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Label Letter

Union Label & Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO

Labor Day in Full Swing: From Picnics to Protests

SEE PHOTOS
FROM FROM
AROUND THE
COUNTRY OF
WORKER'S
LABOR DAY.
PAGES 2 & 3



America's working people didn't just fire up the grills on Labor Day this year; they lit up the streets. Across the nation, more than 1,000 events unfolded — from parades and picnics to rallies and protests — uniting working people in a bold display of solidarity.

In Los Angeles, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler joined the California Labor Federation at their 46th Annual Labor Solidarity Parade & Picnic, asking attendees: "Are y'all ready to take on the greedy CEOs and billionaires?"

In Philadelphia, Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond led the 38th Tri-State Labor Day Parade, barreling through South Philly for the first time—and afterward, the union celebration moved into full festival mode with booths, information, and community firepower.

And in New York City, the country's largest and oldest Labor Day parade filled Fifth Avenue with members and their families from more than 200 unions. AFL-CIO

Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond joined the New York City Central Labor Council as the "It's Better in a Union" bus capped its nationwide tour—rolling alongside 100,000 union members marching through midtown Manhattan. Leading the historic spectacle were Co-Grand Marshals Rich Maroko of the Hotel and Gaming Trades Council and Terri Carmichael Jackson of the WNBPA, joined by AFT President Randi Weingarten, LIUNA's Brent Booker, and RWDSU-UFCW's Stuart Appelbaum.

Meanwhile, in Nashville, thousands of workers braved the rain for the 12th annual Labor Day Parade and Celebration. More than 30 unions, community allies, and elected officials marched through downtown before gathering at Walk of Fame Park. As Central Labor Council President Vonda McDaniel put it: "In a time when workers' rights are under attack both at the federal and state level, Middle Tennessee workers and their allies came together ... to show we are fighting

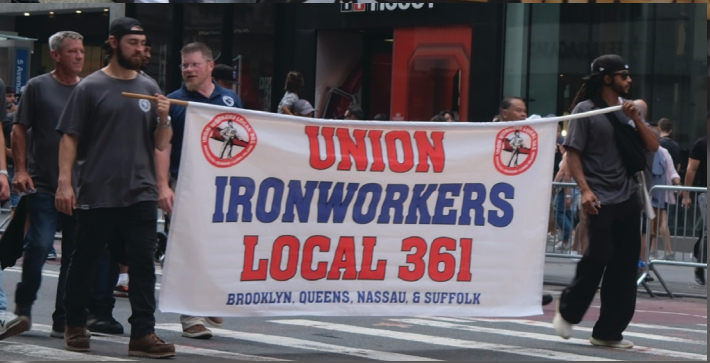


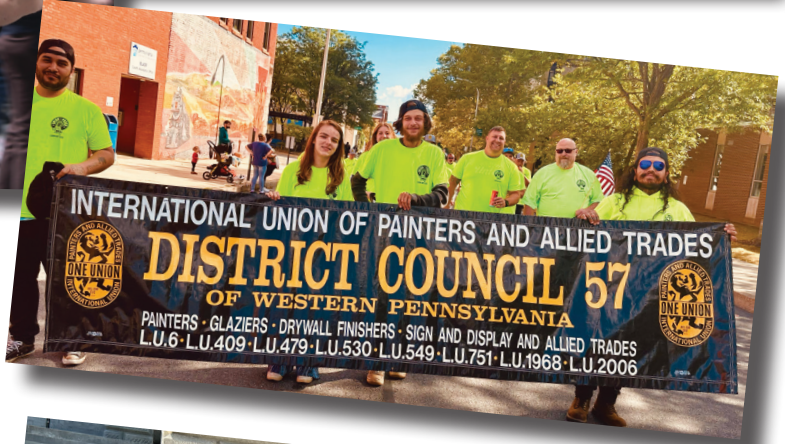
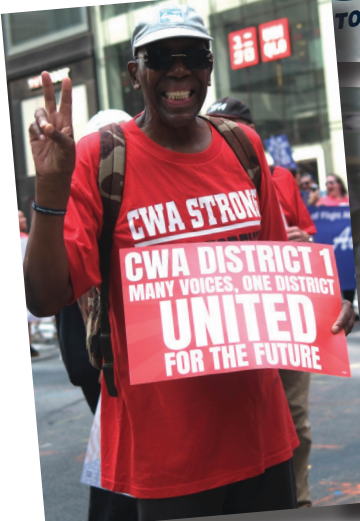
for each other and our union."

