

PRESS RELEASE

FAIRFAX EDUCATION UNIONS AND OVER 27,500 FCPS WORKERS OVERWHELMINGLY WIN LANDMARK UNION ELECTIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA — Fairfax Education Unions (FEU), an alliance between Fairfax Education Association (FEA) and Fairfax County Federation of Teachers (FCFT), won two union elections today. Over 27,500 Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) workers are now represented by a sole bargaining agent — FEU.

FEU successfully organized two bargaining units in the ninth largest school district in the nation and won two union elections — overwhelmingly. FEU's efforts resulted in the most successful public sector collective bargaining campaign won in 25 years. 96 percent of instructional workers voted yes, while 80 percent of operational workers also voted yes.

David Walrod, President of FCFT, issued the following statement, "Today marks the culmination of a 47 year-long fight to win collective bargaining at Fairfax County Public Schools. This is undoubtedly a historic moment in Fairfax and a monumental step forward for labor."

FEA President, Leslie Houston, issued the following remarks, "In the words of Frederick Douglass, 'Power concedes nothing without a struggle.' For close to 50 years, FCPS employees have struggled to have a stronger voice in the workplace. Now, those desires have become a reality. This win will be transformative for both Instructional and Operational employees. Our efforts will be focused on securing fair compensation and living wages for all. Collective Bargaining will be the springboard to much needed improvement for the generations of children in Fairfax County."

FCPS bus driver Jo Ann Madison noted, "This win means everything to my colleagues and I. Now all FCPS workers will have a collective voice to ensure that we are guaranteed safe working conditions and a seat at the table. We're counting down the days until we have a legally binding contract."

Glen Forest Elementary School Building Supervisor Ernesto Escalante said, "This win represents the opportunity to achieve a collective bargaining agreement for teachers and operational staff. Now we can establish better benefits and working conditions but most importantly, a livable wage."

FEU congratulates all the FCPS workers and leaders who came together to fight for our collective rights. FEU is eager to sit down at the bargaining table and negotiate a strong contract for all operational and instructional bargaining unit FCPS staff.

FEU is an alliance between FEA and FCFT, who both represent all non-administrative certified and classified FCPS employees. FEA and FCFT members are teachers, counselors, librarians, teaching assistants, clerical employees, bus drivers, custodians, food service, and other staff who work hard to make our schools succeed.

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