



SEIU 517M
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

The **E-Former**

The Official Electronic Newsletter of
SEIU Local 517M

October 2025

No Cuts, No Shutdown Rally and Lobby Day

On Wednesday, September 24th, union leaders and members from SEIU Local 517M joined with our partners in the Michigan Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers for the **No Cuts, No Shutdown Rally and Lobby Day** to demand a budget that supports working people and protects the services our members provide every day.



The day began at Central United Methodist Church, where we were welcomed with warm smiles, coffee, and an overview of what was at stake. Leaders from the SEIU Michigan State Council energized the room and prepared us to meet with legislators and deliver a clear message: we demand action. A government shutdown would have halted school funding, stop critical roadwork, jeopardize essential services like food safety testing, crime labs, mental health support, and close the Secretary of State offices, cutting off essential services that residents rely on every day. Medicaid cuts would have hit rural working families especially hard, while public safety would suffer with potential layoffs of the MIOSHA, lab staff, and inspectors who keep our food, water, and workplaces safe.



our members. Rep. Roth was genuine, respectful, and receptive to our concerns. He expressed confidence that a budget would be passed on time, noting that no one wants a shutdown. We emphasized that a shutdown would harm every single citizen of our state, and he agreed.

After our legislative meetings, our team completed a lit drop at the Capitol, placing postcards with our concerns at every House and Senate office. We ended the day proud, united, and confident that our voices had been heard loud and clear.

At 10:30 a.m., MEA held a press conference, followed by SEIU, to call for a balanced, on-time budget that meets the needs of all Michiganders. Our delegation, along with SEIU Healthcare Michigan, then met with Representative John Roth (R-District 104) for a productive 30-minute conversation focused on the issues directly affecting



Staff Directory

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Scientific & Engineering: [Howard Gordon](#) - 517.267.2070

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Member Strength Director/

Member Only Benefits: [Marian Wilcox](#) - 517.744.5393

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SEIU 517M Recognition and Participation at the National Forensic Science Symposium

In recognition of National Forensic Science Week, SEIU 517M was present at the MSP Forensic Science Division Symposium in Mt. Pleasant on September 15, 2025. SEIU members from the Forensic Science Division attended the symposium. Members were able to hear from national forensic science experts, learn about advancements in technology and methodology within their fields, and worked on team dynamics and individual strengths. MSP Forensic Scientists play an important role that is essential in our criminal justice system. As a result of the important work that Forensic Scientists conduct by assisting in investigating crimes used in court for criminal proceedings, or aid in the elimination of a person suspected of committing a crime, SEIU 517M would like to thank the dedicated staff members from the Forensic Science Division for the great work that they do. SEIU 517M wanted to show our continued support by giving away some cool SEIU 517M swag. We also wanted to show solidarity at the event and were available to answer questions that our members had about topics that were important to them such as the State of Michigan budget and other bills and how it may impact State of Michigan workers. After the event there was a mixer sponsored by the Technical and the Scientist & Engineering Unit. The units were represented by Labor Representatives Kevin Karpinski and Howard Gordon respectively.



Left: Technical Unit Rep. Kevin Karpinski meets with members.
Above: Scientific & Engineering Unit Rep. Howard Gordon Zooms in to discuss issues.

Photos courtesy of Marian Wilcox.

SEIU Member Benefits Program

The member benefit program for SEIU Local 517M has been reassigned to Marian Wilcox. If you have any questions concerning our other member benefits, please contact Marian at 517.744.5393 or memberstrength@seiu517m.org.

Get the most out of your membership by signing up for SEIU Member Benefits. Benefits available range from discounts on purchases, legal services, college assistance, discount travel and tickets, insurance and so much more! View the complete list of benefits by visiting www.seiumb.com.

How to Access SEIU Member Benefits

1. Go to www.seiumb.com.
2. In the upper right corner of the page, you will see a link to register.
3. Complete the information and register.

You can also register via phone by calling the Member Benefits Hotline at 844-836-7348. You will need to provide your local number which is SEIU Local 517M.

Your membership status is provided to them monthly. You must match the information that is uploaded to gain access.

If you have problems verifying your status, call the hotline at 844-836-7348 and they can help get you access.

State Employee Professional Development Fund Changes

There has been a staff reassignment for the state employee Professional Development Funds. These funds are available to state employees for items such as tuition reimbursement or conference attendance.

Beginning October 1, 2025, all three unit funds will be handled by Marian Wilcox. You may contact her at memberstrength@seiu517m.org or call her at 517.744.5393 with any questions. You can click on the appropriate unit below to access the applications.

[Scientific and Engineering Unit Professional Development Fund](#)

[Technical Unit Educational Training Fund](#)

[Human Services Support Unit Educational Development Fund](#)

State Employee Benefits Effective Today

Today is the first day of the new state fiscal year. As such, a couple of economic provisions that were negotiated last summer go into effect today.

Wages

Effective 10/1/25, a 3% base wage increase.

Longevity

All amounts for longevity payments were doubled. Once eligible, they are paid every October throughout a member's state career. This is the first increase since the start of collective bargaining in the 1980s!

Tech Notes - News for Technical Unit Members

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to the issues being faced by our State of Michigan Technical Unit members.

Technical Unit President Nomination Period

On Monday, October 27, 2025, SEIU Local 517M will hold an election for Technical Bargaining Unit President. Members running for this office must be bargaining unit members in good standing.

As per the SEIU Local 517M Bylaws; Article VI, Section 5: All candidates shall have been members in good standing of the Union for at least twelve (12) continuous months preceding the election ballot count date. No person who has been convicted of a felony as defined in Section 504 of the Landrum-Griffin Act (or an indictable offense in Canada) shall, in accordance with the provisions of applicable law, be eligible to hold office in this Union.

The nomination period began September 8, 2025 and ends October 8, 2025 at Noon. If multiple candidates apply, election ballots will be available starting the afternoon of October 8, 2025. The voting period will be from October 8, 2025 through October 26, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. The deadline for requesting a paper ballot is October 20, 2025.

Ballots will be counted on Monday, October 27, 2025. The successful candidate will take office on November 1, 2025.

If you are interested in running for this position, please use the link below and complete the Candidate Petition Form and follow the directions given. If you have any questions on the elections, please contact Dave Corrie at (517) 267-2090 or corried@seiu517m.org.

[Candidate Petition Form](#)