

# the local.

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR TWU LOCAL 234

## Paycheck Deception Defeated

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Local 234

# Letter from the President

Dear TWU Local 234 Members,

Someone needs to shake SEPTA management officials up and out of their fantasy beauty naps. They need to grasp a better understanding of today's reality: survival of public transportation in 2018. The old ways of doing business in public transportation are antiquated and following the path of the dinosaur era. One of the main reasons dinosaurs are extinct is due to their lack of adaptability, which is the same death sentence that hovers over SEPTA today.

Once upon a time, SEPTA was the only means of transportation in town. Those times are quickly becoming a distant memory—or what most refer to as the “good old days.” As we progress towards the future, we face the fight against technology and its rapid advancement in the form of driverless vehicles (autonomous buses). Not to mention, we face one of our oldest and deadliest enemies: privatization. History teaches us that privatization is the preferred weapon of mass destruction. Furthermore, it's used against public sector unions when Republicans control the country.

Today, the latest combatants to throw their hats into the ring to challenge us on being “king of the street” in mass transportation are Uber and Lyft, which provide door-to-door service with a minimal amount of waiting time for service. These groups, in a short time, have proven themselves to be formidable foes by making the traditional cab industry—with the help of some local politicians—almost a non-factor. SEPTA has been quoted in the press as saying, “They have cut into our ridership.” As you can see we have many battles to face and we at Local 234 are up for the task. The question that remains, as it relates to this ongoing and upcoming fight, is whether or not SEPTA management can rise to the challenge.

In preparation for the upcoming battle, SEPTA must first realize that they need to fight alongside the union and not against the union. There needs to be an understanding in SEPTA management, an understanding that without Local 234 there is NO SEPTA MANAGEMENT!!

Sincerely,



Willie Brown  
President  
TWU Local 234



**Local 234**

# Paycheck Deception Defeated, Significant Victory for Pa. Workers

Morgan Cephas

Last December, with the holidays around the corner, the House Republican Majority wanted to gift limited freedom and barriers to thousands of Pennsylvania's union workers. Fortunately, advocacy and common sense won and the Senate Bill 166, also known as Paycheck Deception, was defeated 102-90.

Labeled as “paycheck protection” by supporters, these bills are part of a national effort—started by the nation's largest corporate lobbyists more than 15 years ago—to restrict the role of unions in politics by banning voluntary payroll deductions. It is nothing else than an attack on our workers' rights and an attempt to silence their voice in the political process. S.B. 166 was intended to debilitate the rights of public sector employees to have a voice for themselves to fight against efforts to privatize or eliminate their jobs, another attempt to tilt the political playing field toward corporate power and away from working Americans.

Measures like S.B. 166 would slam rights union workers are entitled to; rights obtained through contract negotiations and collective bargaining process. They would take back achievements made after decades of efforts and advocacy, putting in danger workplace democracy and, in consequence, thousands of jobs.

Proponents of payroll-restriction laws justify their efforts as “needed public policy.” They argue that these laws will save taxpayers money because they will release government from paying the cost of administering payroll deductions for union political contributions. Nevertheless, evidence from various states suggest the cost is minuscule and too small to measure. In fact, many



**“It is nothing else than an attack on our workers' rights and an attempt to silence their voice in the political process.”**

states have statutes that allow them to negotiate with unions over paying the administrative costs or simply require the unions to pay these costs.

Moreover, some states have concluded that implementing payroll restrictions will actually add to the government's administrative costs by requiring agencies to implement and enforce the new requirements.

I can assure you that those proponents and lobbyists throughout the United States are scrambling. And that's why, given the effectiveness of payroll-restriction laws as a tool to limit union political fundraising, they have seized so aggressively on this tactic.

I commend the effort of all advocates who played a role in this triumph. Workers, unions, organizations and my colleagues from the Philadelphia Delegation and the Democratic Caucus. This is

just another proof of the amazing things we can do if we work collaboratively.

