

SEIU Florida State Council

WHERE DO YOUR UNION DUES GO?

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

Zero. That's how much the SEIU Florida State Council spent on representing workers in fiscal 2025 — and in nine of the past ten years, with a decade total of just \$7,550.¹ The council, funded by per capita dues from SEIU's Florida locals and covering roughly 19,000 members through its affiliates², isn't a bargaining body at all: it exists to coordinate politics. In fiscal 2025 it spent \$120,358 — 36.7% of everything it disbursed — on political activities and lobbying, more than double what it spent on general overhead.³

This is not new. Over the past decade the council has funneled \$9.19 million in dues money into political activities and lobbying — including \$4.27 million in a single year, 2016, when political spending consumed 80% of its entire budget.⁴ Among fiscal 2025's political payees was \$50,000 to Florida Decides Healthcare, the political committee pushing a ballot initiative to force Medicaid expansion into the Florida Constitution.⁵ And the dues-funded figure tells only part of the story: SEIU's Florida political committee has pumped \$3.1 million into state politics since 2015 — 95.8% of its political giving to Democrats — including \$44,220 routed back to this council itself⁶ and \$2,500 to state Sen. Carlos Guillermo Smith, a legislator who denounced Florida's ban on puberty blockers and gender-transition procedures for minors as 'fascism.'⁷ The council has also registered as a client of the Tallahassee lobbying firm Rubin, Turnbull & Associates.⁸

The council's own base is collapsing. Membership fell from a recent peak of 29,764 in fiscal 2024 to just 19,175 in fiscal 2025 — a 35.6% drop in a single year.⁹ Total disbursements have cratered even further, from \$5.32 million in 2016 to \$327,576 in 2025, a 93.8% decline over the decade, even as the council's cash reserves grew.¹⁰

A union exists to represent its members — at the bargaining table, in grievance proceedings, and in the workplace. The SEIU Florida State Council's own filings show a body that reported a grand total of just \$7,550 for that mission across ten years of federal disclosure, while spending millions on political campaigns and losing more than a third of its membership base in a single year.¹¹ Florida's SEIU members deserve to know that of every hundred dollars this council spent over the past decade, barely a nickel went toward representation.

FINANCIAL POSITION

The council itself is financially stable even as its operations shrink. It reported \$416,105 in total assets against just \$5,995 in liabilities at the close of fiscal 2025, leaving \$410,110 in net assets — up from \$296,022 a year earlier.¹² Nearly all of that sits in cash: \$410,209.¹³

That stability stands in contrast to a decade-long collapse in activity: the council's total disbursements fell from \$5.32 million in fiscal 2016 to \$327,576 in fiscal 2025.¹⁴

Item	Amount
Total Assets	\$416,105
Total Liabilities	\$5,995
Net Assets	\$410,110
Cash on Hand	\$410,209

SPENDING BREAKDOWN

Of the \$327,576 the SEIU Florida State Council disbursed in fiscal 2025, representational activities — the grievances, bargaining, and organizing that justify a union's existence — received exactly \$0.¹⁵ That has been true in nine of the past ten years; the lone exception was \$7,550 in fiscal 2020, leaving the council's decade total at five-hundredths of one percent of its spending.¹⁶

Instead, the largest category was political activities and lobbying at \$120,358 (36.7%), followed by benefits for the council's own two employees (\$75,316, 23.0%), union administration (\$71,929, 22.0%), and general overhead (\$48,555, 14.8%).¹⁷

The full breakdown of the council's spending appears below.

Category	Amount	% of Total
Political Activities & Lobbying	\$120,358	36.7%
Benefits	\$75,316	23.0%
Union Administration	\$71,929	22.0%
General Overhead	\$48,555	14.8%
Direct Taxes	\$11,418	3.5%
Representational Activities	\$0	0.0%

What Do These Categories Mean?

Political Activities & Lobbying: Dues money spent on political campaigns, ballot measures, and lobbying public officials (LM-2 Line 51).

Benefits: Health insurance and pension contributions paid for the council's own employees.

Union Administration: Internal governance: officer elections, executive board meetings, and auditing.
General Overhead: Rent, utilities, office expenses, technology, and insurance — the cost of running the organization.
Direct Taxes: Payroll and other taxes paid directly by the council.
Representational Activities: Grievance handling, collective bargaining, contract negotiation, and arbitration — a union's core function. Reported as \$0 by this council in nine of the past ten years; the sole exception was \$7,550 in FY 2020.

