

TEXAS STATE EMPLOYEES UNION



COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, LOCAL 6186 / AFL-CIO



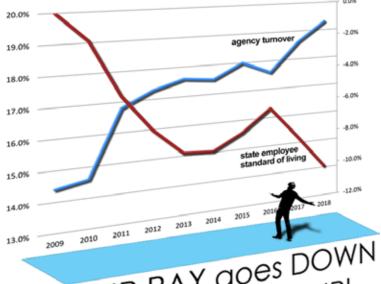


Lobby Day schedule, tickets and other details inside, page 3. Go to www.cwa-tseu.org/events/lobbyday2019 for online ticket purchase.

our TOP priority THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

\$6,000/year raise for ALL state workers and a cost of living increase for ERS and TRS retirees

7ith \$15 billion in the state's Rainy Day Fund and an extra \$9.5 billion in revenue We deserve it! above 2 years ago, lawmakers have no excuses not to invest in state workers, retirees, and state services. And the data shows the need is huge! Turnover Texas needs it! among all state agencies has reached an eye-popping 19.3%, its highest level since at least 1990. And most ERS and TRS retirees haven't seen an increase in our The money is there! pensions since 2001. That's nearly 20 years of falling behind the cost of living.



OUR PAY goes DOWN TURNOVER goes UP!

But just because it's the right thing to do, doesn't mean legislators will actually do it. SO HERE'S HOW WE'LL WIN THIS YEAR!

BY ORGANIZING! The more state employees and retirees who are active, dues-paying members of our union, the more powerful our voices will be in the Legislature and among the leaders of our agencies and universities.



Fourteen new members joined the union at Mexia SSLC largely because of the hard work of TSEU activists Cynthia Jackson and Shandra Carter who are organizing for a pay raise!

TSEU activist Rosie Aquilina (RN at El Paso Psychiatric Center) looks on as a new member signs up. Six new members recently joined the union at EPPC because of the work of Rosie and excitement for the ongoing pay raise fight. WITH POSTCARDS TO OUR LEGISLATORS!

By sending in thousands of pay raise and COLA postcards (pictured right) we can step up our pressure on lawmakers AND get our coworkers and fellow retirees engaged in the fight. To start collecting postcards in your area, contact the Austin

TSEU office at 512-448-4225.

WITH PAY RAISE PHONE CALLS! Every Wednesday, TSEU members are calling lawmakers on the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees to ask them to include a pay raise for state workers and a COLA for retirees in the budget. Call the Austin TSEU office to get a call list and script or go online to the TSEU websitewww.cwa-tseu.org/every-wednesday-make-the-call

am a state retiree who lives in your district. AND WE NEED A COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) TO OUR PENSIONS!

or both the ERS a COLA for ALL stat

I am a Texas state employee who lives in your district, AND WE NEED A \$6,000/YEAR, ACROSS-THE-BOARD RAISEI

- iff for a better paying job



BY INCREASING OUR VISIBILITY!

To build visibility in our communities for our pay raise push, TSEU members are taking our fight to the streets by putting pay raise bumper stickers on their cars. On the road or in the parking lot, get the word out about our union AND the need for a state employee pay raise! Contact the Austin TSEU office for yours today!

















TSEU members, friends, family, and allies will be converging on Austin on April 10th to march, rally, and lobby. In years past we've had hundreds in attendance. We need even more of us in attendance this year if we're going to win! Go online and get registered today and ask your coworkers, fellow retirees, friends, family to attend too: cwa-tseu.org/events/lobbyday2019/ You can also find more details along with your lobby day ticket on page 3 of this UPDATE.



LOBBY DAY



ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, TAKE A STAND FOR: Quality State Services Stopping Privatization

Lobby Day is our chance to take a stand for the future of Texas and for our jobs. It is a critical part of our ongoing fight for economic and social justice for state workers and all Texans. We will gather on the State Capitol lawn, march, rally, and then meet with our legislators and present them with our program.

On Wednesday, April 10th, TSEU is calling for a massive show of strength to tell the leaislature that we will fight to restore funding for public services, to protect state employee benefits and to win a REAL across-the-board raise. Everything is at stake: our jobs, our pensions, our health care, our pay and the services we provide. WE NEED YOU TO BE THERE!

REAL Pay Raises Protecting Our Pensions Affordable Health Care





GET ON THE LOBBY DAY BUS!

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION

LOCATION

If you are coming from out-of-town, leave the driving to TSEU! A Lobby Day bus will be going through just about every major Texas city, so there's no excuse NOT to be at Lobby Day! Buy your ticket now so we can more accurately plan bus routes. For Austin-area members, contact the TSEU office at 512.448.4225 to find out about car-pooling possibilities and other capitol/downtown parking strategies.

