

Join the Collective Strength of 120,000 Members

The North Carolina State AFL-CIO is an organization made up of unions from across the state. Just as joining together at the workplace gives workers a stronger voice on the job, unions joining together at a national level and at a statewide level also gives working people a stronger voice on issues that affect them and their families.

Unions affiliated with the state federation include: Association of Flight Attendants, American Federation of Teachers, NC Fire Fighters, International Union of Police Association, United Association of Nurses, Teamsters, Letter Carriers, Postal Workers and more than 30 other unions.

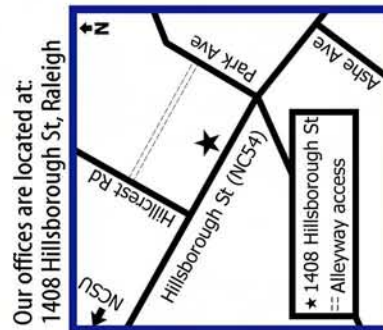
Your national union is affiliated with the national AFL-CIO because your leaders recognize the value of labor's collective strength. Many of our programs mirror those of the national AFL-CIO and provide the advantage of collective strength on the local and state level.

"My friends, it is solidarity of labor we want. We do not want to find fault with each other, but to solidify our forces and say to each other: We must be together; our masters are joined together and we must do the same thing."

Mother Jones



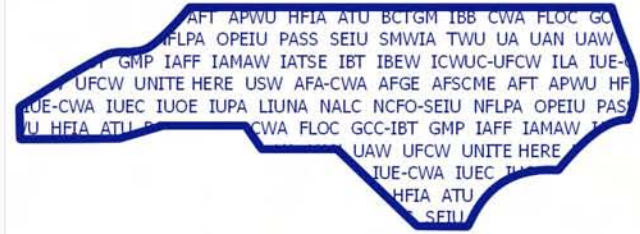
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NC State AFL-CIO

North Carolina's Union Movement



Speaking with a United Voice...

...to advance a progressive legislative agenda in the NC General Assembly

...to build political power for affiliates and all working families at every level of government

...to rally solidarity for unions during organizing or when out on strike

...to empower affiliates through education and training



Businesses Know the Benefits of Collective Action

Does your union know?

About three million employers in the United States are members of the Chamber of Commerce. The North Carolina Chamber counts 1,700 members in its federation, including major corporations like Smithfield Foods, healthcare companies like Blue Cross Blue Shield, and many smaller private enterprises.

Businesses work together to influence policymakers to create a climate that values revenue over regulation and profits over workers.

If employer associations exist to be a force for business and industry, then the North Carolina State AFL-CIO is a force for local unions and a voice for the working class in our state.

When business and industry groups propose legislation that would cut workers' benefits, weaken consumer protections, or kill an increase in the minimum wage, our State Federation is there, building strategic alliances, pooling resources, coordinating message delivery and mobilizing union members to take action.

Businesses know the benefits of collective action to advance a pro-employer agenda. They know the importance of joining the Chamber and other organizations.

Our members know we must present a united front in order to move policy and affect policymakers in the face of a well organized, well funded business lobby.

Can your local union afford not to be a member of the North Carolina State AFL-CIO?

A Strong Voice for Unions on Legislative Issues

Laws passed by the Congress and the North Carolina General Assembly have a huge impact on the lives of our members and their families. We work hard at the General Assembly and with our congressional representatives to initiate and support legislation helpful to workers and to defeat legislation that is harmful to their interests.

The North Carolina State AFL-CIO has lobbyists who routinely talk to our state and federal representatives about issues of specific concern to our affiliates and those of general concern to all workers.

Improved Access to Key Decision Makers

Affiliation with the North Carolina State AFL-CIO allows you to participate in our biennial Legislative Conference and local legislative meetings. These events provide opportunities for union members to develop relationships with their local legislators and discuss with them any issues of concern.

Members of Congress join us at periodic meetings during which affiliated members get to ask tough questions and directly express their concerns. Lawmakers, members of the Council of State, and other key decision makers are regular attendees at our Annual Convention.

A Political Program Building Power for Unions

Working families win only when we elect worker friendly policymakers in federal, state, and local government. Our State Federation is actively involved in candidate recruitment and campaigning for our labor-endorsed candidates running for office at all levels of government.

Each election cycle, delegates from local unions across the state gather to hear from, screen, and endorse candidates. We then coordinate a political education and mobilization program, from the primary through the general election. Our office conducts phone banks, produces material to educate your membership, and creates voter guides they can take to the polls.

Our political program has been successful in helping to elect labor-endorsed candidates; over 70 percent won their election in 2006.

Ongoing Education & Training for Members

The North Carolina State AFL-CIO provides affiliates with the information and training they need or request.

Each summer we host Labor School, a weeklong institute for affiliated local leadership and up-and-coming members that focuses on understanding labor law and developing leadership skills.

We also conduct periodic workshops on topics such as workers' compensation and organizing.

Solidarity Assistance for Unions in Need

When a union is on strike or in a tough organizing campaign, the AFL-CIO mobilizes union members across the state to show solidarity with their fellow workers. Support includes letter writing campaigns, walking picket lines, holding rallies, community outreach programs, and contributing to strike funds. When unions ask for support, our members are there.

Experienced Legal Counsel Available on Call

Affiliated locals can receive consultations with a private attorney at no additional cost to them. Thus officers can receive quick advice on contract matters, workers' compensation, wage and hour issues or anything else labor-related.

Increasing Public Awareness of Unions

The North Carolina State AFL-CIO reaches out to the media, community organizations, and educational institutions to publicize the benefits of unions and increase public understanding of labor's issues. State Federation officers are often interviewed by the press. We respond to current events with press conferences and letters to the editor. Officers regularly speak to college classes and civic organizations in an effort to educate people about unions and their benefits.