And the list goes on—union leaders from AFGE, AFSCME, and AGMA hit the road in Detroit, Phoenix, Cincinnati, and beyond—showing up for working people everywhere.

Tasked with "Taking Back Labor Day," American Labor Unions did the work. This wasn't your grandma's Labor Day. Yes, there were cookouts—but there were chants too. Far from being a sleepy holiday, it became a statement of collective strength: reminding everyone that working people—not billionaires—are who keep this country running.

See more pictures, pages 2 & 3



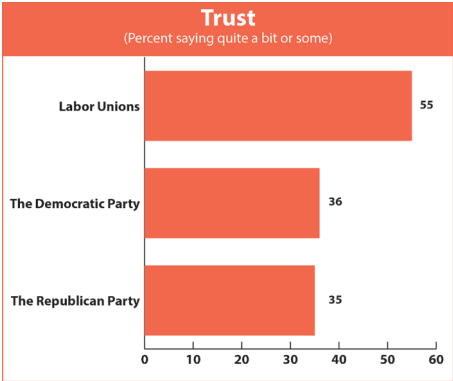


Americans Strongly Support Unions This Labor Day

While the Trump Administration continues to escalate its attacks on workers and their unions, the American people remain firmly on the side of labor. A new Gallup poll released just ahead of Labor Day shows that nearly 7 in 10 Americans support unions—one of the highest levels in decades and a number that has held steady in recent years.

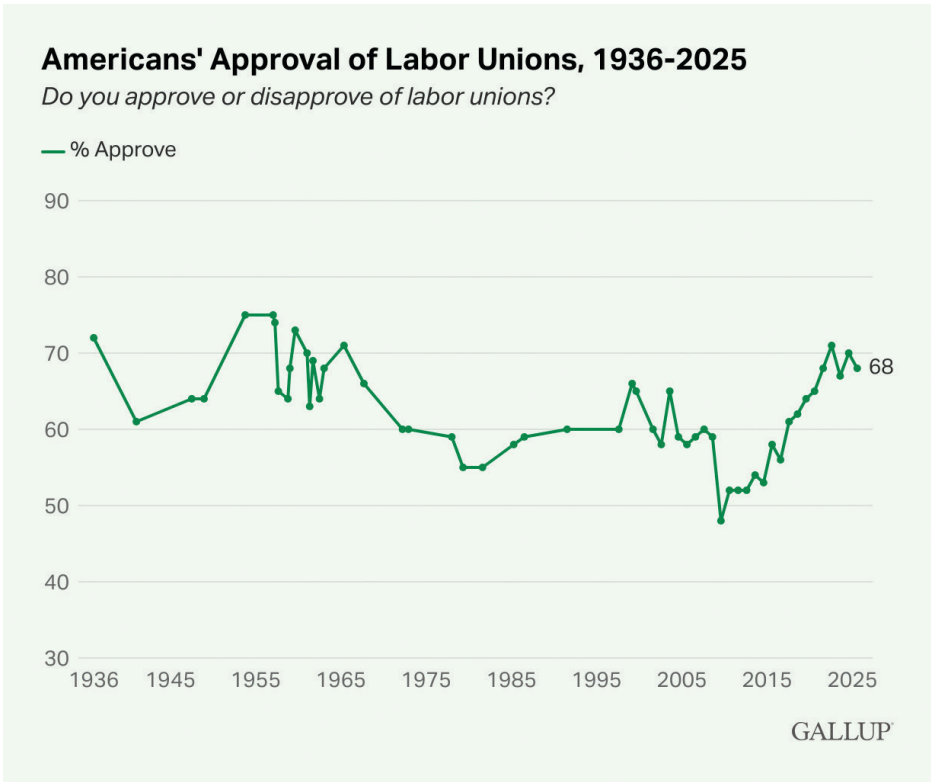
Support is particularly strong among younger Americans and people of color, with nearly three-quarters of both groups backing unions. Swing Independent voters are also increasingly supportive—69% say they favor unions, the highest level in more than 20 years.