Buses Arrive

10:00 Meet on the Southwest corner of the Capitol grounds, lunch served

11:00 Form march contingents

11:30 Begin march

12:00 **Begin rally**

12:30 Form lobby groups

1:30 First lobby appointment

HOUSE DIST

SENATE DIST

Last appointment

Fill out and send in the ticket and applicable fees to reserve your spot at TSEU Lobby Day! Or go online and get your ticket today at: www.cwa-tseu.org/events/lobbyday2019



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Wednesday,	April	10 /	Austin

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PRICES:	OUTSIDE AUSTIN (REGISTRATION, LUNCH, TRA	nsportation)	\$20.00
	RESERVE YOUR LOBBY DAY T-SHIRT	SIZE:	\$15.00 🗆
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HOME STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
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TSEU ORGANIZER (IF APPLICABLE)

Make checks payable to: TEXAS STATE EMPLOYEES UNION. Give completed ticket and

Shining a light on specific issues, setting the table for our 'big' Lobby day

TSEU CAUCUS 'MINI' LOBBY DAY(S)

Beginning this past February, more than 50 TSEU members representing TJJD, TWC, DFPS, Human Services, SSLC/State Hospitals, and Parole have met in Austin to go to the capitol for their caucus's 'Mini' Lobby Day (our University and Retiree caucus mini Lobby Days will be held in late March). These events allow us to gauge legislator's attitudes toward caucus and overall goals and to build momentum for Lobby Day. If you were unable to attend your caucus's 'Mini' Lobby Day, make up for it by going to our 'BIG' Lobby Day on Wednesday, April 10! On that day, in addition to pushing for our overall state employee legislative goals, we will have another chance to remind legislators of our caucus-specific goals too!





[TOP ROW - BOTTOM ROW / LEFT - RIGHT]

- TWC, held on February 6
- TJJD, held on February 6
- Parole, held on March 6
- DFPS, held on February 13
- Human Services, held on February 20
- SSLC/State Hosptials Held on February 27

UPCOMING

- University, March 20
- Retiree, March 27





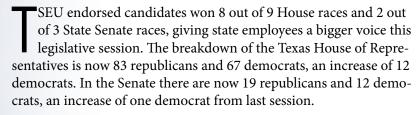




LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Throughout the elections, TSEU members worked to support COPE endorsed candidates. This hard work to bring more state employee allies to Austin has paid off big.

So far, this legislative session demonstrates that elections DO have consequences



The Republicans still have control of the House and Senate; however, the priorities have shifted considerably from the 2017 session and special session. Instead of bathroom bills and union dues, the Governor, Lt Governor and new Speaker Dennis Bonnen have

prioritized school finance, property tax reform and teacher pay raises.

The session has just begun but it looks hopeful to make some major improvements to state agency funding, state employee pay and the pension system.

The session has just begun but it looks hopeful to make some major improvements to state agency funding, state employee pay and the pension system. The pre-session financial estimate by the comptroller estimates an additional 8%

increase in revenue or roughly 9 billion dollars more available for the biennial budget than last biennium. Adding to that the fact that the Economic stabilization fund or rainy day fund is expected to reach over 15 billion dollars, the state is in good shape financially.

This is the session we need to fight for a \$6000 across the board raise for all state employees and university workers. Statewide turnover is at 19.3%, with most leaving for higher paying jobs. This the highest turnover on record since the State Auditors Office began tracking that number in 1990. We must remain active and contact

our State Repsand Senators about the need for a pay raise. TSEU members across the state have been sending post cards and calling members of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committee every Wednesday.

Together we can make a difference this session; pay raises, secure pensions,

While the atmosphere is better this session, we must still be on the defensive; there will still be attacks on SSLC's, state employees and the right to organize.

restoration of grievance procedures in HHSC and DFPS, and case-load standards for CPS are all within reach. While the atmosphere is better this session we must still be on the defensive, there will still be attacks on state supported living centers, state employees and the right to organize.



KEY BILLS THAT HAVE BEEN FILED:

PAY:

- **SB111: Senator Jose Menendez** Establishes a salary career ladder for employees making less than 75k for the first 10 years of state service. Referred Business and Commerce.
- **HB 1233: Rep Ryan Guillen** Establishes a salary career ladder for employees making less than 75k for the first 10 years of state service House companion. Referred State Affairs.
- **HB 41: Will Metcalf** Establishes paid leave for a state employee who is a search and rescue volunteer. Committee Action Pending State Affairs.

