



November 10, 2025

Dear AFSCME members,

As president of both Council 35 and Local 264, I will be voting YES on Wednesday to unify our local unions with AFSCME Council 66. We will become an unstoppable force when we become part of a statewide union with 10,000 AFSCME members. We will start receiving the resources and the support we need to win better contracts and build a more powerful union. But we can only achieve that by voting YES on Wednesday.

I understand there are a lot of false rumors spreading about what this unification will mean for you and your fellow AFSCME members in Buffalo. With our election only two days away, I want to share the facts because you deserve to know what will happen if we vote YES and unify with Council 66.

If a majority of members vote YES, your current contracts will remain in effect and will not change. Voting YES will not require a dues increase. Members of our local unions will continue to have the right to determine our dues rates beyond the nationwide minimum that's set by AFSCME International. Your ability to work overtime will stay the same and your health insurance will remain in place. Anyone who tries to tell you otherwise is not telling you the truth. It's that simple.

AFSCME Local 264 and AFSCME Council 35 fully support this unification. Any chapter chairs who campaign against this proposal are actively working against the best interests of our union.

We have been and will continue to be available to you to answer your questions and respond to your concerns. I invite you to [click here to get the facts about this proposal](#), including the union resolutions and answers to frequently asked questions. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me or reach out to AFSCME New York Area Field Services Director Ryan Welles ([rwelles@afscme.org](mailto:rwelles@afscme.org), 218-591-8350) and AFSCME Organizer Malick Ndione ([mndione@afscme.org](mailto:mndione@afscme.org), 410-900-7869).

Thank you again for everything you are doing to serve our communities and help build a stronger union. Together, I know we can achieve great things. Together, let's vote YES on Wednesday, November 12.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bill Orr'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Orr, Jr.  
President, AFSCME Council 35 and AFSCME Local 264  
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