

# WHERE DO YOUR UNION DUES GO?

## A LOOK AT SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION (SEIU) IN 2023



AMERICANS FOR FAIR TREATMENT



SEIU executive salaries are in the **TOP 3%** in the country

**The Service Employees International Union (SEIU)** represents nearly 1.85 million workers in the public sector, healthcare, and property services industries. SEIU has made headlines this year for creating a first-of-its-kind fast food workers union, but the union's goals go far beyond organizing new members. **SEIU is a key player in left-wing politics and policy, recently backing a \$20 per hour minimum wage in California and pledging \$200 million to help re-elect President Joe Biden.**

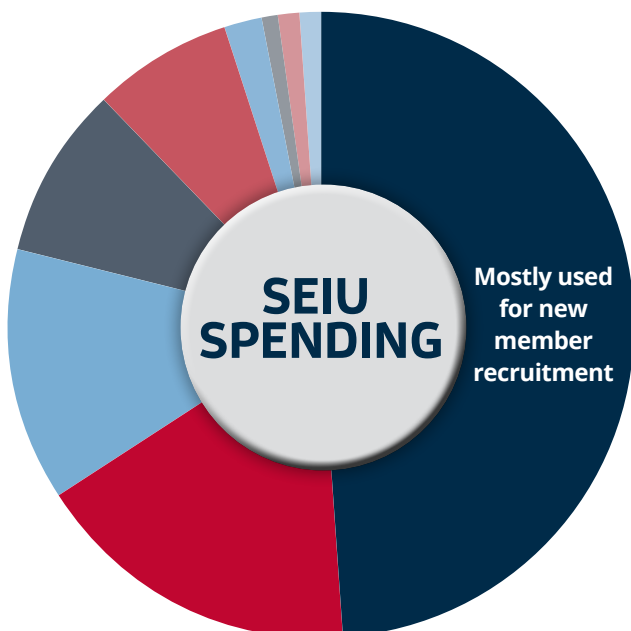
As a union that represents employees in both the public and private sector, SEIU is required to file a Form LM-2 annual financial report. Examining SEIU's LM-2 report can help explain how the union is spending its money to achieve its organizing and political goals.

SEIU's latest filing, which covers January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, reveals that most of the union's spending went toward representational activities. Representing membership is the primary responsibility of a labor union, and this spending category accounted for 48.7 percent of all expenditures in 2023. However, most of SEIU's representational spending was subcategorized as "support for organizing," which indicates that this money may be directed to attracting new members rather than supporting its existing membership.

The union's organizing efforts appear to be paying off, with SEIU adding 20,791 members over the past year. In turn, the union took in \$13.4 million more in dues than in 2022. Despite gains in 2023, membership is still down by over 73,000 since 2017. SEIU's finances are also worsening, with the union seeing a \$49 million decrease in net financial position since 2021. To make matters worse, in each of the past three years, SEIU has spent more than it has taken in. In 2023, the union took in \$287.9 million and spent \$293.9 million.

Outside of representing current members and organizing new members, operating expenses accounted for the second largest share of spending. SEIU spent roughly \$95 million on general overhead, administration costs, employee salaries and benefits, and investments to sustain operations during 2023. Union President Mary Kay Henry was SEIU's top earner, bringing in \$307,370. Secretary-Treasurer April Verrett was the second-largest earner with a salary of \$284,431. **Every SEIU executive earned over \$225,000 in 2023, putting them in the top three percent of earners in the country.**

## SEIU SPENDING 2023



- 49% REPRESENTATIONAL ACTIVITIES
- 17% POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND LOBBYING
- 13% GENERAL OVERHEAD
- 9% UNION ADMINISTRATION
- 7% BENEFITS
- 2% DIRECT TAXES
- 1% CONTRIBUTIONS, GIFTS, AND GRANTS
- 1% PURCHASE OF INVESTMENTS AND FIXED ASSETS
- 1% PER CAPITA TAX

# SEIU POLITICAL SPENDING

SEIU's financial disclosure shows that politics were another top priority for SEIU. According to federal law, member dues can be used for a variety of political activities, such as issue advocacy, get-out-the-vote drives, election mailers, lobbying, and public marketing campaigns.

**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 those who remain SEIU members, *Janus* changes nothing about how union dues are spent: **they are still routinely used for political purposes.** In 2023, the union spent over \$50 million on political activity and lobbying, with most of this money going to left-wing causes and organizations. Notably, SEIU gave:

**\$14.3M** to affiliated unions in support of their political activity and lobbying efforts.

**\$12.3M** to PEA Fund International and PEA State Fund, both which fund the Democratic National Committee and progressive SuperPACs, candidates, and causes.

**\$3.3M** to various consultants for their assistance with union political activities and lobbying efforts.

**\$2.8M** to Strategic Victory Fund, a Democracy Alliance affiliated Super PAC funded by liberal billionaire George Soros.

**\$1M** to For Our Future Action, which seeks to build a progressive infrastructure to help Democrats win elections throughout the country.

**\$971K** to United for Justice, an opaque political organization that shares an address with SEIU 32BJ.

**\$950K** for lodging for employees while traveling related to union political activity.

**\$525K** to State Power Action Fund a progressive organization that uses the race class narrative to advocate for left-wing economic policies.

**\$500K** to Yes on Prop 1, an organization that supports a mental health and substance abuse ballot proposition in California.

**\$476K** on advertising to support the union's political activity and lobbying objectives.

**\$400K** to the Center for Empowered Politics, a lobbying and advocacy organization with ties to the pro-Chinese Communist Party Chinese Progressive Association.

**\$351K** to America Votes, a coordination hub of the progressive community that motivates activists and voters to win elections and change election law.

**\$340K** to Democracy Alliance, an invitation-only network of progressive donors who pay annual dues and agree to give a set amount of money each year to endorsed organizations.

**\$250K** to Color of Change, a Soros-backed liberal advocacy organization that supports soft-on-crime District Attorneys like Alvin Bragg and Larry Krasner.

**\$250K** to NELP Action, a nonprofit advocacy organization founded to oppose the Trump Administration's labor reforms.

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