The trust gap is striking. According to new AFL-CIO research conducted by David Binder Research, working people have lost confidence in nearly every major institution, from political parties to the Supreme Court to religious organizations. But unions buck the trend: a solid majority of workers view unions as trustworthy, with confidence levels running 20 points higher than either the Democratic or Republican Party.



For those “on-the-edge” voters—workers worried about making ends meet, raising families, and securing retirement—three in four say unions are their best chance at a decent life and retirement with dignity.

The sentiment is not just about the present, but the long arc of the labor movement. Pew Research finds that nearly two-thirds of Americans believe the decline of unions has been bad for working people and bad for the country as a



whole. That view even includes a majority of Republicans under 35. And while Republican support for unions dipped overall this year, more than 4 in 10 GOP voters still express support—right in line with the 25-year average.

Yet, even as public support for unions remains strong, the Trump Administration is pushing in the opposite direction. Just days before Labor Day, President Trump issued a new executive order—an expansion of his March order—ripping away collective bargaining rights from federal workers at NASA, the International Trade Association, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the National Weather Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Bureau of Reclamation, and other vital agencies.

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler blasted the move, saying:

“This is how President Trump is commemorating Labor Day: continuing his administration’s all-out attack on workers and unions. This new executive order once again distorts the law by ripping away the collective bargaining rights of federal workers in an attempt to silence their voices

on the job. Every one of these orders undercuts the government services we all rely on, especially after his administration has already recklessly gutted staff... When those workers can’t speak up on the job and make sure their offices are serving the American people, we are all at risk.”

Shuler underscored the insult of issuing the order just before Labor Day, calling it proof of the administration’s “callous disregard for workers’ rights.” She vowed that the labor movement “will never stop organizing and fighting for each other—and we’ll see him in court.”

The takeaway this Labor Day is crystal clear: Americans stand strongly behind unions. They view organized labor as not only trustworthy, but as a vital force for protecting wages, retirement security, and worker safety.

Politicians should take note. Attacks on unions and collective bargaining remain wildly unpopular. Supporting working people and the right to organize, on the other hand, is one of the rare issues that unites Americans across party lines.

Undermining the Truth: Why Politicizing the Bureau of Labor Statistics Hurts Working Families

When the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) makes headlines, it's usually for a jobs report or an update on inflation. But the recent firing of the BLS director sent up a red flag that every worker should see for what it is: a direct attack on objective, reliable data — the very information that millions of Americans depend on to make ends meet.

The BLS isn't some think tank whose donors help sway statistics in their favor. It's where the hard facts about wages, employment, and consumer prices come from. Those numbers aren't just academic; they're the foundation for things that matter deeply to working people — like the

cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to Social Security. When inflation ticks up, seniors and people with disabilities see their benefits increase because of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), a key measure calculated by the BLS.

But if the BLS is politicized, like President Trump seems to want, those numbers can no longer be trusted. Imagine if inflation data were massaged to make an administration look good — or bad. That doesn't just skew the news cycle; it means Social Security recipients might not get the fair adjustments they're owed. Retirees could find their checks falling behind rising costs for groceries, rent, and prescrip-

tions, while politicians pat themselves on the back for “taming inflation.”

Workers and retirees alike rely on accurate data, not doctored statistics. This isn't a partisan issue; it's a kitchen table economics issue. Whether you're clocking in every morning or living on a fixed income after a lifetime of work, the BLS is supposed to be unbiased. The Bureau of Labor Statistics needs to remain independent, transparent, and accountable only to the truth. Because when the numbers get twisted, it's not politicians who pay the price — it's workers, retirees, and every family trying to keep up with the cost of living.

Trump's War on Federal Unions Puts All Workers at Risk

The Trump Administration's escalating attacks on federal employee unions are more than a government labor dispute — they are a full-frontal assault on the rights of all working people. Through executive orders and agency directives, the administration has sought to cancel collective bargaining agreements across dozens of federal agencies, strip workers of grievance rights, and even ban union representatives from using government facilities to conduct official labor duties.

“THE SINGLE BIGGEST ACT OF UNION-BUSTING IN AMERICAN HISTORY”

Labor leaders have sounded the alarm about the scope of these attacks. Fred Redmond, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO, minced no words: “President Trump's executive order was the single biggest act of union-busting in American history.”

