

October 8, 2020 – Education Minnesota Share Lair – Union Rights

We are living in unprecedented times. The challenges students, educators and public education overall will face in the coming months require collective action. Luckily, your union is a perfect vehicle through which we can make our goals reality.

Education Minnesota's Unity Campaign is a movement with an eye on the much-deserved prize: fully funded schools in Minnesota. **By getting 100 percent of educators to vote for public education in November, engaging parents and community voters in the election and beyond, and uniting our coworkers and communities in a statewide movement for full, equitable funding of public education this spring, we can begin to reverse decades of underfunding and inequality.**

So how do you fit into the Unity Campaign? Since many of us have adjusted to different ways of work—Zoom meetings, phone calls, using collaborative online tools—it makes sense that the ways in which we spread the message about the Unity Campaign for fully funded schools in Minnesota would be different from how it was done in previous campaigns.

Long story short: digital engagement—meaning utilizing your social media channels to share our message, build capacity and support to accomplish our goals—is more important than ever.

The rights, privileges and benefits afforded to union members are the focus of this week's newsletter.

History of labor in Minnesota and the United States

Intended to serve workers of the state and region in the areas of labor relations and labor studies, the [Labor Education Service](#) at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management is an excellent resource to discover the history of organized labor in Minnesota. The LES offers many tools to learn about the history of labor, unions and collective bargaining, such as the handout titled "[Chronology of Minnesota workers and their organizations](#)," which dates Minnesota's labor history to the early 1850s. Educators may find especially useful the variety of posters available in the [Labor History Timeline](#).

For a broader view of organized labor as it relates to the United States as a whole, check out the AFL-CIO's [labor history timeline](#).

Resource from www.edmnvotes.org: Union rights

Union rights have been fought for and earned by generations of workers. Many benefits enjoyed by all workers are only possible thanks to organized labor, such as weekends off, paid vacation and sick leave, health benefits and minimum wage. Workers having the ability to collectively bargain a contract is one of the most powerful union rights available. Education Minnesota has a [one-pager](#) summarizing things to know about your union rights. Check out the [union rights page](#) on the campaign website for even more resources.

Stories to share with your networks

Check out these news stories covering union-related news and consider sharing the links on your social media channels.

- Earlier this week, the Supreme Court declined to hear a case that would challenge the exclusive-bargaining agent arrangement, which says only one organization may represent a bargaining unit. Read more in the Education Week blog post titled, "[Supreme Court Won't Hear Challenge to Union Exclusive Representation](#)."
- Not all workers enjoy the benefits of belonging to a union: the In These Times article titled, "[Meet the Warehouse Worker Who Took On Amazon Over Inhumane Conditions and Harassment](#)," profiles Hibaq Mohamed, a Somali immigrant who works at the Amazon fulfillment center in Shakopee, and chronicles how she organized her community in a fight against Amazon to protest working conditions at the center, which has one of the highest rates of injury.

Facebook prewritten posts

Copy/paste the prewritten Facebook posts below to share your thoughts and concerns related to union rights. Feel free to edit the text as it relates to you and your education role.

- Minnesotans care about our neighbors. We want all workers to be treated with dignity, and we want all workers to be able to do their job without fear for their health and safety. But some elected leaders try to fuel divisions by looking out for their corporate funders instead of prioritizing their hardworking constituents. Luckily Minnesotans are smart enough to know that together, we can vote for lawmakers who won't put corporate profit over workers' rights. #edmnvotes #ChooseUnion
- The saying goes: "united we bargain, divided we beg." I choose to be united with my colleagues because I know my voice is stronger together with my colleagues than I would be on my own. If I bring an issue forward to my board, it's an opinion; if my union goes to my board, we have strength. #edmnvotes
- There's only so much I can do as an individual educator, but when I #ChooseUnion and I have the power of the rest of the educators in my building, now suddenly I have some power to turn things for our students. #edmnvotes

Twitter prewritten posts

Copy/paste the prewritten tweets below to share your thoughts and concerns related to union rights. Feel free to edit the text as it relates to you and your education role.

- Workers are stronger when we are organized and united. That's why I'm voting for candidates who share my values and will work to support collective bargaining, good benefits, job security and high safety standards during COVID-19. #edmnvotes #ChooseUnion
- I #ChooseUnion because I know that united we bargain, but divided we beg. There is strength in collective voice, and that's why my vote is going to candidates who will amplify the power of organized labor. #edmnvotes
- From Bde Maka Ska to the Iron Range, all Minnesotans deserve to work in places where our voices are heard, and we are respected for the work we do. The reason I #ChooseUnion is because my union makes my voice stronger, and it gives me strength and confidence to know my colleagues are with me. #edmnvotes

Education Minnesota Election 2020 Voter Guide – research and learn about the candidates on your ballot!

Be sure to check out Education Minnesota's Election 2020 Voter Guide, which has tons of information related to candidates running for office across the state. After scoping out your own ballot, be sure to spread the word on your social media channels by posting this [voter guide shareable](#). You can also request your own customized voter guide shareable (here's an example of a [customized voter guide shareable](#) for Rochester) by emailing Matt Blewett at matt.blewett@edmn.org. **In your request, please include the name of your local or school district exactly as you want it written on the shareable and the Senate districts that are part of your district.**

Shareables

View our union rights shareables below. Find all of our shareables at: <https://www.edmnvotes.org/digital-engagement-resources/>

Click the image to download it full size.

Facebook/Instagram shareables:

Thank a union

8-hour work day	Grievance procedures	Right to strike
Age discrimination laws	Health & safety OSHA	Sexual harassment laws
American Disabilities Act	Healthcare	Social Security
Breaks	Holiday pay	Unemployment insurance
Child labor laws	Military leave	Weekends
Civil rights	Minimum wage	Whistleblower protection laws
Collective bargaining	Overtime pay	Workers comp
Dental coverage	Paid sick leave	Wrongful termination laws
Equal Pay Act	Paid vacation	
FMLA	Parental leave	
	Pensions	
	Raises	



On average, union workers' wages are 22 percent higher than their nonunion counterparts.



#edmnvotes

Source: AFL-CIO



Working people in a union are five times more likely to participate in an employer-provided pension plan than working people without a union.



#edmnvotes

Source: AFL-CIO



If unions aren't needed anymore, why are corporations spending billions to destroy them?



Twitter shareables:

Thank a union

8-hour work day	Holiday pay	Weekends
Age discrimination laws	Military leave	Whistleblower protection laws
American Disabilities Act	Minimum wage	Workers comp
Breaks	Overtime pay	Wrongful termination laws
Child labor laws	Paid sick leave	
Civil rights	Paid vacation	
Collective bargaining	Parental leave	
Dental coverage	Pensions	
Equal Pay Act	Raises	
FMLA	Right to strike	
Grievance procedures	Sexual harassment laws	
Health & safety OSHA	Social Security	
Healthcare	Unemployment insurance	



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Know someone who might want to receive this newsletter? Have them fill out this [quick form](#) to be added to the list!

