

Minneapolis Labor Review

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Lona Dallessandro
Bloomington City Council
District III

AFL-CIO endorses three for
Anoka-Hennepin School Board
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SEIU Local 26 window cleaners win gains in strike

MINNEAPOLIS — High rise window cleaners who waged an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) strike for ten days last month reached a tentative agreement Thursday, August 26 at 1:00 a.m. to end their strike, winning historic gains.

The group of about 40 workers are members of Service Employees International Union Local 26.

Highlights of their new four-year contract include:

- Funding from the companies to start the first-ever state-registered window cleaner apprenticeship safety program in Minnesota.

- Wages increasing to more than \$30 per hour for high rise pay by end of contract; All workers will receive a 12 percent increase, making pay for window cleaners in Minnesota second only to New York City.

- Increased sick days and disability pay.

“The last ten days were so beautiful and I’ll never forget the unity for the rest of my life,” said Eric Crone, a window cleaner and steward with SEIU Local 26. “From my fellow window cleaners to people on the street honking horns and pumping their fists, the solidarity we experienced is something I’ll treasure forever. I’m so proud we stuck together and won our apprenticeship program and obtained fair raises.”

“After the last year, all essential workers deserve more,” Crone said. “It’s important that all the workers who kept our state running during COVID fight for what we deserve. Our strike showed that no one will just give anything to us, but you have to stand up and fight for what you deserve.”

“I hope our strike, and our strong new contract, show other essential workers that when you band together and stay the course, **STRIKE** page 4



Brad Sigal photo

Striking window cleaners and supporters marched August 18 in downtown Minneapolis, one of several actions during the 10-day strike.

Early voting now underway for November 2 election

MINNEAPOLIS — Early voting is now underway for the November 2 general election, which will include races for municipal offices, school boards, school levy questions, and — in Minneapolis — city charter amendments.

Voters can request an absentee ballot to vote early by mail, or go to their local city hall or other designated voting center to

cast their vote early in person.

According to state law, any registered voter may vote early for any reason.

For voting information, including how to vote early, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website at mnvotes.org.

In Minneapolis, in-person early voting will be available only at Minneapolis Elections & Voter Services, 980 Hennepin

List of AFL-CIO
endorsed candidates
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Ave. E. The hours will be Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., through October 15 (closed October 11). Extended hours, including weekends, will begin October 18.

For additional information,

visit vote.minneapolismn.gov.

In Bloomington, voters can go to the Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, to vote in-person. In person voting hours are: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. plus 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, October 30 and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, November 1.

For AFL-CIO endorsed candidates, visit minneapolisunions.org.

National AFL-CIO elects historic new leadership team

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The national AFL-CIO’s executive council August 20 elected Liz Shuler to serve as president of the federation of 56 unions and 12.5 million members. Shuler is the first woman to hold the office in the history of the labor federation.

The executive council also elected United Steelworkers (USW) international vice president Fred Redmond to succeed

Shuler as secretary-treasurer, the first African American to hold the number two office.

Tefere Gebre will continue as executive vice president, rounding out the most diverse team of officers ever to lead the AFL-CIO.

The election of Shuler and Redmond comes after the unexpected and untimely passing of Richard Trumka, who served as



Liz Shuler



Fred Redmond

AFL-CIO president from 2009 until his death August 5, capping a more than 50-year career of dedication to America’s unions

and working people.

“I am humbled, honored and ready to guide this federation forward,” Shuler said after her election. “I believe in my bones the labor movement is the single greatest organized force for progress. This is a moment for us to lead societal transformations — to leverage our power to bring women and people of color from the **AFL-CIO** page 4