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) President Everett Kelley has also condemned the moves, saying: “Federal employees are dedicated public servants who keep our government running and our communities safe. Stripping them of their voice on the job is not only illegal, it's dangerous for the American people.”

HOW IT HURTS THE PUBLIC

Unions note that collective bargaining agreements don't just benefit workers —

they protect the public. AFSCME President Lee Saunders put it plainly: “When you weaken unions, you weaken the services that Americans rely on every day. Nurses, air traffic controllers, scientists, and first responders all need fair working conditions to do their jobs well.”

Legal experts warn that tearing up negotiated contracts leads to chaos inside agencies, with short-staffing, low morale, and rapid turnover — all of which can cripple the federal government's ability to respond to national emergencies, natural disasters, and public health crises.

A THREAT TO ALL UNIONS

Perhaps most troubling, labor leaders warn that if the administration succeeds in abolishing federal unions, the consequences will ripple far beyond Washington. As AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler explained: “If they can get away with this in the federal sector, private employers will be emboldened to demand the same freedom to crush unions in their workplaces. This is about setting a precedent that collective bargaining is optional — and that's a threat to every union member in this country.”

The concern is that by invoking vague claims of “national security” or “efficiency,” the administration is laying the groundwork for employers and politicians everywhere to roll back bargaining rights.

That precedent could undermine decades of hard-fought progress for both public- and private-sector unions.

FIGHTING BACK

Unions aren't taking the attacks lying down. AFGE, AFSCME, the AFL-CIO, and others have filed lawsuits, held rallies, and launched nationwide campaigns to defend federal workers' rights. “We don't back down,” Kelley vowed. “We will fight in the courts, in Congress, and in the streets to protect the right of every federal employee to have a voice on the job.”

Allies in Congress have also expressed support, with lawmakers pledging to introduce legislation that would safeguard collective bargaining rights against executive overreach.

MORE THAN FEDERAL WORKERS AT STAKE

The Trump Administration's actions are not just an attack on federal employees — they are a testing ground for dismantling union rights across the country. If these efforts succeed, every worker, from machinists and teachers to electricians and health care workers, could find their rights on the chopping block next.

As Shuler put it: “This is a fight for the soul of America's labor movement. If we lose here, we risk losing everywhere.”



DO BUY UNION-MADE THIS FOOTBALL SEASON

This football season, remember that the players on the field are members of the **NFL Players Association** (NFLPA). The officials are members of the **NFL Referee's Association** (NFLRA) and most stadiums are unionized.

The leather for NFL footballs is made by members of **UFCW Local 1546** at Horween Leather Co. in Chicago. And the footballs are then handcrafted from the leather by members of **Workers United Local 1385** at the Wilson factory in Ada, Ohio.

Unionized television crews **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers** (IBEW) bring the games into our homes. Many stadiums were built and are maintained by union members including: **Boilermaker** (IBB), **Bricklayers** (BAC), **Carpenters** (UBC), **Elevator Constructors** (IUEC), **Ironworkers**, **Laborers** (LIUNA), **Operating Engineers** (IUOE), **Painters and Allied Trades** (IUPAT), **Plumbers and Pipe Fitters** (UA), **International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers** (SMART) and **United Steelworkers** (USW), and concessions workers are represented by **UNITE HERE** and others.

The performers who sing the National Anthem and entertain us during the half-time shows are often union too and include members of the **Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists** (SAG-AFTRA) and the **American Federation of Musicians** (AFM).

THE UNION LABEL DEPARTMENT DOES ITS BEST TO VET ALL PRODUCTS LISTED ON ITS DO BUY LISTS. SOME PRODUCTS ARE MADE IN BOTH UNION AND NON UNION MANUFACTURING PLANTS.

AFL-CIO NATIONAL BOYCOTTS

SEP-OCT 2025



RESTAURANTS

SUBMITTED BY UNITE HERE!

WASHINGTON, DC:

- » **STARR restaurants:** The Occidental, Osteria Mozza and Le Diplomate
- » **Knightsbridge Restaurant Group:** Modena, Bombay Club and Rasika

HOTELS

SUBMITTED BY UNITE HERE!

