



ARIZONA STATE COUNCIL



**UNITE HERE!
LOCAL 11**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ELEVEN ARIZONA LABOR ORGANIZATIONS AND SCORES OF UNION MEMBERS TO JOIN NATIONAL MAY DAY MARCH TO DEMAND JUSTICE FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Phoenix, AZ – Organized labor will be front and center at Thursday's historic May Day National Day of Action march at the Arizona State Capitol to demand an end to the billionaire takeover of our democracy and fight for the dignity of all working families.

In all, eleven labor organizations representing tens of thousands of Arizona workers and their families will take part in the Day of Action, which begins at 9 a.m. at the Capitol and will end at the Sandra Day O'Connor United States Courthouse in Downtown Phoenix. Local labor leaders will speak along with immigrant rights groups, healthcare advocates, and community organizations.

The supporting organizations released the following statements for publication and to share ahead of the march:

AFSCME Arizona:

"AFSCME stands in proud solidarity with workers across Arizona and around the world this

May Day. Our union has always believed that an injury to one is an injury to all — and today, we show up together, united in purpose, to honor the legacy of labor and to demand justice in the present.

As public service workers, we serve communities that are too often the first to feel the impact of unjust policies and practices. Whether it's attempts to weaken our bargaining rights, underfund critical services, or silence the voices of working people — we know that unity is our greatest strength."— **Frank Piccioli, AFSCME AZ PEOPLE Committee Chair**

Arizona AFL-CIO:

"May Day is a powerful reminder that the rights we enjoy today were won through the courage, sacrifice, and solidarity of working people. The Arizona AFL-CIO proudly endorses this year's May Day march as we stand united with workers across the state and the nation. Together, we march for fair wages, safe working conditions, the right to organize, and a future where all workers — regardless of immigration status, race, or gender — are treated with dignity and respect. Now more than ever, we must stand against billionaire exploitation." — **Fred Yamashita, Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Director, Arizona AFL-CIO**

Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans:

"As an organization dedicated to protecting the dignity and well-being of older Americans, the Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans proudly endorses the May Day rally in Phoenix," **said Dora Vasquez, Executive Director.** "The fight for fair wages and safe working conditions is deeply connected to the fight for a secure retirement, including the Social Security and Medicare benefits Americans worked a lifetime to earn. On May Day, we stand in solidarity with workers of all ages to ensure that these vital protections are preserved and strengthened for the future."

Arizona Education Association:

"May Day 2025 is a crucial time in American history," said **Marisol Garcia, President of the Arizona Education Association and a middle-school social studies teacher in the Isaac School District.** "On May 1, educators across Arizona — teachers and school bus drivers and classroom aides and more — will be rising up to leverage our power alongside all the workers who keep this world going. There are so many more of us than there are billionaires and oligarchs. May Day is our time to remind them how powerful we are."

CWA Arizona State Council:

"On May Day, we stand with workers across Arizona who are rising up to demand what we've earned: fair wages, safe workplaces, and the freedom to organize without retaliation. From broadband techs to call center reps, our members are on the frontlines building and connecting our communities. CWA is proud to join this march to show that union power is people power—and we're just getting started." — **Ginger Lane, CWA Legislative/Political Coordinator and Arizona State Council Chair**

International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 36:

"IUPAT District Council 36 represents thousands of skilled workers in the finishing trades — As part of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT), DC 36 is committed to advancing economic justice, workplace safety, and opportunity for all. We fight to ensure that our members — many of whom come from immigrant and working-class communities — have

access to good union jobs, strong labor protections, and a voice in shaping the future of their industries and neighborhoods." — **Luis Robles, Business Manager, Secretary/Treasurer, IUPAT DC36**

About Painters and Allied Trades District Council 36: Chartered in 1908, Painters and Allied Trades District Council 36 represents thousands of skilled workers across Southern California, Arizona, and New Mexico in the finishing trades — including painters, drywall finishers, glaziers, floor layers, and tradeshow workers.

Maricopa Area Labor Federation:

"This May Day, the Maricopa Area Labor Federation stands in unity with workers across all industries and roles. From public service to construction, healthcare to hospitality — every job matters, and every voice counts. Our strength is in our solidarity. The diversity of the labor movement is our power, and we show up together to demand dignity, safety, and respect for all. As we face ongoing threats to worker rights and protections, we remain united in purpose. We march for ourselves and for the future — because when we stand together, we win."

— **Briona Parkinson, Maricopa Area Labor Federation Chair**

UFCW Local 99:

"As trade unionists, it is the fundamental truth of our movement that collective action is the ultimate tool to deliver justice. At a time when America's most wealthy can pay-to-play with our most basic freedoms, we must rise up as working people to reclaim our power and defend our future. On May Day, we are proud to stand in solidarity with workers across Arizona and the country in our shared fight for dignity at work and in retirement, regardless of where we were born, who we love, or how we identify." — **Martin Hernandez, UFCW Local 99 Organizing Director**

UNITE HERE Local 11:

"This May Day the stakes have never been higher for workers — corporations and politicians have coalesced around an agenda that directly attacks workers and unions. Dismantling public education, rolling back the scope of the Department of Labor, and firing the head of the National Labor Relations Board are just a few examples of this dangerous agenda. Hospitality and food service workers are at the heart of our country's trillion-dollar tourism industry. And while workers must fight to work just one job, corporations profit and the rich get richer. On May 1, UNITE HERE Local 11 hospitality and food service workers will join our brothers and sisters to remind the oligarchs of our power and strength." — **Beatriz Topete, Arizona Organizing Director, UNITE HERE Local 11**

United Campus Workers of Arizona (UCWAZ), CWA Local 7065:

"The labor union for students, staff, and faculty at Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and the University of Arizona, is proud to endorse and participate in the 2025 May Day Rally in Phoenix. This May Day, aka International Workers' Day, is especially relevant as the U.S. government is revoking the visas of and deporting international students and higher education workers here in Arizona and across the US. This is not just an attack on international students and workers; this is an attack on our constitutional rights, academic freedom, and freedom of speech! 'An injury to one is an injury to all,' join the resistance, join your union! UCWAZ.org."

WSRJB Workers United-SEIU:

"Today on May 1st, International Workers Day, we are reminded more than ever that solidarity and community of the working class is the key to our common future," **said Evelyn Zepeda, Organizing Director at the WSRJB Workers United-SEIU.** "The Western States Regional Joint Board, Workers United-SEIU proudly represents warehouse workers and industrial laundry workers in CA, NM, AZ and NV, thousands here in Arizona. Our members are the backbone of this country. We are excited to join our union siblings on the streets and in any other space necessary. When we fight, we win."

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