

1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East

WHERE DO YOUR UNION DUES GO?

A LOOK AT 1199 SEIU SPENDING IN FISCAL YEAR 2025 (Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2025)

Note: 1199 SEIU is a multistate union with members across the East Coast. Unless specifically identified as Florida activity, the membership, financial, political-spending and lobbying figures in this report reflect the union's organization-wide federal filing. Florida PAC contributions and Florida state lobbying activity are presented separately.

Only about 27 cents of every dollar 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East spent in 2025 went to representing the healthcare workers who pay its dues. 1199 SEIU is the largest healthcare union in the country, with 332,966 members, yet in 2025 it disbursed \$246.1 million while taking in \$238.7 million, running a \$7.4 million deficit even though members supplied \$218.1 million, 91% of everything it collected.

For all that money, representation was not where most of it went. The union spent more on overhead, per-capita payments to the national SEIU, and politics combined than it did on representing members. General overhead alone consumed \$54.9 million (22.3%), per-capita tax to SEIU took \$32.0 million (13.0%), and political activities and lobbying nationwide took \$19.3 million (7.9%), against just \$66.2 million (26.9%) for representation. The union even spent \$34.5 million on benefits for its own officers and employees, more than half of what it spent representing the workers who fund it.

Its Florida political committee has spent \$2.34 million since 2015, and 96.1% of that went to the Democratic party and Democratic-aligned committees, including \$2,500 to Carlos Guillermo Smith, a legislator who voted against the state's Fairness in Women's Sports Act and called the ban on gender-transition procedures for minors 'fascism.' Beyond Florida, the union also used members' dues to bankroll national progressive advocacy groups, from Planned Parenthood to Al Sharpton's National Action Network to Indivisible, a partner of the nationwide "No Kings" protests.

The union's leadership is highly paid. In 2025, over 100 officers and employees each earned more than \$100,000, led not by an elected officer but by Chief Financial Officer Lucy Chen at \$507,213, with President George Gresham at \$365,163.

In sum, 1199 SEIU spends barely a quarter of its money on the workers it represents and pours the rest into overhead, per-capita payments to the national SEIU, politics, and six-figure salaries, all while running a deficit and sitting on \$97.1 million in net assets.

FINANCIAL POSITION

1199 SEIU took in \$238.7 million in 2025 and spent \$246.1 million, a \$7.4 million deficit.¹ Dues and agency fees supplied \$218.1 million, 91% of all receipts.² The union reported \$489.9 million in total assets against \$392.8 million in liabilities, leaving \$97.1 million in net assets, up from \$84.9 million a year earlier.³

Item	Amount
Total Receipts	\$238,675,946
Total Disbursements	\$246,067,435
Receipts Less Disbursements	-\$7,391,489
Total Assets	\$489,935,661
Total Liabilities	\$392,796,815
Net Assets	\$97,138,846
Members	332,966

SPENDING BREAKDOWN

1199 SEIU disbursed \$246.1 million in 2025. Representational activities, the core work of a union, were the largest single category at \$66.2 million, but that is still only 26.9% of the total.⁴ The next three categories, general overhead (\$54.9 million), benefits for the union's own staff (\$34.5 million), and per-capita tax forwarded to the national SEIU (\$32.0 million), together exceeded representation.⁵ Political activities and lobbying took another \$19.3 million.

Category	Amount	% of Total
Representational Activities	\$66,176,033	26.9%
General Overhead	\$54,925,863	22.3%
Benefits	\$34,458,526	14.0%
Per Capita Tax (to SEIU)	\$31,965,809	13.0%
Political Activities & Lobbying	\$19,332,285	7.9%
Purchase of Investments & Fixed Assets	\$16,806,131	6.8%
Union Administration	\$11,992,890	4.9%

Direct Taxes	\$7,172,678	2.9%
Contributions, Gifts & Grants	\$1,581,490	0.6%
Repayment of Loans Obtained	\$898,414	0.4%
Strike Benefits	\$112,050	0.0%
Loans Made	\$50,000	0.0%
Fees, Fines & Assessments	\$0	0.0%
Supplies for Resale	\$0	0.0%
To Affiliates of Funds Collected	\$0	0.0%
On Behalf of Individual Members	\$0	0.0%

What Do These Categories Mean?