POLITICAL SPENDING

The SEIU Florida State Council reported \$120,358 in political activities and lobbying on Line 51 of its 2025 LM-2.¹⁸ Over the past decade that spending totaled \$9,186,862 — dominated by a \$4.27 million surge in 2016 that alone consumed 80% of the council's entire budget that year, followed by a steep, sustained decline as the council's operations contracted.¹⁹

Year by year, the council's reported political spending:

Fiscal Year	Political Spending
2016	\$4,271,566
2017	\$1,213,363
2018	\$961,189
2019	\$393,740
2020	\$176,385
2021	\$530,677
2022	\$1,159,639
2023	\$283,766
2024	\$76,179
2025	\$120,358
TOTAL	\$9,186,862

POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Among fiscal 2025's political payees was \$50,000 to Florida Decides Healthcare, the political committee behind a proposed constitutional amendment to force Medicaid expansion in Florida — a measure the group has pushed toward the ballot since 2024 and recently delayed to 2028 amid legal fights with the state.²⁰

PAC POLITICAL SPENDING

Beyond the dues-funded political spending on the council's LM-2, SEIU operates a Florida political committee — funded by voluntary contributions — that has directed \$3,064,417.52 into state politics since 2015, of which \$2,205,584.16 went to political recipients, \$349,100.01 to campaign vendors, and \$509,733.35 to SEIU-internal transfers.²¹ The partisan tilt is stark: 95.8% of the political total went to Democratic candidates and committees, 4.2% to Republicans, with a token \$500 to a Green Party candidate.²² Among the recipients was the SEIU Florida State Council itself, which took in \$44,220 from the committee across seven payments — the political operation and the council feeding each other.

The committee's largest recipients were Democratic Party organs and Florida's progressive-infrastructure network — the Florida Democratic Party, the New Florida Vision PAC (the electoral committee tied to the New Florida Majority organizing network, since merged into Florida Rising), and Forward Florida, the political committee chaired by Andrew Gillum:²³

Among the individual legislators the committee has funded is state Sen. Carlos Guillermo Smith (\$2,500), the first openly LGBTQ Latino elected to the Florida Legislature and one of its most aggressive voices on gender ideology. As a House member he denounced Senate Bill 254 — Florida's 2023 law prohibiting puberty blockers and gender-transition procedures for minors — as 'fascism.'²⁴ Smith is not merely an ally of the movement: he has been Equality Florida's Senior Policy Advisor since 2015, drawing a paycheck from the state's largest LGBTQ political advocacy organization while legislating on its issues, and he campaigned against 2020 legislation that would have criminalized providing gender-transition treatments to minors.²⁵

Recipient	Amount	Party
Florida Democratic Party	\$358,500	D
New Florida Vision PAC	\$325,000	D
Forward Florida (Andrew Gillum)	\$200,000	D
Initiative for Florida's Future	\$120,000	D
Florida for All	\$105,000	D
TOTAL	\$1,108,500	

A council that spends nothing on representation, a political committee that gives 95.8% of its money to one party, \$44,220 circulating between the two, and a state senator on an advocacy group's payroll among the beneficiaries — SEIU's Florida political machine runs entirely on priorities its rank-and-file members never individually chose.²⁶

The committee runs on voluntary contributions, not compelled dues — but the same leadership directing the council's dues money toward politics directs the committee's money toward the same side of Florida's political divide. Under the Supreme Court's 2018 decision in *Janus v. AFSCME*, no public employee can be compelled to pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment.²⁷ For workers who remain members of SEIU's Florida locals, *Janus* changes nothing about how the council and its political committee choose to deploy the money raised in their name.

FLORIDA STATE LOBBYING (2020–2026 SESSION)

Beyond the dues-funded political spending on its LM-2, the SEIU Florida State Council has also registered directly as a client with Florida's Lobbyist Registration Office. Under the principal name 'SEIU State Council,' the council reported hiring the Tallahassee firm Rubin, Turnbull & Associates, with total Florida state-capitol lobbying compensation estimated at \$59,999 across the quarters it has filed.²⁸ The council's own name appears in only 2 of the 56 quarter-branch slots in the bulk data since 2020, both in 2022 — a brief, narrowly-scoped engagement — separate from the larger lobbying operations run by other SEIU-affiliated locals in Florida under their own principal names.