Together we are stronger than we are divided, together we can move forward! To higher wages, to better working conditions, to health care, to a secure retirement – for more and more Pennsylvanians.

In the wake of this victory, we must remain fighting to make the government to work for the people. It is time to grow our economy and create good jobs that support families, expand opportunities and protect your financial future; not prop up an economy rigged for the well-connected and corporate special interests. ■

*State Rep. Morgan Cephas, D-Phila. (www.pabouse.com/Cephas), represents the 192nd Legislative District. RepCephas@pabouse.net*

# Voting Records

## SB 166 | House of Representatives

BAKER	KEEFER	SIMMONS	GAINEY
BARRAR	KELLER, F.	SONNEY	GALLOWAY
BENNINGHOFF	KELLER, M.K.	STAATS	GOODMAN
BERNSTINE	<b>E</b> KLUNK	STEPHENS	<b>E</b> HAGGERTY
BLOOM	KNOWLES	TALLMAN	HANNA
<b>E</b> BOBACK	LAWRENCE	TAYLOR	HARKINS
BROWN, R.	LEWIS	TOBASH	HARRIS, J.
CAUSER	MACKENZIE	TOEPEL	KAVULICH
CHARLTON	MAHER	TOOHIL	<b>E</b> KELLER, W.
CHRISTIANA	MAKO	TOPPER	KIM
COOK	MALONEY	WALSH	KINSEY
CORBIN	MARSHALL	WARD	KIRKLAND
CORR	MARSICO	WARNER	KORTZ
COX	MASSER	WATSON	KRUEGER
CULVER	<b>E</b> MCGINNIS	WENTLING	KULIK
CUTLER	MEHAFFIE	WHEELAND	LONGIETTI
DAY	MENTZER	WHITE	MADDEN
DELOZIER	METCALFE	ZIMMERMAN	MARKOSEK
DIAMOND	METZGAR	BARBIN	MATZIE
DIGIROLAMO	MICCARELLI	BIZZARRO	MCCARTER
DOWLING	MILLARD	BOYLE	MCCLINTON
DUNBAR	MILLER, B.	BRADFORD	MILLER, D.
DUSH	MILNE	BRIGGS	MULLERY
ELLIS	MOUL	BROWN, V.	NEILSON
EMRICK	MURT	BULLOCK	NEUMAN
ENGLISH	MUSTIO	BURNS	O'BRIEN
EVANKOVICH	NELSON	CALTAGIRONE	PASHINSKI
EVERETT	NESBIT	CARROLL	PETRARCA
FARRY	O'NEILL	CEPHAS	RABB
FEE	OBERLANDER	COMITTA	RAVENSTAHL
FRITZ	ORTITAY	CONKLIN	READSHAW
GABLER	PEIFER	COSTA, D.	ROEBUCK
GILLEN	PETRI	COSTA, P.	ROZZI
GILLESPIE	PICKETT	CRUZ	SAINATO
GODSHALL	<b>E</b> PYLE	DALEY	SAMUELSON
GREINER	QUIGLEY	DAVIDSON	SCHLOSSBERG
GROVE	QUINN, C.	DAVIS	SCHWEYER
HAHN	QUINN, M.	DAWKINS	SIMS
HARPER	RADER	DEAN	SNYDER
HARRIS, A.	RAPP	DEASY	SOLOMON
HEFFLEY	REED	DELISSIO	STURLA
HELM	REESE	<b>E</b> DELUCA	THOMAS
HENNESSEY	ROAE	DERMODY	VAZQUEZ
HICKERNELL	ROE	<b>E</b> DONATUCCI	VITALI
HILL	ROTHMAN	DRISCOLL	WARREN
IRVIN	RYAN	EVANS	WHEATLEY
JAMES	SACCONE	FABRIZIO	YOUNGBLOOD
JOZWIAK	SANKEY	FITZGERALD	TURZAI
KAMPF	SANTORA	FLYNN	
<b>E</b> KAUFER	SAYLOR	FRANKEL	
KAUFFMAN	SCHEMEL	FREEMAN	