Representational Activities: Negotiating and administering contracts, handling grievances, and other direct work of representing members with their employers.
General Overhead: Rent, professional fees, banking, and other costs of running the organization.
Benefits: Benefits paid for the union's own officers and employees.
Per Capita Tax: Dues forwarded to the parent union, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).
Political Activities & Lobbying: Spending to influence elections and legislation, including payments to political funds and lobbyists.
Purchase of Investments & Fixed Assets: Money used to buy securities, property, and equipment.
Union Administration: Internal governance, meetings, and administration of the union's own affairs.
Direct Taxes: Taxes paid directly by the union.
Contributions, Gifts & Grants: Donations to outside organizations.
Repayment of Loans Obtained: Repayment of money the union had borrowed.
Strike Benefits: Payments to members during work stoppages.
Loans Made: Money the union loaned out.
Fees, Fines & Assessments: Fees, fines, and assessments paid out by the union.
Supplies for Resale: The cost of supplies the union bought to resell to members.
To Affiliates of Funds Collected: Funds the union collected on behalf of affiliated organizations and forwarded to them.
On Behalf of Individual Members: Disbursements made by the union on behalf of individual members.

POLITICAL SPENDING

1199 SEIU is one of the most politically active unions in the country. On its LM-2 it reported \$19.3 million in political activities and lobbying nationwide in 2025, 7.9% of all disbursements. The specific amount spent by the national organization in Florida was not disclosed. Its largest single political payee in 2025 was the SEIU COPE Fund, the national union's political action committee, at \$1,383,077.

The union's political spending reaches well beyond elections and get-out-the-vote work.

Among its itemized political disbursements in 2025, 1199 SEIU funded a range of national progressive advocacy organizations: \$25,000 to Al Sharpton's National Action Network; \$21,488 to Memphis for All, a local affiliate of the Bernie Sanders-aligned Our Revolution; \$19,000 to Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider; \$5,000 to the progressive group Public Citizen; and \$5,000 to Indivisible, the organizers behind the nationwide anti-Trump "No Kings" protests of 2025. None of these groups represent healthcare workers at the bargaining table.⁶

PAC POLITICAL SPENDING

Beyond the politics on its federal LM-2, 1199 SEIU operates a separate political committee in Florida. Since 2015 that committee has reported about \$2.34 million in net spending, after subtracting refunds and reimbursements, including \$2.41 million in itemized political contributions.⁷

The partisan tilt is nearly total: 96.1% of the itemized contributions, about \$2.32 million across 313 contributions, went to the Florida Democratic Party and Democratic-aligned organizations, and just 3.9%, \$94,000, to Republican-aligned committees.⁸ The largest recipient was the Florida Democratic Party (\$358,500).

The committee's giving also reveals sharp priorities on gender ideology. It steered \$7,000 to the LGBTQ group Floridians for Equality.⁹ It also gave \$2,500 to Carlos Guillermo Smith, now a Florida state senator, who voted against the state's Fairness in Women's Sports Act and filed amendments to keep biological males eligible for girls' and women's sports,¹⁰ and denounced the state's ban on puberty blockers and gender-transition procedures for minors as 'fascism.'¹¹

Recipient	Amount	Party
Florida Democratic Party	\$358,500	D
New Florida Vision PAC	\$325,000	D
Forward Florida	\$200,000	D
New Florida Majority Education Fund (net of refund)	\$150,000	D
Initiative for Florida's Future	\$115,000	D
Florida Donor Alliance	\$100,000	D
Faith in Florida	\$83,000	D

Florida Cares PAC	\$75,000	D
Florida Rising	\$75,000	D
Florida For All, Inc.	\$70,000	D
TOTAL	\$2,410,584	

Public-sector healthcare workers have rights over their union dues. Under the Supreme Court's decision in *Janus v. AFSCME*, no public-sector employee can be compelled to pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment, and dues may be deducted only with the employee's affirmative consent.¹²

FLORIDA STATE LOBBYING

The union's political footprint in Florida is not limited to campaign contributions. Registered with the state as “SEIU 1199 United Health Care Workers,” the union also pays to lobby Florida's government directly. Throughout 2025 it retained the firm PinPoint Results LLC to lobby on its behalf before both the Florida Legislature and the executive branch, in every quarter of the year.¹³

Florida discloses lobbying compensation only in broad dollar ranges rather than exact figures, so the precise amount the union spent is not made public. What the state's filings do confirm is that 1199 SEIU maintained a paid, year-round lobbying presence in Tallahassee across both branches of state government throughout 2025, in addition to its political contributions.