Period	Amount	Filing Type
2020	Not filed	—
2021	Not filed	—
2022	\$59,999 (est., 2 quarter-branch slots: Q1 \$35,000 + Q2 \$25,000)	Legislative
2023	Not filed	—
2024	Not filed	—
2025	Not filed	—
2026	Not filed (or not yet available)	—
TOTAL	\$59,999 estimated (2 of 56 quarter-branch slots filed, 2020–2026)	

Lobbyist	Role	Registrant	Compensation
Rubin, Turnbull & Associates	Retained lobbying firm	SEIU State Council	\$59,999 (est.)

Firm	Total Paid
Rubin, Turnbull & Associates	\$59,999 (est.)

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The council spent \$75,316 on benefits in fiscal 2025 — 23.0% of total disbursements, funding health insurance and pension contributions for its two-person staff.²⁹ The two components were \$48,387 in health insurance paid to the SEIU Health & Welfare Fund and \$26,929 in pension contributions to the SEIU Affiliates Officers & Employees Pension Plan.³⁰

Benefit Type	Amount
Health Insurance (SEIU Health & Welfare Fund)	\$48,387
Pension Plan (SEIU Affiliates Officers & Employees Pension)	\$26,929

TOTAL BENEFITS	\$75,316
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MEMBERSHIP DECLINE

The council's affiliated membership base is shrinking fast. After climbing to a recent peak of 29,764 in fiscal 2024, membership fell to just 19,175 in fiscal 2025 — a loss of 10,589 members, or 35.6%, in a single year.³¹

The timing lines up with Florida's Senate Bill 256, a 2023 law that ended automatic payroll dues deduction for public-sector unions and required them to prove at least 60% dues-paying membership to keep their state certification — a law that has already stripped union representation from more than 63,000 Florida public employees. SEIU's Florida public-employee locals, whose per capita dues fund this council, sit squarely in the category of unions the law targeted hardest.³²

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
26,653	18,533	20,555	17,982	18,995	20,455	21,303	21,303	29,764	19,175

YOUR RIGHT TO LEAVE

Since *Janus v. AFSCME*, every Florida public employee has the constitutional right to resign union membership and stop paying dues — no fee, no penalty, and no loss of their job.³³ Workers whose dues flow through SEIU's Florida locals to a state council that has spent just \$7,550 on representation in a decade, and instead funds political campaigns and ballot initiatives, are free to walk away — as more than 10,000 already have in the past year alone.

Employees who want to understand their rights or need help leaving can find resources at americansforfairtreatment.org or by calling (833) 969-FAIR.

Data sourced from the SEIU Florida State Council's Form LM-2 filing with the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor-Management Standards (File No. 544-734), for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025, and historical filings 2016–2025; Florida Lobbyist Registration Office quarterly compensation reports (Principal: SEIU State Council, 2020–2026), from bulk TXT downloads at floridalobbyist.gov — per FS 11.045, compensation below \$50,000 is reported in tiered ranges, figures shown use range midpoints as estimates and capture only outside contract lobbying firms, not in-house lobbyists. State campaign finance filings via the American Accountability Foundation State PAC Partisan Tracker (SEIU-Florida committee, 2015–2026).

NUMBERS TO HIGHLIGHT

Key statistics from SEIU FL's FY 2025 (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2025) LM-2 filing

\$7,550 Total spent representing workers in a decade — 0.05% of spending

36.7% Of FY2025 spending on politics & lobbying

\$9.19M Dues-funded political spending, 10-year total

80% Share of the 2016 budget spent on politics alone

-35.6% Membership loss in a single year (FY2024–25)

-93.8% Decade-long collapse in total spending

\$50,000 Paid to a Medicaid ballot-initiative committee

\$410,110 Net assets — growing even as operations shrink

\$3.1M SEIU Florida PAC spending since 2015

95.8% Of PAC political dollars to Democrats

¹ Form LM-2 historical filings 2016–2025 (File No. 544-734), Statement B, Line 50.