PENSIONS:

- HB 398: Ana Hernandez Provides for a cost-of-living increase to benefits paid by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. Referred to Pension Committee.
- HB 425: Alma Allen Establishes an immediate and ongoing COLA for the Employees Retirement System of Texas. Referred to Pension Committee.
- HB 426: Alma Allen Establishes an immediate and ongoing COLA for the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. Referred to Pension Committee.
- **HB 596: Ana Hernandez** Allows a retiree to serve on the board of trustees of the Employees Retirement System of Texas. Committee Action pending in Pension Committee.
- HB 2356: Sergio Munoz Includes overtime pay in the computation of benefits for certain members of the Employees Retirement System of Texas.
- **HB 2505: Steve Allison** Appropriates \$660 million from the economic stabilization fund to the Teacher Retirement System of Texas and \$440 million to the retired school employees group insurance.
- **HB 2795: Dan Huberty** Provides a one-time supplemental annuity payment to certain retirees and beneficiaries of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.
- **SB 92: Jose Menendez** Provides a supplemental payment for retirees of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas and the unfunded actuarial liabilities allowed under that system. Referred to State Affairs.
- SB 93: Jose Menendez Provides a cost-of-living adjustment applicable to certain benefits paid by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. Referred to State Affairs.

• **SB 94: Jose Menendez** - Changes the minimum state contribution to the Teacher Retirement System of Texas from 6% to 7%. Referred to State Affairs.

STATE POLICY:

- **HB 74: Gina Hinojosa** Requires a public employer to give notice to new employees of the ability of certain employees to participate in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. Referred to State Affairs
- HB 988: Armando Walle Establishes employee caseload limit goals for child and adult protective services and child-care licensing services and call processing goals for certain of those services. Referred to Human Services.
- HB 1362: Gene Wu Establishes a scoring system for caseloads of child protective services caseworkers.
 Referred to Human Services.
- **HB 2414: Phillip Cortez** Makes the Texas Saver program opt in instead of opt out.
- HB 2592: Phillip Cortez establishes an employee grievance procedure for the Health and Human Services
 Commission and Department of Family and Protective Services.

BILLS BEING OPPOSED:

- HB 183: Phil Stephenson Takes out life insurance policies on employees to fund liabilities for the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. Referred to Pensions.
- HB 3080: Stephanie Klick Creates a closure plan for the Austin State Supported Living Center.

HOUSE LEADERSHIP CHANGES

- SPEAKER: Dennis Bonnen
- SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Joe Moody
- CALENDARS: Four Price (CHAIR) Joe Moody (VICE CHAIR)
- HUMAN SERVICES: James Frank (CHAIR)
 Gina Hinojosa (VICE CHAIR)
- PENSIONS, INVESTMENTS, AND FINANCIAL SERVICES **Jim Murphy** (CHAIR) **Hubert VO** (VICE CHAIR)
- STATE AFFAIRS: Dade Phelan (CHAIR)
 Ana Hernandez (VICE CHAIR)



"I want to fight for our benefits, I want to fight for our pension! I need you to help me fight for these rights by voting for me for the ERS Board of Trustees and asking all your coworkers and fellow retirees to vote for me as well. Together, we can protect and improve our benefits!"

FOR ERS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CORA BENNETT'S PLATFORM:

KEEPING OUR ERS FUNDS STRONG!

Cora will push for increased state contributions to our health care plans and pension fund and support continued responsible investing to strengthen our pension fund.

• FIGHTING FOR WHAT WE DESERVE!

She will oppose any attempts to convert our pension plan to a 401(k) style plan and the new high-deductible, consumer-driven health plans that undermine our benefits.

A COST OF LIVING RAISE FOR RETIREES!

Cora believes state employees should retire with dignity. That means cost of living increases that keep up with the rising cost of living. ERS retirees have not seen a COLA since 2001. That's way too long!

LISTENING TO THE NEEDS OF WORKERS!

Accessible to assist any employee with health care and/or pension issues, Cora will be THE voice of front-line state employees on the Board.

