

## Pres. Parks: Real work begins in fight to repeal SB 5!

### Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Over the past few months, we've made history in the fight against Senate Bill 5. Over 6,000 public employees and supporters delivered nearly 1.3 million signatures opposed to SB 5. Of those, over 900,000 signatures were validated favoring the repeal of the bill that would turn back the clock on collective bargaining.

Just recently we achieved another victory in our bid to repeal the law. The Ohio Ballot Board, by a 5-0 vote, wisely agreed to let history and the law be their guide in the decision to allow a NO vote on Issue 2 – the ballot initiative to repeal SB 5 to appear on the November ballot.

While our opponents shamefully sought to confuse voters by asking the board to allow a "yes" vote to mean rejection of the bill, our arguments, ultimately, won the day.

Never in Ohio's history had a "no" vote meant the voters approve a referendum on a bill. We also questioned the constitutionality of flipping the vote and were prepared to take our challenge all the way to the Supreme Court.

Thankfully, that won't be necessary. The ballot language will now indicate the following: A "YES" vote means you approve the law. A "NO" vote means you reject the law. Shall the law be approved? Yes (to approve the law) or no (to reject the law).

But now we must focus on getting as many OCSEA members and their friends and family as we can to the polls on Nov. 8 so they can vote NO on Issue 2 to repeal Senate Bill 5.

The campaign to repeal SB 5 will be the biggest political

battle this state has ever seen. Tens of millions of dollars will be pouring in from big money political contributors that wish to break the backs of unions and the middle class.

We will be outspent, there is no doubt. But we have the power of the people on our side. We have also created a special fund to which individuals can contribute in order for us to buy billboards, radio spots and other media as well as

to kick start our grassroots field campaign. Individuals (not subordinate bodies) can donate by writing checks to "OCSEA Repeal SB 5."

Recent polling is showing that Ohio voters are on our side. Most believe, as do we, that correction officers, highway workers, nurses and police officers deserve the same rights and voice at the table as private sector employees. We need a say in issues concerning the safety of our prisons or the quality of care for individuals in the state's Developmental Centers.

Not only is SB 5 a blatant attack on our ability to have a say in our work, it is ultimately an assault on democracy itself. After all, collective bargaining is the "American way."

But don't forget, polls don't win elections—people do. Join me as we move forward in our campaign to roll this hateful legislation back. Stay tuned to [OCSEAVotes.org](http://OCSEAVotes.org) to get more information on how to participate in phone banks, canvassing and more.

Working together I know we can do it!

**In Solidarity,  
Eddie L. Parks, President, OCSEA \***



## OCSEA's plan to win

OCSEA's plan to gather referendum signatures drive was member-focused, but OCSEA's Get Out the Vote plan around Issue 2 will not only focus on the OCSEA membership but on all Ohio voters as well.

"This cannot just be a labor fight," said OCSEA Secretary-Treasurer Kathy Stewart. "Although labor will have a huge role in the Vote No on Issue 2 campaign, this is a middle class fight and we must engage a broader audience."

OCSEA's plan to win this November will replicate the formula that made the referendum drive so successful by focusing on one-on-one interactions of OCSEA activists.

A major focus of the member-driven operation will be a Vote by Mail initiative where activists will be asked to sign up members and other voters of the general public to early vote.

Working jointly with AFSCME and the We Are Ohio campaign, OCSEA will also hold webinar trainings and regional meetings to engage activists. OCSEA activists will be trained on chapter and community mobiliza-

tion and how to communicate about Voting No on Issue 2 so that the general public will listen.

Community outreach will be critical to the plan's success. OCSEA will work closely with subordinate bodies to build broad-based, diverse coalitions with community organizations and associations. Activists are urged to have dialogues with everyone they know about how Senate Bill 5, if the legislation continues as is, will negatively impact their community.

More on OCSEA's plan to win will be unveiled at the OCSEA Convention. Workshops and booths will focus heavily on the Vote No on Issue 2 initiatives. Also, stay tuned to [OCSEAVotes.org](http://OCSEAVotes.org) for updates. \*

## OCSEAVotes Your "NO" on Issue 2 Headquarters

**Want to know what you can do between now and November?**

Go to [OCSEAVotes.org](http://OCSEAVotes.org), your home for all SB5 news, events and resources!



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## Coming Together for our Future

### Delegates to chart union's course at Convention

Representatives of OCSEA's subordinate bodies will come together for the 29<sup>th</sup> Biennial OCSEA Convention from Aug. 25-27 in Columbus. Delegates from across the state will elect officers, make changes to the OCSEA Constitution and chart the future course of the union for the next two years and beyond.

