

J. Matthew Catron

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To Darlene Booker-Jones, Chair of the AFSCME Local 696 Election Committee,

By now, you have surely seen the numerous protests filed against the conduct of the 2023 AFSCME Local 696 election. These protests have been sent to you and to AFSCME International, and we have shared them with the membership of AFSCME Local 696. The membership agrees with myself, Sharon Thorpe, Evelyn Flint, Charles Payne, III, Marissa Wilk, and most of all Sterling Davis: The 2023 AFSCME Local 696 election was, at its very core, undemocratic.

Having seen the election results and the protests that followed, we have collected a list of members who believe the election must be immediately overturned. Their names are as follows:

Due to multiple reports of 696 members being intimidated by SBU candidates and their supporters, the list of names has been redacted for this publication. There are 109 names on this list.

Free and fair elections are squarely at the center of organized labor. An undemocratic election fundamentally undermines that for which we all pay dues and fight for. A labor union- whether it be a local of AFSCME, the National Education Association, the SEIU, Teamsters, or any collective bargaining unit- is made up of workers first. They will have their voices heard.

I, and all the workers listed above, hope that you will treat this petition with the gravity it deserves. Now is no time for partisan loyalty. As organizers, we must be loyal only to the membership. We are counting you to honor your duties as chair of the Election Committee and to provide a just and honest election. Local 696 is counting on you. AFSCME is counting on you. The labor movement is counting on you.

In solidarity,

J. Matthew Catron