Nominating petitions circulated: MARCH 1 through APRIL 1 You can vote by mail or electronically: MAY 10 through JUNE 14

BACKGROUND:

- Twenty year state employee
- Case Manager for Texas Juvenile Justice Dept (formerly TYC)
- TSEU member and activist since 2005

ENDORSED BY:

- Texas State Employees Union, CWA 6186
- ILESA DANIELS, current ERS Board member
- Former ERS Board members: YOLY GRIEGO and JANICE TITEL MAN

As legislators increasingly target state employee benefits in plans to slash spending, we need ERS board members who are willing to stand up to the politicians and demand adequate funding, not cuts, for our pension and health care plans. Currently, union member llesa Daniels serves on the ERS Board. She was elected in 2015. In 2019, we have the chance to elect Cora Bennett and double our voice and power on the Board! Help get Cora on the ballot and then help her get elected to the board! Contact any TSEU office to help circulate or to sign nominating petitions and stay active during the election period! (voting runs May 10 through June 14).



TEXAS STATE EMPLOYEES UNION / CWA



1700 South 1st Street, Austin, Texas 78704 / (512) 448-4225 / www.cwa-tseu.org

SECTION A:	FOR C	LIRRENT	TSFII M	EMBERS	ONLY
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I authorize the Texas State Employees Union/CWA 6186 to commence and continue deducting my monthly TSEU dues from the bank or credit union account identified below, in the same monthly dues amount as then on file with TSEU, in the event that dues deduction from my salary, wages, or annuity becomes prohibited by law. I will inform TSEU of bank account changes or changes in employment status. (initial at right)

INITIAL	

SECTION B: EMPLOYE	E INFORMATION	ON .		
NAME (LAST, FIRST, MI)				
	,			
SOCIAL SECURITY OR EMPLOYEE ID NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS (SUITA	ABLE FOR RECEIVIN	IG TSEU CORRESPONDENCE)	
HOME STREET ADDRESS		CITY / STATE /	/ 7IP	
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HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE		CELL PHONE	
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AGENCY / UNIV.	FACILITY / LOCATION		•	
PROG / DEPT / UNIT	JOB TITLE		SHIFT	
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SECTION C: MEMBERS	HIP AND AUTI	HORIZATI	ON	
I authorize TSEU to draft my accour	nt for my dues each n	nonth in the ar	nount indicated until furthe	r notice:
☐ \$17.00 salary below \$20,000 ☐	\$21.00 salary \$20,0	00-\$25,000	\$25.00 salary \$25,000-\$30,0	00
☐ \$28.00 salary \$30,000-\$40,000 ☐] \$30.00 salary \$40,00	00-\$50,000	\$32.00 salary over \$50,000	
☐ \$13.00 part time	310.00 retiree		other - \$	
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Do your part to keep our union STRONG

Upgrade your dues to the new levels today!

n December, TSEU members voted overwhelmingly to approve a new dues structure for all current and new members. After ten years without any changes to TSEU membership dues, this dues change was urgently needed to make sure that TSEU has the resources to



Union activists Pearlie Crain and Rachel Cadenhead got to work on getting their office upgraded. Thanks to their hard work, the Highway 6 South HHSC office is now nearly 100% upgraded!

stop attacks on state employees and state services, and to win improvements in pay, health care, pensions, staffing, and working conditions. Everything we do, from basic organizing to Lobby Day, takes resources, and every cost, from printing to bus rental, is increasing. It will take more resources to keep on winning.

SALARY	OLD DUES LEVEL	NEW DUES LEVEL	
Retirees	\$9.00	\$10.00	
Part-time	\$11.00	\$13.00	
less than \$20,000	\$16.00	\$17.00	
\$20,000-\$25,000	\$19.00	\$21.00	
\$25,000-\$30,000	\$22.00	\$25.00	
\$30,000-\$40,000	\$25.00	\$28.00	
\$40,000-\$50,000	\$25.00	\$30.00	
more than \$50,000	\$25.00	\$32.00	



Now, it's time to for all current TSEU members to increase our dues to the newly approved levels.



IF YOU ARE ON BANKDRAFT, upgrade to the new dues level today by using the membership form on the previous page. We'll use your current account information on file, all you have to do is indicate your new dues by checking the appropriate box, sign in the space provided, fold, seal with tape (do not staple) and mail it in using the Business Reply Mail stamp (no postage necessary). **IF YOU'RE PAYING DUES OUT OF YOUR PAYCHECK,** contact your nearest TSEU office, activist, or organizer, or call 512-448-4225 to get the right form.

9 | TSEU UPDATE

- - - FOLD IN THIRDS - SEAL WITH TAPE - SEND IT IN! - - -

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POSTACE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE
TYOO S 1ST ST
AUSTIN TX 78704-9965

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

NO POSTACE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



TSEU's Spring Organizing Blitz

Coming soon! APRIL 29-MAY 15

So what is an "organizing blitz?"

