

UNITY AND POWER



JANUS—WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: For All Members

THE SUPREME COURT CASE CHALLENGING THE LABOR MOVEMENT

WHAT IS THE JANUS V. AFSCME SUPREME COURT CASE?

- Janus v. AFSCME could become one of the **most influential labor-related lawsuits** in the country's history. It might **eliminate the mandatory fees that support collective bargaining** in the public sector and make union membership optional, causing unions to lose millions of members.
- Mark Janus is an Illinois state employee, who objects to paying union fees. His case is funded by organizations like the National Right to Work Foundation, which has worked for decades to weaken unions.
- The Supreme Court is expected to rule in favor of Mark Janus in Spring 2018.

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

- If the court rules in favor of Janus, then government employees and **public sector unions will see a loss of the financial power** needed to fight for the rights of workers, their families, and their communities.
- The Janus case targets public sector unions such as teachers, police, firefighters, and all government employees. They are half of the entire labor movement. For example, in 2012 when Michigan became an anti-union "Right to Work" state, teachers' unions **immediately lost 24,000 members, and \$10 million in dues.**

WHY IS JANUS HAPPENING?

- This is only one of many **efforts by anti-worker extremists and large corporations to prevent working people from uniting** around issues that impact them.
- Janus is a part of the attempt to push **anti-union Right to Work legislation** throughout the country
- If the Court rules in favor of Janus, attacks on private sector workers, like the members of 1199, will follow.

HOW CAN WE FIGHT BACK?

- **Workers must stand together.** Collective worker power is the only way to ensure that no matter how the Court rules in Janus, unions will survive. Our Unity & Power: Together We Rise program is absolutely essential for our members to talk about what is happening to working people and to recommit to keep unions strong.
- **Make noise and show union strength.** We must be in the streets and be visible and vocal in large numbers. Rallies, protests, demonstrations, lobbying elected officials is more important than ever. We must activate, engage and involve all members, our families and communities to fight for their rights, their dignity, and their worth at work and in this country.
- **Push for pro-worker legislation.** Holding elected officials accountable and supporting legislation that fights against anti-worker efforts like "Right to Work" will send a powerful message that workers together can win.

