
Janus v AFSCME, Council 31

Anti-Public Sector Union Supreme
Court Decision

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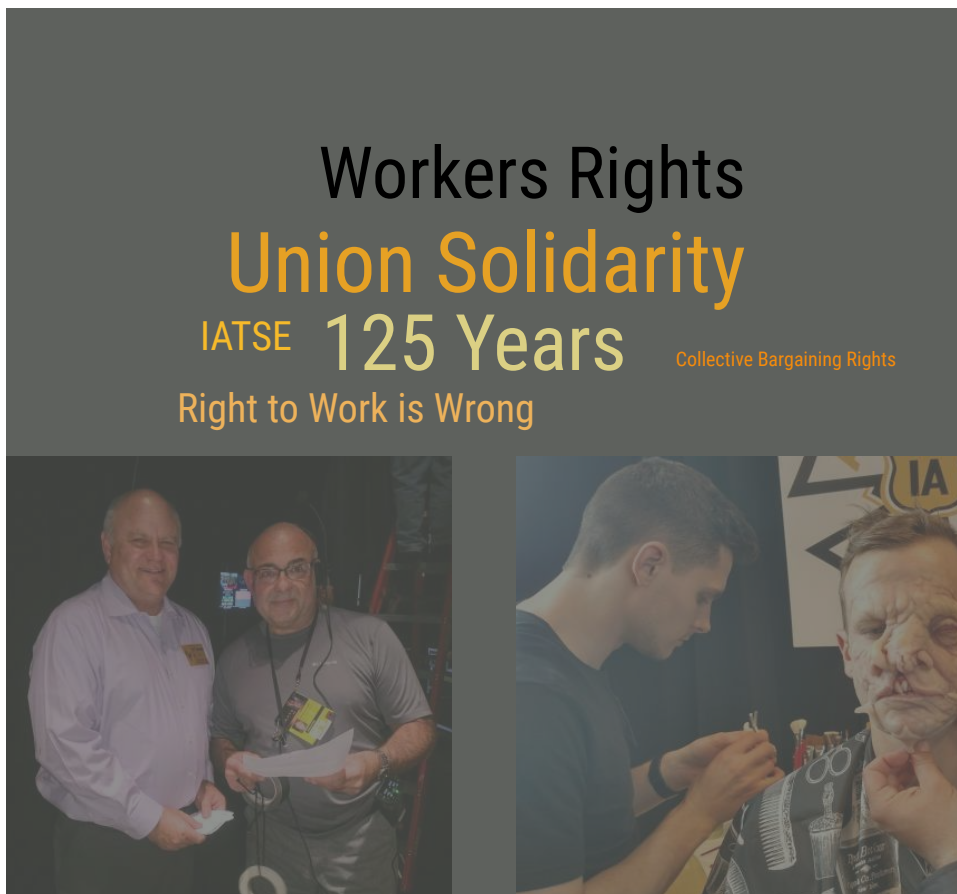
Background

Janus v AFSCME

The US Supreme Court recently decided in Janus v. AFSCME that the public sector is now entirely “right-to-work” in one fell swoop. Janus has been the culmination of decades of attacks on working people by corporations and the wealthy – and the politicians who do their bidding – to rig the economy in their favor. The forces that were behind the case are the same forces that have pushed to limit voting rights, undermine civil rights, and the relentless attack on immigrants.

The case was purely a political scheme to further rig the economy against working people by striking down the freedom of working people to come together in strong unions. We must work to combat this attack on collective bargaining by talking with our friends, families, and co-workers.

***Public Sector Unions are working families employed by government entities. (Example: teachers, firefighters, police officers)



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This decision is a purely political scheme to further rig the economy against working people by striking down the freedom to come together and form stronger unions. The IATSE stands with our sisters and brothers in this fight and is committed to ensuring that the strength of unions endures.

Facts about the decision:

The Supreme Court has stripped the freedom of working people to join together in strong unions to speak up for themselves, their families and their communities.

Unions have played a critical role in building and protecting the working-class in America. They help hardworking people build a good life.

The corporate interest behind this decision simply do not believe that working people should have the same rights CEOs have; the freedom to negotiate a fair return on our work so we can provide for ourselves and our families.

This decision strips working people of their political power.

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"Right to Work" is bad for the IATSE and Working Families

What is "Right to Work?"

"Right to Work" is the name for a policy designed to take away rights from working people. Backers of right to work laws claim that these law protect workers against being forced to join a union. The reality is that federal law already makes it illegal to force someone to join a union.

The real purpose of right to work laws is to tilt the balance toward big corporations and further rig the system at the expense of working families. These laws make it harder for working people to form unions and collectively bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions.

Many IATSE members work for public sector employers like universities and publicly funded theaters in communities across the country, and we must stand with our brothers and sisters in this fight.

What is a fair share? The fee non-union members must pay to cover the cost of collective bargaining.



The percent a worker's pay drops on average when right to work laws are passed.



Strong Unions are vital to unrigging this economy because they improve all communities and the lives of union and non-union members alike.

