

AFSCME 46th International Convention: Union Democracy in Action Front Line & Fearless

August 11 - August 16, 2024
Los Angeles, California

First, I'd like to thank my Chapter for selecting me via drawing to be one of the guests to get the convention. I was so thrilled to be able to attend the AFSCME 46th International Convention. I am not a new employee but I am new to being active within my union. I am so grateful for being afforded the opportunity to attend this conference. While I was not a delegate and I attended as a guest I got to see and hear various speakers. This is a summary of my experience at the convention.

I found out that this convention is held every two years, and that AFSCME members and retirees from across the nation get together to discuss importance issues that are vital to our communities, our workplaces and our union. The Convention is an opportunity to become a better union activist which is something I am attempting to do as I gradually become more involved in union activities.

The first day I had to opportunity to hear President Lee Saunders as the first keynote speaker



Mr. Saunders the first African American to serve as AFSCME's president. During his speech he said the convention is where we chart the future of our union and where we can become a better warrior for public service workers everywhere. He told the crowd that he welcomes us to the convention and he look forward to working with you to make AFSCME the best union we can be." AFSCME - "The Mean Green Machine"

The second speaker I heard was Tim Walz!



We found out that he was going to be the keynote speaker for the second day of the convention. As we know Tim Walz is the Vice President's pick to run with Kamala Harris.

I was so excited to get to see him. We stood/sat in scooters for over two hours while the Secret Service and their chocolate Lab searched all those who waited in line to see and hear Tim Walz. He told the crowd that he doesn't just support public service workers — he was a former union member as he worked as public service worker. He is the first former union member to ever run in Presidential Election. Make sure our voices are heard at the ballot box! Make a plan to vote by mail, vote early, or on Election Day.

Both speakers spoke about Project 2025 which seemed to be the big topic that will affect many individuals. There are many sources available to gather additional information on this plan and one of the booths in the Exhibit hall had a quiz it asked guest to take to see what they really knew about Project 2025. Below are 6 of the questions we were asked.

1. **What policy recommendations does Trump's Project 2025 make that are hostile to labor unions?**

- Eliminating card check elections
- Making it faster and easier to decertify unions
- Banning public sector unions entirely
- All of the above

2. The Inflation Reduction Act passed into law by congressional Democrats and President Biden included a monthly cap on insulin costs for Medicare beneficiaries that Project 2025 calls to appeal. How much is that cap?

- \$100 a month
- \$35.00 a month
- \$50.00 a month
- \$1000 a month

3. How many children in poverty are currently served by the Head Start program, which Project 2025 proposes eliminating completely?

- Over 800,000
- 500,000
- 250,000
- 50,000

4. What initiatives does Project 2025 recommend for the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Education?

- Increasing funding
- Decreasing funding
- Dismantling the Department of Education, and devoting its resources to the Department of Homeland Security
- Dismantling both departments entirely

5. Along with replacing thousands of civil services employees with political appointees beholden to the President, what other action does Project 2025 call for as part of its “unitary executive theory?”

- Letting the President veto any bill, even if it passes with the support of 2/3 of Congress
- Putting independent agencies, like the Department of Justice, under the direct control of the President
- Eliminating the role of the Vice President
- None of the above

6. What was the previous version of Trump’s Project 2025 called?

- The Victory Project
- Project Make American Great Again
- Project 2020
- The Mandate Project

Thank you,
Submitted by: Janice Amoako

It was phenomenal, from experiencing the Vice President candidate Walz to the rally. Security was extra tight due to the excitement of the most powerful person in the world. With an estimated 4,000 people it took over 2 hours to get through security. Meeting union brothers and sisters from other states is always a pleasure.

Submitted by: Lisa Packer

The week of August 11-15 I had the pleasure of attending the Front Line & Fearless -46TH AFSCME International Convention in LA. Thousands of Union members from across the nation came together to continue to organize, build and learn how to continue our fight.

Sunday, they kicked it off with an outstanding meet and greet reception with food, ice cream trucks and night full of dancing!!

Monday it was down to business. Yvonne Wheeler who is the first African American woman to head the LA County Labor Federation and former AFSCME field Rep. She was very motivating and encouraging to all attendees about how fearless the fight must continue to be. She spoke of her close ties with AFSCME and what it has meant to her.

AFSCME President Lee Saunders whom if you have never got the chance to listen to, he is a must. He is always so motivating and encouraging to the members. He touched base on so many achievements in Unions across the nation in the last 2 years. He also let it be known that we can't stop that we must keep fighting for the Unions of public servants. He announced that AFSCME would be standing behind Harris-Walz campaign and encouraged our support in doing so as well.

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler spoke urging members to support the Harris-Walz campaign and how it is going to take all of us to get out and inform and educate our members, family, friends and communities on how important this election is going to be all of America.

There were so many great speakers in the 3 days we were there most memorable will be the day that there was a wait in line for hours to get in to hear Walz himself come and address the convention!!! He is a huge Union supporter as he was a part of the Union!! Make sure to vote for whom supports you when you go out to vote on Election day!!

When we fight together, we win together!!! LETS GET IT!!

Submitted By: Brandi Potts