



**SEIU 517M**  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

*The* **E-Former**

The Official Electronic Newsletter of  
SEIU Local 517M

## December 2024

### Union Election Results



The results of the 2024 Union Election were tallied by the Election/Tally Committee on December 2, 2024. Our new Local 517M President is Greg Merricle (pictured left), current Scientific and Engineering unit president. Greg works in EGLE.

Our new Secretary/Treasurer is Joey Combs (pictured right), current Local 517M President from the Human Services Support unit. Joey works for the Unemployment Insurance Agency.



Both candidates ran unopposed. The results of the three contested races are as follows.

#### School and Local Government Division Region 1

Divisional Vice President: Barbara Rasche

The two Board seats for the City of Saginaw: Corey Gage, Mercedes Steele

A complete listing of candidates who won election or ran unopposed is on the next page.

### Board of Auditor Positions Created

With the passage of the Constitution and Bylaw changes a three-member Board of Auditors is being created to examine the financial books of the Local. These individuals will work with, and be trained by, our accounting firm. The Auditors will submit recommendations to the Local 517M Executive Officers and Executive Board.

Nominations will be open from December 16th - December 30th. An email will be sent to the membership with the nomination process on the 16th. Nominations are open to current dues paying members who are not serving in a leadership capacity.

### Staff Directory

**Interim Executive Director:**  
Joey Combs - 517.267.2068

**Information Services/PDF/  
Union Member Discounts:**  
Dave Corrie - 517.267.2090

**Office Manager:**  
Ashley Konyha - 517.267.2095

**Dues & COPE Deductions:**  
Andrea Valerio - 989.797.4241

**Member Strength Director:**  
Marian Wilcox - 517.744.5393

**State Labor Relations Questions:  
Scientific and Engineering Unit:**  
Howard Gordon - 517.267.2070

**Human Services Support Unit:**  
Janice Cosey - 313.246.1137

**Technical Unit:**  
Kevin Karpinski - 517.267.2088

**School and Local Government Labor  
Relations:**

Clint Bryant - 989.797.4258

Christine Stressman - 616.696.2141

Andy Johnson - 269.978.1994

Lamont Williams - 313.314.6511

Brandell Tomanica - 517.237.0426

**STAND TOGETHER — STAND STRONG**

[www.seiu517m.org](http://www.seiu517m.org)

## **Complete Union Election Results**

The following candidates meet the criteria and are declared the winner by acclamation or vote. Their term of office will be January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2027.

Local President – Greg Merricle (Scientific and Engineering Unit)  
Secretary/Treasurer – Joey Combs (Human Services Support Unit)

### **Region 1 Board**

Divisional Vice President - Barbara Rasche  
Secretary – Roberta Oldenburg (Saginaw Public Schools)  
City of Saginaw - Corey Gage, Mercedes Steele

### **Region 2 Board**

Region 2 Divisional Vice President – Yolanda Johnson (City of Battle Creek)

### **Region 3 Board**

Region 3 Divisional Vice President – Carmella Johnson (Flint Community Schools)  
Region 3 Secretary – Jan Martin (Flint Community Schools)  
Region 3 – Combined – David Thompson (Westland Public Library)

### **Human Services Support Unit Board**

Unit President/DVP – Janice Cosey  
Vice President – Roland Whitelow  
Unemployment Insurance Examiner – Sonya Robinson, Ellina Simmons-Gibson  
Unemployment Insurance Analyst – Rabia Keo, Torrie Nobles  
Combined Less than 25 member units – Kevin Benson, Mathew Mendez

### **Scientific and Engineering Unit Board**

Unit President/DVP - Election is currently in process  
Secretary – David Lawrence  
MDARD – Tori Rottman-Turner  
DNR – Robert Corbett, Matt Lincoln  
DHHS - Tonya Heyer  
Combined units under 60 members – Anna Schiller (LARA)

### **Technical Unit Board**

Tech Secretary/Treasurer – Patti Kanipe  
Tech Chapter 1 President – Jilaine Berquist-Ayotte  
Tech Chapter 3 President – Nate Maddern  
Tech Chapter 4 President – Michael Boylan  
Tech Chapter 6 President - Steve Gasser  
Tech Chapter 11 President – Ken Herr  
Tech Chapter 13 President– Fred Roeder

## **Constitution and Bylaw Changes Approved**

The proposed changes to the SEIU Local 517M Constitution and Bylaws were overwhelmingly approved by the membership with a 97% approval rate.

The Executive Board will adopt these changes at their December 14th meeting.

## Detroit Police Pro-Tech Contract Signed

After a long series of negotiations with the City of Detroit Police Department, the members of the Professional and Technical unit signed their completed contract.

Pictured L-R: Lamont Williams (SEIU Labor Rep), Michelle Douglas (Crime Scene), Joseph Shine (Labor Relations Detroit), Valerie Colbert (Deputy Director Labor Relations Detroit), Rudy Garcia (Crime Intelligence), Kevin Karpinski (SEIU Chief Negotiator)



## Saginaw Holidays in the Heart of the City Event

SEIU 517M hosted a Saginaw Holidays in the Heart of the City pre-event for members and their families at the SEIU Local 517M Saginaw office on Friday, November 22nd. Over 100 people were registered for the event. There was food, beverages, and a photo booth which was very popular!