Lets talk about unions:

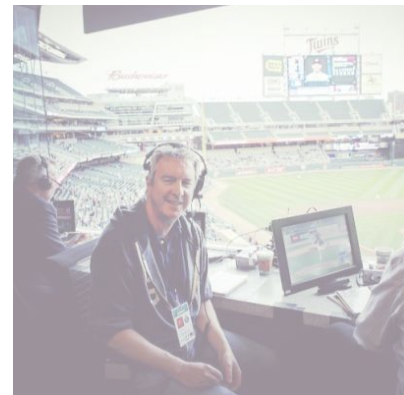
Unions raise wages for both union and non-union workers.

Unions are more important than ever – and Americans know it. New Gallup research shows that 3 in 5 Americans have a favorable view of labor unions. That’s the highest level in 15 years – and support is even stronger among younger people.

When union membership is high, entire communities enjoy wages that represent a fair return on their work and greater social and economic mobility. Unions use our collective voice to advocate for policies that benefit all working people – like increases in the minimum wage, affordable health care, and great public schools.

Unions provide a path to the middle class for working people by increasing their income and creating economic security for their families. As union membership has decreased, income inequality has risen in the United States.

Through collective bargaining, members of strong unions are scoring victories that help entire communities – like safer workplace conditions and greater economic security.



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Strong unions advocate for equal opportunity for women and communities of color who have been systematically disadvantaged due to discrimination and prejudice.

Why we must continue to fight:

Today's rigged economy disproportionately hurts women and people of color. Unions can help them gain their fair share of the wealth they create.

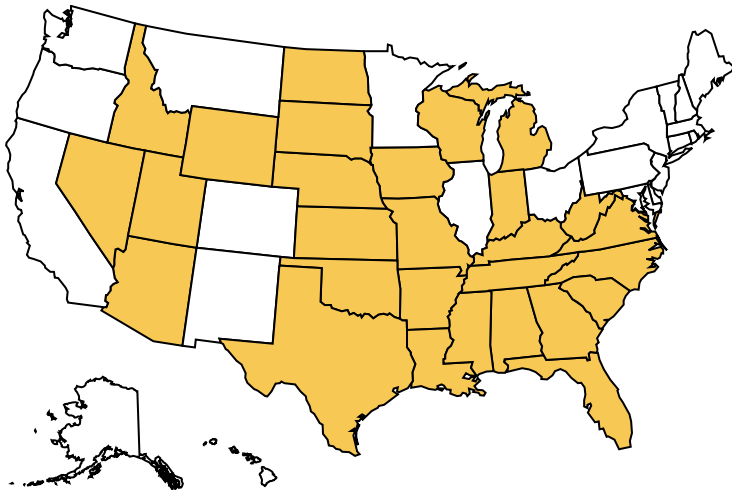
Those of us in the labor movement and the civil rights community know that economic justice and civil rights are inextricably linked. One cannot be achieved without the other.

Across the nation, more than half of African-American workers and nearly 60 percent of Latino workers are paid less than \$15 an hour.

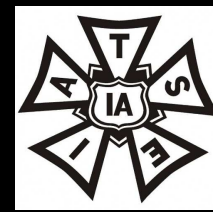
Union jobs continue to be a path to the middle class for people of color, who often face low wages in their professions. African-American union members today earn 14.7 percent more than their non-union counterparts.

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"Right-to-Work" States



12 of 15 states with the worst gender and racial pay gaps are "Right to Work" states.



A Message from IATSE President, Matthew Loeb



Dear IATSE Sisters and Brothers,

Today, working families in America are at a crossroads. The choices facing us after the recent U.S. Supreme Court Case JANUS v. AFSCME Council 31 will decide the course of our nation. We can choose to either stand our ground and fight for our rights, or hide from these anti-union attacks.

The court case JANUS v. AFSCME Council 31 decided the question of whether or not public-sector unions would be forced to represent non-dues paying members. This decision was backed by special interests' groups actively working to weaken union voices and limit our power in numbers.

I am disturbed by the decision that has come forth from the United States Supreme Court. Unfortunately, the anti-union decision is reflective of our current political reality. Too few elected representatives are willing to put aside political division to stand with unions, and working families are paying the price. Make no mistake, no union will be sheltered from the ramifications of these court decisions. Whether you are a private sector, public sector, union or non-union employee, we all will feel the effects of lower wages, attacks on our pensions, and diminished health care.

Although, this decision does not bode well for our nation's unions, I have faith in the tenacity and perseverance of our union sisters and brother. We have faced these challenges before in the history of our union and won. We must move forward from today and continue to grow and strength our unions regardless of the laws. We did not need permission from our nation's government to form a union in 1893 and we do not need it now.

We see many working families successfully, fighting back against the corporate agenda that would diminish our power. Teachers in West Virginia won higher wages and better health care when they went on a wild-cat strike, and union voices spoke out in Pennsylvania when they rejected the anti-union candidate for congress by electing Conor Lamb with a pro-labor message. Our own IATSE members have won hard fought campaigns to organize new members again and again. We must continue to succeed in these efforts moving forward; this is the path that will ensure a strong IATSE.

I urge all officers in the IATSE to mobilize our members as political activists, fight against so called 'right to work' and other anti-union legislation, participate in the political process and demand that our elected leaders represent our interests in Washington D.C. The IATSE must get members registered and out to vote and invest in our political process. The 2018 elections will be a critical moment in our history to ensure IATSE workers have a voice at the table.