

AFL-CIO STATE FEDERATIONS

A Voice for Working Families at the State Level

Building Political Power for Working Families

Advancing a Progressive Legislative Agenda

Supporting Contract and Organizing Campaigns and Workers' Freedom to Form Unions

Mobilizing and Solidarity

What are state federations?

AFL-CIO state federations bring different unions together at the state level to work collectively on organizing new members, educating and mobilizing current members and creating a powerful voice for working families. State federations make up the backbone of the labor movement's efforts to ensure that economic, education, health care and other policies benefit working families.

What do they do?

State federations give working families a voice:

- **On the job.** Working together in state feds, local unions support one another's organizing campaigns and contract bargaining. Coordinating with a network of local labor councils located in communities throughout each state, state feds turn out large groups of working people to support union members and challenge anti-union, anti-worker employers. State feds forge alliances that build statewide support for union members' efforts to win positive changes on the job and retain past gains.
- **In state and federal political campaigns.** State feds endorse candidates for state and federal office and coordinate the union movement's statewide political mobilization efforts, including voter registration, worksite leafleting and neighborhood canvassing.
- **In state and federal government.** State feds provide working families with the information and opportunities they need to make their voices heard by state legislative elected leaders and congressional representatives. State feds engage union members in developing and promoting a working families agenda for good, secure jobs; job safety; adequate investments in such working family needs as education, health care and retirement security; and against job-killing proposals like privatization of government services.
- **In the economy.** State feds give working families greater power to shape their economic well-being by mobilizing working people for social and economic justice, for fair treatment on the job and for pro-worker government policies. They also link local unions with the educational resources of the AFL-CIO, giving members the opportunity to learn more about today's economy, why it favors the wealthy over working people—and what they can do about it.

How are they structured?

More than 30,000 local unions make up the 51 state federations (including Puerto Rico). While participation by locals in the semi-autonomous organizations chartered by the AFL-CIO is voluntary, the national federation strongly encourages all unions to build stronger state labor movements through full affiliation and participation.

State labor federations are comprised of local unions and other eligible subordinate bodies of the national and international unions that are affiliated with the AFL-CIO. Certain eligible unions may affiliate by receiving a charter through the Solidarity Charter Program. Other unions may receive a certificate of affiliation as a direct local affiliate through the Unity Partnerships Program, and local associations of the National Education Association may join by receiving a certificate of affiliation through the AFL-CIO/NEA Labor Solidarity Partnership.

Representatives of state federations serve on a national advisory committee appointed by the AFL-CIO president. The state federation and central labor council advisory committee meets twice a year to consider and recommend initiatives and programs to the federation. State federations are governed by elected full-time executive officers and executive boards representing affiliated local unions.

Where can I get more information?

To find out more about state federations, contact the AFL-CIO Office of State and Local Affiliates at 202-637-5280 or visit our website at www.aflcio.org/aboutus/unioncities.