TOP COMPENSATION

1199 SEIU National paid over 100 officers and employees more than \$100,000 in 2025.¹⁴ The highest paid was not an elected officer but Chief Financial Officer Lucy Chen at \$507,213, followed by President George Gresham at \$365,163. In all, the union disbursed \$13.0 million to its officers and \$48.4 million to its employees.¹⁵

Officer	Title	Total Compensation
Lucy Chen	Chief Financial Officer	\$507,213
George Gresham	President	\$365,163
Yvonne Armstrong	President	\$261,651
Milagros Silva-Bermudez	Secretary-Treasurer	\$253,739
Helen Schaub	Vice President	\$250,376
Veronica Turner-Biggs	Secretary-Treasurer	\$224,201
Samantha Morales	Director	\$211,462
Raul Hocson	Director	\$199,755

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

1199 SEIU spent \$34.5 million on benefits for its own officers and employees in 2025, 14.0% of all disbursements and more than half of what it spent representing members.¹⁶

Benefit Type	Amount
Benefits (officers and employees)	\$34,458,526
TOTAL BENEFITS	\$34,458,526

YOUR RIGHT TO LEAVE

Healthcare workers are not required to fund any of this. Under *Janus v. AFSCME*, no public-sector employee can be compelled to pay union dues or fees, and dues may be deducted only with the employee's affirmative written consent.¹⁷ Workers who do not want their dues underwriting the priorities documented here have the right to resign their membership. To learn more about your rights, visit americansforfairtreatment.org or call (833) 969-FAIR.

Data sourced from 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East's Form LM-2 (File No. 318-47) filed with the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor-Management Standards, for fiscal years 2016 through 2025 (fiscal year 2025 covers January 1 to December 31, 2025), and from Florida Division of Elections filings for the union's Florida political committee (2015-2026)

NUMBERS TO HIGHLIGHT

Key statistics from 1199 SEIU's FY 2025 LM-2 filing

26.9% Of 1199 SEIU's 2025 spending that went to representing members.

\$32.0M Forwarded in per-capita dues to the national SEIU in 2025.

\$507,213 Total compensation for Chief Financial Officer Lucy Chen, the union's highest-paid person.

96.1% Share of the union's Florida political committee giving that went to Democrats.

-\$7.4M 1199 SEIU's 2025 operating deficit.

\$34.5M Spent on benefits for the union's own staff, more than half of representational spending.

¹ Form LM-2 (File No. 318-47), Statement B, Total Receipts and Total Disbursements, FY 2025.

² Form LM-2 (File No. 318-47), Statement B, Line 36 (Dues and Agency Fees), FY 2025.

³ Form LM-2 (File No. 318-47), Statement A (Assets and Liabilities), FY 2024 and FY 2025.

⁴ Form LM-2 (File No. 318-47), Statement B, Line 50, FY 2025.

⁵ Form LM-2 (File No. 318-47), Statement B, Lines 53, 55, and 56, FY 2025.

⁶ Form LM-2 (File No. 318-47), Schedule 16 (itemized political disbursements) and Schedule 17 (contributions, gifts, and grants), FY 2025.

⁷ Florida Division of Elections filings for 1199 SEIU's Florida political committee, 2015-2026, net of refunds and reimbursements

⁸ Florida Division of Elections filings for 1199 SEIU's Florida political committee, 2015-2026, net of refunds and reimbursements

⁹ Florida Division of Elections filings for 1199 SEIU's Florida political committee, 2015-2026, net of refunds and reimbursements

¹⁰ Florida CS/HB 1475 (2021), Sex-specific Student Athletic Teams or Sports; House vote 77-40; Smith's amendments and No vote recorded in the House Journal.

¹¹ Florida SB 254 (2023); Smith quoted condemning the bill as 'fascism'; (Florida news coverage, 2023).

¹² Janus v. AFSCME, Council 31, 138 S. Ct. 2448 (2018).

¹³ Florida Lobbyist Registration Office, lobbying firm compensation reports for PinPoint Results LLC (principal: SEIU 1199 United Health Care Workers), Legislative and Executive branch, Q1 through Q4 2025, floralobbyist.gov.

¹⁴ Form LM-2 (File No. 318-47), Schedules 11 and 12, FY 2025.

¹⁵ Form LM-2 (File No. 318-47), Schedule 11 (net \$13,040,028) and Schedule 12 (net \$48,404,091), FY 2025.

¹⁶ Form LM-2 (File No. 318-47), Statement B, Line 55 (Benefits), FY 2025.

¹⁷ Janus v. AFSCME, Council 31, 138 S. Ct. 2448 (2018).