\*Voting Key: Green = Yes | Red = No | Black = Excused



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## Supreme Court denies GOP request to block Pennsylvania gerrymandering decision

By Lydia Wheeler, Lisa Hagen and Avery Anapol - 02/05/18 | TheHill.com

The Supreme Court on Monday denied Republican requests to delay a Pennsylvania state court ruling requiring the state's congressional map be redrawn, increasing the likelihood that the map will be redrawn ahead of November's midterm elections.

Pennsylvania is a fierce battleground state, with a half-dozen House seats now held by Republicans seen as competitive.

If the legislative map is redrawn in a way that benefits Democrats, it could help the party in its drive to retake the House. Republicans currently control 12 of Pennsylvania's 18 congressional districts.

Justice Samuel Alito, the member of the court who hears emergency requests from states, denied the efforts — one from state GOP lawmakers and another from Republican voters in the state — for a stay of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's January ruling that the state's congressional map had been drawn in a way that unfairly favored Republicans.

The Supreme Court's Public Information Office did not provide any further explanation.

The decision is a significant victory for opponents of gerrymandering, who have also taken the fight to Texas, North Carolina and Wisconsin. Federal courts in those states also ordered new maps to be drawn for the 2018 midterms.

But Pennsylvania is the only state where the Supreme Court hasn't halted the lower court's decision.

In their request to Alito, GOP lawmakers argued that the state Supreme Court usurped Pennsylvania's legislative authority in tossing out the map.

"Redistricting involves lawmaking in its essential features and most important aspect," the lawmakers wrote, quoting Supreme Court precedent.

"But for the first time in United States history, a state court, in attempting to play the role of 'lawmaker,' has invalidated a congressional districting plan without identifying a violation of the U.S. Constitution or a state constitutional or statutory provision providing specific redistricting criteria."

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court's original ruling gave state lawmakers until Feb. 9 to submit a new map to Gov. Tom Wolf (D), who would then need to submit a plan to the court by Feb. 15. If they failed to meet that deadline, the court would redraw the map.

While it's unclear how the districts will be redrawn, Democrats are expected to benefit from new congressional lines. Democrats need to flip 24 seats in order to take back the House majority.

Some nonpartisan election handicappers predict that Democrats' prospects will increase in open-seat races that will be vacated by GOP Reps. Pat Meehan and Charlie Dent. Hillary Clinton narrowly won Meehan's district, while President Trump carried Dent's seat in the 2016 presidential election.

Other GOP-held seats that could be impacted by new lines are seats held by Pennsylvania Reps. Ryan Costello and Brian Fitzpatrick. Clinton won Costello's district and lost by a razor-thin margin in Fitzpatrick's.

The Monday decision comes after the Supreme Court in September put two rulings on hold that required Texas officials to redraw both the state's congressional and legislative districts.

And in January, the Supreme Court told state officials in North Carolina they don't have to redraw their map yet. The court temporarily blocked a lower court order to redraw the state's congressional lines by the end of the month, as the case was appealed to the Supreme Court.



## Janus vs. AFSCME

On September 28, 2017, the United States Supreme Court announced that it would hear a case called Janus versus AFSCME Council 31. This case is being viewed by a few extremely wealthy business people, such as the Koch brothers (who have a combined estimated net worth of 82 billion dollars), along with some very powerful Republican politicians, as a chance to drive a stake through the hearts of public sector unions, such as Local 234, and city and state workers unions. The odds makers believe that Janus has a 95% chance of being successfully argued in front of the court and becoming law.

The backers of Janus believe that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to destroy—or at the very least weaken—public sector unions at the bargaining table, and roll back the clock on our benefits, pensions, and wages. In essence, Janus would make every state a right-to-work state.