Please support the workers in these hotels by continuing to boycott the following properties:

ALASKA:

- » Hilton Anchorage
- » Marriott Anchorage Downtown
- » Homewood Suites by Hilton Anchorage
- » Hampton Inn Anchorage
- » Hilton Garden Inn

CALIFORNIA:

- » Hilton Long Beach
- » Hyatt Regency Sacramento
- » Hyatt Centric Fisherman's Wharf
- » La Meridien
- » Hilton Los Angeles Airport
- » Terranea Resort

- » Hyatt Regency Santa Clara
- » Hyatt Regency Sacramento
- » Four Seasons Beverly Hills
- » Hotel Bel Air
- » Langham Huntington

MARYLAND:

- » Merriweather Lakehouse Hotel

MASSACHUSETTS:

- » Boston Marriott Copley Place

FOOD

SUBMITTED BY

Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM)

- » Mondelez International Snack Foods (those made in Mexico)

SUBMITTED BY UNITE HERE!

- » Catapult NW

NEW COMMUNICATIONS

SUBMITTED BY

Communications Workers of America

- » T-Mobile

LEGAL

SUBMITTED BY

American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees

- » Gleason, Dunn, Walsh & O'Shea
- » McDonald, Lamond, Canzoneri and Hickernell

OTHER

SUBMITTED BY Farm Labor

Organizing Committee (FLOC)

- » Reynolds American, Inc., Vuse e-cigarettes

When some labor disputes with businesses cannot be resolved, the AFL-CIO supports its affiliates by endorsing their boycotts. A boycott is an act of solidarity by voluntarily abstaining from the purchase or use of a product or service.

POLICY GUIDELINE FOR ENDORSEMENT OF AFFILIATES' BOYCOTTS

The AFL-CIO Executive Council has developed policy guidelines that regulate how the federation endorses boycotts undertaken by its affiliates. To get AFL-CIO sanction, boycotts should be directed at primary employers.

THE GUIDELINES INCLUDE THESE PROVISIONS:

All requests to the national AFL-CIO for endorsement must be made by a national or international union.

Any affiliated union with a contract in force with the same primary employer will be contacted by the AFL-CIO to determine whether there is an objection to the federation's endorsement.

Affiliates will be asked to provide the AFL-CIO with background information on the dispute in a confidential information survey. Prior to endorsement of the boycott, the executive officers, or their designees, will meet with the national union's officers, or their designees, to discuss the union's strategic plan and timetable for the boycott, or other appropriate tactics, and to discuss the federation's role.

The national or international union initiating the boycott is primarily responsible for all boycott activities; the AFL-CIO will provide supplemental support.

Boycotts will be carried on the AFL-CIO national boycott list for a period of one year, and the endorsement will expire automatically at the end of that time. National and international unions may request one-year extensions of the listings for actions where an organizing or bargaining campaign is actively in place.

(These guidelines were adopted by the AFL-CIO Executive Council in April 2011.)

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EndNotes

By Rich Kline, President, UL&STD

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This Labor Day and the week long celebration of labor rights and unionism and social progress resulting from the combined strength of organized workers was on display across the country. The many photos of these events in this issue of the *Label Letter* present a glimpse of the pride workers take in their unions, their work and accomplishments of organized action.

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said Labor Day is not about mattress sales. It is about the success of working people and their unions in gaining better wages, benefits and working conditions for themselves and social advances in their communities and the nation. It has always been about the struggle of workers to win better lives for themselves and their families and others.

Also evident at the labor events, parades and rallies: opposition to government-by-billionaire attacks on unions, free speech and civil rights. The Trump Administration's cancellation of

union rights for hundreds of thousands of dedicated civil servants was clearly on the minds of participants who had to wonder, "Who's next?"

Signs and banners called for fair treatment and a protest against oligarchs in control of vital government functions. The Trump Administration is corrupting the institutions of government, enabling self-dealing and putting national assets up for sale. The protections of the US Civil Service are under attack. The Labor Movement at-large faces an assault as corporations take government actions as their model.

The photos on display in this issue signal the will and the energy of workers and their unions to confront power. The momentum seen at these events should be channeled into continued activism to protect what we have, to regain the rights lost by our fellow workers and to demonstrate our determination to fight injustice.