



# AFGE Fast Facts

The American Federation of Government Employees is the largest federal employee union in the country, representing more than 750,000 federal and D.C. government employees nationwide and overseas.

AFGE (pronounced A-F-G-E) has been affiliated with the AFL-CIO, America's largest labor federation, since being **founded in 1932**. All AFGE locals also are affiliated with their respective state federations.

AFGE is led by **three executive officers** who are elected during the federation's triennial convention, as well as elected national vice presidents who oversee **12 geographic districts** representing every state, U.S. territory, the District of Columbia, and federal employees located overseas.

AFGE is organized into more than 70 agency-based councils and nearly 940 locals. Contract bargaining occurs at the level of recognition, which is either at the council or local level depending on agency.

AFGE represents employees in virtually every occupation and nearly every **government agency**. Our highest concentration of members work at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, and Social Security Administration.

Membership in AFGE is entirely voluntary, even though AFGE provides basic representation to all employees within a given bargaining unit regardless of membership.

Federal employees cannot bargain over pay and they cannot strike. AFGE lobbies Congress and the White House over annual pay adjustments and changes to policies and laws benefiting the employees we represent, while working conditions and other benefits are negotiated as part of the bargaining process.

Union members volunteer for leadership positions within their respective locals or councils and are not paid for this work. Most local union officers are working employees who carry out their union duties on a voluntary basis.