This is a designated time when teams of TSEU activists and organizers will plan major organizing drives in state offices and locations around the state. We will be planning big events involving lots of members in order to recruit more members, grow our union, train on-the-job activists and organizers, and win our pay raise/COLA fight in the Legislature!

Why is this happening in May?

Those two weeks in May could very well be the time when lawmakers in Austin are putting the final touches on the state's budget for the next two years. This will be our last chance to make a final push to win on our issues before the budget is finalized. By signing up hundreds of new members

SUNDAY	MONDAY 29 APRIL	TUESDAY 30 2019	WEDNESDAY 1	THURSDAY 2	FRIDAY 3	SATURDAY 4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	MA	Y 2	019

into the union and involving them in the fight with phone calls postcards we can make a big difference in the outcome of this Legislative Session. This will also be the time when voting begins in the ERS Board of Trustee elections. This will be a key time for us to make a big push to elect Cora Bennett to the ERS Board.

How do I get involved?

All TSEU members are asked to participate either in a big way or small ways. Contact your local Organizing Committee, activist, organizer, local TSEU office, or 512-448-4225 to find out how you can get involved and make our union stronger!



Follow TSEU on Facebook! facebook.com/CWA.TSEU



s our ever-changing world becomes increasingly more dependent on social media to keep up, we realize the beneficial role it can play in connecting TSEU. Not only a way to see and post pictures of fellow members, it's also a way to get the word out about urgent actions or upcoming union events and to share important news in timely manner; BUT, it only works if YOU are part of it! Link to our Facebook page from the icon on the TSEU website or go to facebook.com/CWA.TSEU and LIKE us today!



TSEU EXECUTIVE BOARD

- · Judy Lugo (HHSC, El Paso, retired) President
- Seth Hutchinson (TSEU Austin) Vice President
- Joanne Day (DSHS, Austin) Secretary
- Samm Almaguer (TWC, Houston) Treasurer
- Albert Zepeda (HHSC Brownsville) Region 1
- Arthur Valdez (DSHS-Retired, San Antonio) Reg. 2
- Yvette Sherman (FPS-Retired, San Angelo) Reg. 3
- Micah Haley (TDCJ, Dallas) Region 4
- Yolanda White (HHSC, Lufkin) Region 5
- Gwen Logan (OAG Rosenberg) Region 6
- Debra Coleman (DADS-Retired, Brenham) Reg. 7
- Anne Lewis (UT-Austin) Region 8

TSEU STAFF AND OFFICES

CENTRAL TEXAS 512.448-4225 1700 South 1st St Austin, TX 78704

- · Seth Hutchinson, Organizing Coordinator
- Ron Day, Lead Organizer
- Alex Moir, Organizer
- Sol Weiner, Organizer
- Alim Flowers, Organizer
- Tyler Sheldon, Political Organizer
- Margaret Allen, Office Manager
- John Behr, IT
- $\bullet \ {\sf Rachel \, Telles}, Membership \ {\sf Office}$
- Chris Knapp, Publications

SOUTH TEXAS 210.354-2900 1412 El Paso St

San Antonio, TX 78207

- Seth Hutchinson, Organizing Coordinator
- Elias Cantu, Organizer
- Sol Weiner, Organizer

SOUTHEAST TEXAS 713.661-9030 9247 South Main Houston, TX 77025

• Myko Gedutis, Lead Organizer

NORTH TEXAS 214.942-4305

- Willie Mae Bolar, Organizer
- Steven Stokes, Organizer
- · Gloria Jeffery, Organizer

737 S. RL Thornton Frwy, Ste B Dallas, TX 75203

- Joe Montemayor, Asst. Organizing Coordinator
- Anitra Patterson, OrganizerKeith Stenson, Organizer
- Michele Goodwin, Organizer

VALLEY 956.428-0251 1713 E. Tyler Ave, # F Harlingen, TX 78550

- · Missy Benavidez, Research
- · Elias Cantu, Organizer

WEST TEXAS 806.741-0044 2002 Avenue J Lubbock, TX 79405

- Seth Hutchinson, Organizing Coordinator
- Keith Stenson, Organizer
- Alex Moir, Organizer

Find us online at: www.cwa-tseu.org OR facebook.com/CWA.TSEU

TEXAS STATE EMPLOYEES UNION



NON PROFIT ORG. US POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO 1025 AUSTIN, TX

On Wednesday, April 10, all roads lead to Austin and the Capitol for STATE EMPLOYEE LOBBY DAY!



Looking for a pay raise?

Get on the bus!

Lobby Day schedule, tickets and other details inside, page 3. Go to www.cwa-tseu.org/events/lobbyday2019 for online ticket purchase.