Early-registration will be held on Wed. Aug. 24 from 5-9 p.m. Registration will open at 8 a.m. on Aug. 25, the first day of Convention. The business of the Convention begins promptly at 10 a.m. on Thursday.

The Aug. 5 deadline for subordinate body delegates to register for the Convention has passed. At this point, subordinate bodies who wish to send delegates will have to go before the Credentials Committee at Convention. The Credentials Committee will be in the Champaign Room of the Hyatt Wed., Aug. 24 from 3-8:30 p.m. and Thurs., Aug. 25 beginning at 7:30 a.m.

First-time delegates are encouraged to attend the New Delegates Orientation, where they will learn about the event's activities and parliamentary procedure. Also, be sure to check out the array of early-bird workshops being held Thursday and Friday mornings.

Delegates are encouraged to check the many informational booths available throughout the three days and can be a part of history by purchasing their very own Issue 2/Senate Bill 5 t-shirt, thermos and other items.

The full Convention agenda, list of workshops and speakers and other events can be found on the Convention webpage at [ocsea.org/convention](http://ocsea.org/convention). \*

## OCSEA Labor Education resumes

Since the union was successful in getting Issue 2/Senate Bill 5 repeal on the ballot in November, President Eddie L. Parks announced that the union would immediately begin offering labor education classes again. **Call the training hotline at 800-266-5615, ext. 4772** to schedule your next training. \*

## Complete your degree the labor way

The National Labor College is registering students now for the fall semester. Tuition is greatly discounted for union members (about \$265 per credit), and Union Plus scholarships and other financial aid are also available to help with tuition costs.

Getting your NLC degree online makes going to college faster, more affordable and more flexible than taking classes on campus. Online bachelor's degrees now are offered in: Business Administration, Construction Management, Emergency Readiness and Response Management and Labor Studies.

**Call 888-427-8500 or visit [NLC.edu](http://NLC.edu) for more information.** \*



NEW DIRECTIONS

Ohio Civil Service Employees Association  
AFSCME • Local 11 • AFL-CIO  
390 Worthington Road, Ste. A  
Westerville, OH 43082-8331

## Stand Up for Ohio on Aug. 20!

Stand Up for Ohio will hold a festival to support working people and help repeal Senate Bill 5 by voting NO on Issue 2. It will take place from noon to dusk on Aug. 20 at the Ohio State Fairgrounds.

The event will include music by Grand Funk Railroad and the Ohio Players as well as poetry by Nikki Giovanni. The festival is geared toward the whole family and will include children's events, comedy from Last Call Cleveland and Green Energy displays. Parking is \$8 per vehicle but admission is free.

Visit **BringAwesomeBack.com** to see a complete line up of musicians and other acts. \*

## AFSCME reschedules Women's Conference

The AFSCME Women's Conference has been rescheduled for Sept. 30-Oct. 2 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The event was postponed last spring due to massive collective bargaining attacks nationwide.

This national conference will bring together hundreds of working women from all AFSCME affiliates. AFSCME is honored to hold the event in Wisconsin: the birthplace of AFSCME and a place where tens of thousands of working people rose up to rally for justice, freedom and the right to organize earlier this year.

For more information, look under Upcoming Events at [afscme.org](http://afscme.org). Got questions? **Contact Carol Anderson at 202-429-1250 or [education@afscme.org](mailto:education@afscme.org)**. \*

## OCSEA celebrates 300 new BU members

In these days of unprecedented attacks on our union, OCSEA is pleased to announce a recent victory. After years of hard work by OCSEA, more than 300 exempt employees will now be included in OCSEA's bargaining units.

For the past few years OCSEA has aggressively challenged the State on bargaining unit to management ratios in many agencies. The union provided documentation and examples of areas where the work performed by exempt employees did not meet requirements for exemptions under Ohio Revised Code 4117.

Finally, in late 2010, OCSEA filed petitions with the State Employee Relations Board (SERB) requesting that these documented classifications be accreted to OCSEA bargaining units, forcing the State to examine hundreds of exempt positions and provide justification of their exemption.

After forcefully advocating the union's case that these employees should be included in the bargaining unit, the State agreed and is working with OCSEA to change approximately 300 employees from exempt to bargaining unit classifications. OCSEA continues to fight for the accretion of additional exempt positions.

"This has not been an easy fight, but it has been an essential one," said OCSEA President Eddie Parks. "Although the addition of members can't begin to offset the losses we've sustained to date, increasing our strength in numbers should be celebrated." \*