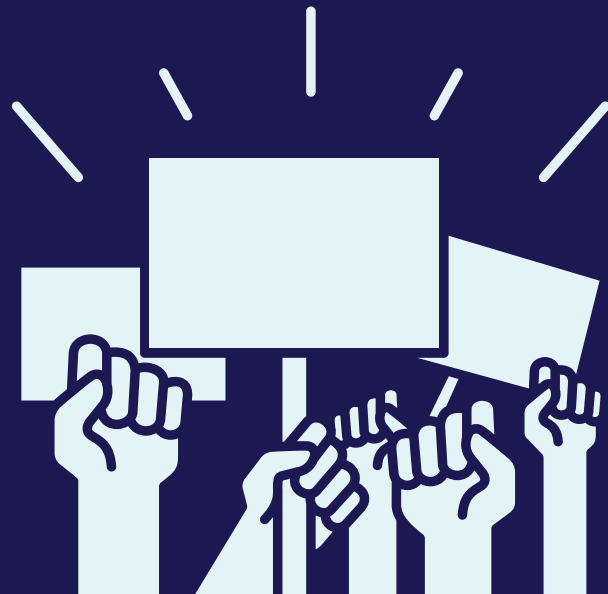




Strike 101

Your questions answered



What is a strike?

A strike is when workers collectively agree to withhold their labor to demonstrate their power and solidarity. It can be an important tool, particularly during contract negotiations, as workplaces do not work without workers! A strike can remind employers of this, and compel them to return to the negotiating table in an effort to come to resolution.

Why are strikes important?

Contract negotiations are about power. While employers hold significant power, it depends on your labor. Without workers, services stop and operations grind to a halt. ***A credible strike threat forces an employer to take workers seriously.*** Employers rarely make meaningful concessions voluntarily; they do so when workers demonstrate they have the power to compel change.

Can public sector employees strike?

Public sector strikes follow the legal guidelines set by state law. The leverage of a public sector strike comes from both disrupting operations and shaping public opinion. Unlike private sector strikes, which often target profits directly, public sector workers can exert pressure by highlighting the importance of their work and building community support.

What makes a credible strike threat?

A credible strike threat can be just as powerful as a strike itself. ***When union members are organized, united, and prepared to strike, if necessary, employers are often motivated to reach an agreement.*** But a strike threat is only credible if workers are organized and genuinely willing to follow through.