² Form LM-2 (File No. 544-734), Schedule 13 / Item 20 (Membership), FY 2025.

³ Form LM-2 (File No. 544-734), Statement B, Line 51 (Political Activities and Lobbying), FY 2025.

⁴ Form LM-2 historical filings 2016–2025 (File No. 544-734), Statement B, Lines 51 and 68.

⁵ Form LM-2 (File No. 544-734), Schedule 16 (Political Activities and Lobbying payees), FY 2025.

⁶ State campaign finance filings via the American Accountability Foundation State PAC Partisan Tracker (SEIU-Florida committee, 2015–2026).

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- ⁷ Florida Senate Bill 254 (2023 Reg. Sess.) (prohibiting puberty blockers and gender-transition procedures for minors); then-Rep. Carlos Guillermo Smith's characterization of the law as 'fascism' reported in coverage of its passage.
- ⁸ Florida Lobbyist Registration Office quarterly compensation reports (Principal: SEIU State Council, 2020–2026); per FS 11.045, range midpoints used for sub-\$50K figures.
- ⁹ Form LM-2 historical filings 2016–2025 (File No. 544-734), Item 20 (Membership).
- ¹⁰ Form LM-2 (File No. 544-734), Statement B, Line 68, FY 2025; historical filings 2016–2025, Line 68.
- ¹¹ Form LM-2 (File No. 544-734), Statement A, Lines 29, 34, and 35, FY 2025.
- ¹² Form LM-2 (File No. 544-734), Statement A, Lines 29, 34, and 35, FY 2025.
- ¹³ Form LM-2 (File No. 544-734), Statement A, Line 22 (Cash), FY 2025.
- ¹⁴ Form LM-2 historical filings 2016–2025 (File No. 544-734), Statement B, Line 68.
- ¹⁵ Form LM-2 (File No. 544-734), Statement B, Line 50, FY 2025.
- ¹⁶ Form LM-2 historical filings 2016–2025 (File No. 544-734), Statement B, Line 50.
- ¹⁷ Form LM-2 (File No. 544-734), Statement B, Lines 51, 53, 54, and 55, FY 2025.
- ¹⁸ Form LM-2 (File No. 544-734), Statement B, Line 51, FY 2025.
- ¹⁹ Form LM-2 historical filings 2016–2025 (File No. 544-734), Line 51.
- ²⁰ Form LM-2 (File No. 544-734), Schedule 16 (Political Activities and Lobbying payees), FY 2025.
- ²¹ State campaign finance filings via the American Accountability Foundation State PAC Partisan Tracker (SEIU-Florida committee totals, 2015–2026).
- ²² State campaign finance filings via the American Accountability Foundation State PAC Partisan Tracker (party breakdown, SEIU-Florida committee).
- ²³ State campaign finance filings via the American Accountability Foundation State PAC Partisan Tracker (recipient detail, SEIU-Florida committee).
- ²⁴ Florida Senate Bill 254 (2023 Reg. Sess.); then-Rep. Carlos Guillermo Smith's 'fascism' characterization reported in coverage of the bill's April 2023 passage.
- ²⁵ Equality Florida, 'Carlos Guillermo Smith' (eqfl.org); Smith has served as the organization's Senior Policy Advisor since 2015 and campaigned against 2020 legislation criminalizing gender-transition treatments for minors.
- ²⁶ State campaign finance filings via the American Accountability Foundation State PAC Partisan Tracker (SEIU-Florida committee).
- ²⁷ Janus v. AFSCME, Council 31, 138 S. Ct. 2448 (2018).
- ²⁸ Florida Lobbyist Registration Office quarterly compensation reports (Principal: SEIU State Council, 2020–2026).
- ²⁹ Form LM-2 (File No. 544-734), Statement B, Line 55 and Schedule 20 (Benefits), FY 2025.
- ³⁰ Form LM-2 (File No. 544-734), Schedule 20 (Benefits), FY 2025.
- ³¹ Form LM-2 historical filings 2016–2025 (File No. 544-734), Item 20 (Membership).
- ³² Florida Senate Bill 256 (2023 Reg. Sess.); WLRN, 'A new law is quietly devastating Florida's public sector labor unions' (Feb. 15, 2024).
- ³³ Janus v. AFSCME, Council 31, 138 S. Ct. 2448 (2018).