In 1961, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made the following statement about right-to-work, “In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as right-to-work. It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining, by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone. Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights. We do not intend to let them do this to us. We demand this fraud be stopped. Our weapon is in our vote.” This quote is as true in 2018 as it was in 1961. ■

## Hands Off My Vote!

By Jamal Watkins — AFL-CIO

This year the Supreme Court will decide the case brought by Ohio’s chapter of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute (APRI) challenging a procedure the state uses to remove voters from the registration rolls based on their failure to vote.

- If a registered voter does not vote or update their registration during a two-year period, the county Board of Elections will send a postage pre-paid notice to the voter asking them to confirm their registration at that address.
- No response results in the voter being removed from the rolls—a move that violates federal law.
- The Sixth Circuit agreed with APRI that Ohio’s removal procedure violates federal law and the Secretary of State asked the Supreme Court to weigh in.

- The AFL-CIO filed an amicus brief in support of APRI, together with the Democracy Initiative, AARP, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, SEIU, the National Coalition for the Homeless and its Columbus, Ohio chapter, and the Miami Valley Voter Protection Coalition.

- The case is set to be heard on January 10, 2018, and a decision will likely be announced in June. On January 10th, on the steps of the Supreme Court, there will be a rally to make sure the court hears the message loud and clear that we must protect the right to vote and eliminate illegal voter purges.

Please join us and stand with the voters of Ohio Voters and APRI to say no more voter purges. We need your voices to be heard loud and clear on this issue! ■

#HustedvAPRI #1uVote



# California's Brown Raises Prospect of Pension Cuts in Downturn

by Romy Varghese  
January 10, 2018

California Governor Jerry Brown said legal rulings may clear the way for making cuts to public pension benefits, which would go against long-standing assumptions and potentially provide financial relief to the state and its local governments.



Photographer: David Paul Morris/Bloomberg

Brown said he has a “hunch” the courts would “modify” the so-called California rule, which holds that benefits promised to public employees can’t be rolled back. The state’s Supreme Court is set to hear a case in which lower courts ruled that reductions to pensions are permissible if the payments remain “reasonable” for workers.

“There is more flexibility than there is currently assumed by those who discuss the California rule,” Brown said during a briefing on the budget in Sacramento. He said that in the next recession, the governor “will have the option of considering pension cutbacks for the first time.”

That would be a major shift in California, where municipal officials have long believed they couldn’t adjust the benefits even as they struggle to cover the cost. They have raised taxes and dipped into reserves to meet rising contributions. The California Public Employees’ Retirement System, the nation’s largest public pension, has about 68 percent of assets needed to cover its liabilities. For the fiscal year beginning in July, the state’s contribution to Calpers is double what it was in fiscal 2009.

Across the country, states and local governments have about \$1.7 trillion less than what they need to cover retirement benefits—the result of investment losses, the failure by governments to make adequate contributions and perks granted in boom times.

“In the next downturn, when things look pretty dire, that would be one of the items on the chopping block,” Brown said. ■

— *With assistance by John Gittelsohn*

Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-01-10/california-s-brown-raises-prospect-of-pension-cuts-in-downturn>



# Retirees

## January

- Jorge Arroyo
- John Becker
- Calvin Bernard
- Broezeliza Chittick
- Lonnie Clark
- James Cottrell
- John Dix

- Darryl Dorsey
- Michael Drumm
- James Dye
- Michael Gardner
- Warner Jackson
- Steven Lacy
- Albert Lawrence

- Marilyn Lott
- Michael Murphy
- Michael Scott
- Mundaplackel Thomas
- Eric White

## February

- Constance Bellinger
- Harold Best
- James Burnside
- B. Antonio Bustion
- Damian Carbone

- David Elliot
- Benjamin Foster
- Charles Hilton
- Rodney Jenkins
- Celestino Rivera

- Percy Roland
- Frank Taylor
- Michael Thompson
- Donvail Wilson

# Swearing In Ceremony for Section Officers



# Swearing In Ceremony (con't)



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