

Resolution 2025-03

AFT-Oregon Resolution in Support of Building Organizing Capacity and Solidarity for a General Strike

WHEREAS, workers across Oregon and the country are facing attacks on wages, benefits, working conditions, and the right to organize, while corporate profits soar and economic inequality continues to widen; and

WHEREAS, the right to strike is a fundamental tool for workers to demand fair wages, safe working conditions, and dignity on the job, yet many public sector workers in Oregon and across the U.S. remain subject to restrictive no-strike laws; and

WHEREAS, our locals and unions across the country have won historic victories in recent years, demonstrating the power of worker solidarity in securing fair contracts, better working conditions, and stronger labor protections; and

WHEREAS, the labor movement is experiencing a resurgence in public support, with 71% of Americans and 88% of young workers expressing favorable views of unions, providing an opportunity to grow and strengthen worker power; and

WHEREAS, organized labor must expand its capacity for coordinated action, including aligning contract expirations, increasing strike readiness, and fostering cross-sector and community solidarity to maximize economic and political influence; and

WHEREAS, major unions, including the United Auto Workers (UAW) and the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU), have taken steps toward aligning contract expirations for May 1, International Workers' Day, with the goal of increasing worker power and the potential for a mass strike; and

WHEREAS, Oregon's labor movement has a unique opportunity to lead in building cross-sector solidarity and preparing for mass collective action to fight for not just stronger worker protections and fair contracts, but broader societal change including universal healthcare, childcare for all, fully funded education from cradle to career, and a more just economy; and

WHEREAS, the strength of the labor movement lies in our ability to organize, educate, and mobilize members to take bold, strategic action in the fight for economic, racial, and social justice;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that AFT-Oregon supports efforts to build the organizing capacity necessary for a general strike, including leadership development, strike preparation, and cross-union collaboration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFT-Oregon will coordinate with labor allies across the state to explore aligning contract expirations, where possible, to increase collective bargaining power and create opportunities for unified action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFT-Oregon will work to repeal no-strike laws that limit the ability of public sector workers to fully exercise their rights to collective action and solidarity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFT-Oregon will commit to supporting affiliated locals and the broader labor movement in organizing, bargaining, and engaging in direct action—including strikes—when necessary to secure just and equitable contracts; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that AFT-Oregon will call on the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Oregon AFL-CIO, and allied unions to stand in solidarity with efforts to build toward mass coordinated action, ensuring that the labor movement remains a powerful force for justice, democracy, and economic equality.

Adopted this [date] by the American Federation of Teachers-Oregon.

Approved for submission to the 2025 AFT-Oregon Convention by vote of the AFT-Oregon Executive Council 2025-04-01, signed by officers:
