Training - Part 2

Sept. 10 - WSDOT Chapter Meeting

Sept. 10 - Tacoma Chapter Meeting

Sept. 11 - Seattle Chapter Meeting

Sept. 16 - Benton-Franklin Chapter Meeting

Sept. 17 - Portland Chapter Meeting

Sept. 18 - King County Steward Meeting

Sept. 24 - King County Chapter Meeting

Sept. 25 - Seattle Steward Meeting

This is not an exhaustive list of events, as things get added all the time!  
Please visit [protec17.org/events/](http://protec17.org/events/) for current listings and logistics.

# Don't be fooled! 'Freedom Foundation/Opt-Out Today' targets PROTEC17 members' mailboxes

**Y**ou may have recently received a mailer or series of mailers at your home address from an organization called 'The Freedom Foundation/Opt-Out Today' attempting to trick you into giving up your union rights. *Don't be fooled!*

The Freedom Foundation is an anti-union organization that actively lobbies against public sector employees across the Pacific Northwest. They are against giving cost of living adjustments (COLAs) to public workers, and have openly advocated for raising health care costs, imposing layoffs and hiring freezes, cutting pensions, and privatizing the jobs of public employees, among many other anti-worker stances. While the group has been active since the *Janus v. AFSCME* Supreme court case of 2018 that changed public sector union membership rules, they have been largely unsuccessful in their attempts to break unions.

Why? Because PROTEC17 members know that by joining together, we can win strong contracts and better protections than what we can do separately. Having a strong, unified membership ensures that our voices are heard in the important decisions that impact our jobs and our livelihoods. This

is what the Freedom Foundation ultimately wants to destroy – and they spread lies and misinformation to achieve their goals.

## Three truths about your union membership

**We fight together.** Your union dues contributions are used for representation, negotiations, research, and other resources that directly lead to better wages, benefits, working conditions, and protections in your union contract. Your contract is hard-fought and protects you in good times and bad.

**We stick together.** For more than 100 years, PROTEC17 members have dedicated their lives to public service and to advocating for a good life for themselves, their families, and their fellow co-workers. With over 10,000 members (and growing!) our collective voice is LOUD and highly respected in workplace decisions.

**We win together.** We will only win the best contracts possible if we are unified as union members through our actions. We cannot allow outside groups to chip away at our strength by tearing us apart.

Over the last year, the Freedom Foundation has significantly increased their outreach and messaging to union members in Washington and Oregon. They get your contact information by making a public

records request to your employer. If you receive one of their emails, we recommend reporting it as spam and unsubscribing. If you receive a mailer – *like their most recent one designed to look like a cashier's check* – scan or take a photo of it and send it to your Union Representative and warn your fellow co-workers not to fall for their tricks.

You can also join our upcoming training, "*How to Protect Your Coworkers from Freedom Foundation Propaganda*" on Tues., October 28 from 12-1 p.m., if you are interested in learning more about who is funding this anti-worker group and how to talk to your coworkers about them so they're prepared the next time they receive these emails/mailers. You can find the link to register in the PROTEC17 Member Portal. Additionally, you can find resources about the Freedom Foundation and their ties to anti-worker groups across the country through Accountable Northwest at: [accountablenw.org/resources](http://accountablenw.org/resources).

If you have any questions about your union membership or how to show your union pride with a Zoom background or cubicle placard, please reach out to your Union Representative or to PROTEC17's Membership Organizing Coordinator Brenna Stroup at [brenna@protec17.org](mailto:brenna@protec17.org). ■



Various mailers from the Freedom Foundation that PROTEC17 members have received.



# Wins for workers in the WA legislative session

**T**

he 2025 Washington State Legislative session adjourned on April 27 after 105 intense days shaped by a historic \$16 billion

budget deficit, high political tension, and the heartbreaking deaths of Speaker Emeritus Frank Chopp and Senator Bill Ramos. Despite these challenges, lawmakers reached agreement on a final set of budgets and key policies. Governor Bob Ferguson signed the operating, transportation, and capital budgets on May 20, 2025.

A major victory for PROTEC17 members came in the operating budget, which fully funds state employee contracts and avoids the furloughs initially proposed by the Governor. These long-overdue raises are vital for retaining skilled public workers who have faced rising living costs and increasing demands on their time and expertise. After years of doing more with less, this investment marks a necessary and hard-



fought recognition of public workers' value to the people of Washington.

Many PROTEC17 members work in transportation, and a budget that reflected our current transportation needs was a top priority this session. The \$15.5 billion transportation budget includes historic investments in environmental infrastructure -- most notably \$1 billion for fish passage barrier removal, an essential step for tribal treaty compliance and ecological restoration. The budget also prioritizes road safety while preparing the state for the 2026 World Cup games.

In addition to the budget, lawmakers passed several important policy victories. Rent stabilization (HB 1217) will cap

annual rent increases and provide stronger protections for tenants across Washington. The Paid Family and Medical Leave program was improved to reduce barriers and expand access for working families. And in a significant win for labor, striking workers will now be eligible to receive unemployment benefits for up to six weeks, thanks to the passage of SB 5041.

These victories didn't happen by accident. PROTEC17 members helped secure them by actions, emails, testimony, and calls to legislators that were critical in protecting public services, funding contracts, and winning progressive reforms. If you're ready to help shape future wins, join our union's political/policy efforts through the PROTEC17 Worker's Roundtable (PWR) and be part of the movement advancing worker power across Washington by reaching out to PROTEC17 Political Director, Mark Watson at [mark@protec17.org](mailto:mark@protec17.org). ■

## Seattle Residents!

## Don't forget to use your Democracy Vouchers!

Back in 2015, Seattle voters approved an innovative way to get its residents to participate in local government, and to increase transparency and accountability for election financing called the Democracy Voucher Program. The program gives residents four \$25 vouchers to support candidates in City of Seattle elections.

The vouchers work much like donating to a candidate's campaign. Candidates can use them to finance campaign activities and must follow strict reporting guidelines to qualify. The program is financed by a property tax on commercial, business, and residential properties - costing the average homeowner about \$11.50 per year. The 10-year pilot, which officially launched in 2017, was the first public campaign financing program of its kind in the country.

Vouchers for 2025 were mailed earlier this year. To learn more about the program, order replacement vouchers, or to use your vouchers online, please visit: [www.seattle.gov/democracvoucher](http://www.seattle.gov/democracvoucher). The vouchers may be redeemed through November 28, 2025.



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