

WHERE DO YOUR UNION DUES GO?

A LOOK AT AFSCME SPENDING IN 2021



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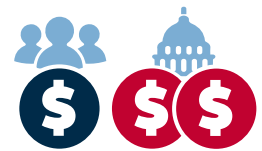
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) spent \$1 out of every \$5 in revenue on politics in 2021, using its members' dues to fund a web of progressive causes and candidates at the national, state, and local level. AFSCME reported spending \$25.7 million on lobbying and politics last year and just \$28.6 million on activities to represent its members.

AFSCME is a national union with just over 1.3 million members, who belong to about 3,400 locals and 58 District Councils across 46 states. The union lost about 30,000 members from 2020 to 2021 and collected \$11 million less in dues during that time period.

Much of AFSCME's spending in 2021 went towards operating the union, with over \$57 million spent on union administration, general overhead, and employee benefits—**twice as much as was spent representing its members**. AFSCME President Lee Saunders received salary and disbursements of \$367,221 last year, while Secretary-Treasurer Elissa McBride received \$303,020.

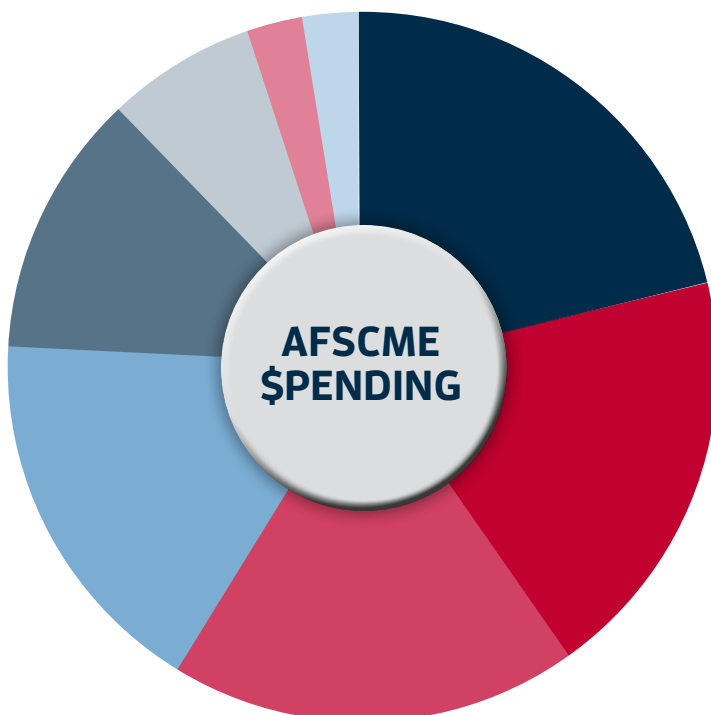


\$1 out of every \$5 in revenue was spent on politics in 2021



Twice as much was spent on administration than on representing members

AFSCME SPENDING 2021



- 21% REPRESENTATIONAL ACTIVITIES
- 19% POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND LOBBYING
- 18% GENERAL OVERHEAD
- 17% EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
- 12% PER CAPITA TAX
- 7% UNION ADMINISTRATION
- 3% DIRECT TAXES
- 3% CONTRIBUTIONS, GIFTS, GRANTS

AFSCME POLITICAL DONATIONS

The *Janus v. AFSCME* Supreme Court decision relieves nonmembers from the obligation to pay any dues or fees to the union as a condition of public employment. However, for public employees who remain AFSCME members, ***Janus* changes nothing about how union dues are spent: they are still routinely used for political purposes.**

Using its members' regular dues, **AFSCME gave millions in donations to politically progressive causes and organizations.** The union also spent \$3.4 million on contributions, gifts, and grants that often went to progressive groups. Here are just a few big-ticket examples of AFSCME's political contributions in 2021:

\$7.2M to union employees for their political activities and lobbying efforts.

\$2.6M to local and state level campaigns.

\$2.5M to For Our Future and For Our Future Action Fund, which seek to build a progressive infrastructure to help Democrats win elections across the country.

\$1M to local unions in support of their political activities.

\$1M to Stop the Republican Recall of Gavin Newsom.

\$750K to the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, which fights to elect Democrats to state-level public office.

\$600K to Terry for Virginia in support of Virginia gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe.

\$500K to Building Back Together, a left-wing group dedicated to advancing President Biden's progressive agenda.

\$500K to House Majority PAC, an organization exclusively focused on electing Democratic candidates to the House of Representatives.

\$500K to State Victory Action, which is heavily funded by Tom Steyer and George Soros.

\$350K to ProgressNow, an advocacy organization that promotes progressive ideas.

\$300K to Unite Here PAC, the political action committee for the Unite Here union.

\$260K to America Votes, which describes itself as the coordination hub of the progressive community.

\$250K to Strategic Victory Fund, a Democracy Alliance affiliated Super PAC funded by liberal billionaire George Soros.

\$235K to Catalist LLC, a data collection organization that exclusively provides collected data to Democrats and progressives.

\$230K to Ballot Initiative Strategy Center, dedicated to advancing progressive causes through ballot initiatives.

\$218K in travel-related expenses for political activities and lobbying.

\$180K to Energized for Change PAC, which is dedicated to maintaining a Democratic majority in the Virginia House of Delegates.

\$150K to Economic Policy Institute, a left-wing think tank.

\$145K to Democracy Alliance, an invitation-only network of big progressive donors who pay annual dues and agree to give a set amount of money each year to support liberal organizations.

\$100K to Center for American Progress, a liberal policy institute founded by Clinton family associates.

\$100K to National Democratic Redistricting Committee, a Democratic gerrymandering organization run by former Obama Attorney General Eric Holder.

\$100K to Progressive Caucus Action Fund, the advocacy arm of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

\$150K to State Innovation Exchange and SIX Action, organizations that create and advocate for progressive, state-level legislation.

\$50K to Sixteen Thirty Fund, a progressive organization that spends money to boost Democratic candidates and causes and is part of the larger "Arabella" network, which channels hundreds of millions of dollars to progressive causes.

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