

AFSCME 2004 Voters' Guide

Vote Descriptions

SENATE

Providing Economic Relief to Unemployed Workers

AFSCME Position: Yes

The Senate rejected an amendment by Senator Cantwell (D-WA) to a bill (S. 1805) that would have extended for six months the federal program that provides an additional 13 weeks of unemployment to jobless workers who have exhausted their state jobless benefits.

Senate Vote Number 18

AFSCME supported the amendment, which the Senate rejected by a vote of 58-39 on February 26, 2004 (*60 votes were necessary to adopt*).

Protecting American Jobs

AFSCME Position: Yes

The Senate approved an amendment by Senator Dodd (D-CT) to the corporate tax overhaul bill (S. 1637) that would prohibit federal government contracts and state contracts financed with federal funding from being performed outside the United States.

Senate Vote Number 32

AFSCME supported the amendment, which the Senate adopted by a vote of 70-26 on March 4, 2004.

Curbing Tax Cuts for the Wealthy

AFSCME Position: Yes

The Senate approved an amendment by Senator Feingold (D-WI) to the Fiscal 2005 Budget Resolution (SConRes 95) that would make it more difficult for the Bush administration to give additional tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans by requiring any future tax cuts to be paid for by new revenue or spending cuts.

Senate Vote Number 38

AFSCME supported the amendment, which the Senate adopted by a vote of 51-48 on March 10, 2004.

Cutting Services for Working Americans

AFSCME Position: No

The Senate approved a five-year budget plan (SConRes 95) that would severely limit spending on domestic services for lower- and middle-income workers while giving over \$80 billion in tax breaks to wealthy Americans.

Senate Vote Number 58

AFSCME opposed the budget plan, which the Senate adopted by a vote of 51-45 on March 12, 2004.

Rescind the Bush Administration's New Overtime Rules

AFSCME Position: Yes

The Senate approved an amendment by Senator Harkin (D-IA) to the corporate tax overhaul bill (S. 1637) blocking the implementation of a new Labor Department rule that would cause millions of workers to lose eligibility for overtime pay.

Senate Vote Number 79

AFSCME supported the amendment, which the Senate adopted by a vote of 52-47 on May 4, 2004.

Moving Jobs Overseas

AFSCME Position: No

The Senate voted to table an amendment by Senator Dorgan (D-ND) to the Corporate Tax Overhaul bill (S. 1637) that would have required U.S. multinational companies to pay federal taxes on foreign factories when their goods are reimported back into the United States. The amendment would also have required employers to notify employees and the Labor Department when moving jobs offshore and the reason for the relocation.

Senate Vote Number 83

AFSCME opposed the motion to kill the Dorgan amendment, which the Senate approved by a vote of 60-39 on May 5, 2004.

Providing Adequate Funding for First Responders

AFSCME Position: Yes

The Senate rejected a motion by Senator Byrd (D-WV) that would have permitted a vote on his amendment to the Fiscal Year 2005 Homeland Security spending bill (H.R. 4567) increasing overall homeland security spending by \$2 billion, including federal grants for high-threat, high-security urban areas, rail and mass transit, port and border security, aviation security and additional fire personnel.

Senate Vote Number 169

AFSCME supported the motion, which the Senate rejected by a vote of 43-51 on September 9, 2004.

HOUSE

Prohibiting Religious Discrimination in Employment

AFSCME Position: Yes

The House of Representatives rejected an amendment to the Community Service Grants bill (H.R. 3030) by Representative Woolsey (D-CA) that would have prohibited any organization that received federal Community Services Block Grant funds from hiring employees based on their religious beliefs thus setting back decades of religious discrimination prohibitions.

House Vote Number 17

AFSCME supported the amendment, which the House rejected by a vote of 232-182 on February 4, 2004.

Providing Economic Relief to Unemployed Workers

AFSCME Position: Yes

The House of Representatives approved an amendment by Representative George Miller (D-CA) to the Community Service Block Grant bill (H.R. 3030) that would have extended for six months the federal program that provides an additional 13 weeks of unemployment to jobless workers who have exhausted their state jobless benefits.

House Vote Number 18

AFSCME supported the amendment, which was adopted by the House by a vote of 227-179 on February 4, 2004.

Tax Cuts for the Wealthy and Huge Defense Spending at the Expense of Public Services

AFSCME Position: No

The House of Representatives approved a budget plan for 2005 (HConRes 393) that would provide \$152 billion in tax cuts for the wealthy and a huge increase in defense spending without fairly reducing tax rates for working Americans and would lead to reductions in vital domestic programs.

House Vote Number 92

AFSCME opposed the budget plan, which was adopted by the House by a vote of 215-212 on March 25, 2004.

Exempting Businesses from State Insurance Regulations

AFSCME Position: No

The House of Representatives approved a bill (H.R. 4281) that would establish association health plans (AHPs) but these plans would be exempt from state insurance regulations. The legislation would drive up costs for most small employers and their workers, actually increase the number of uninsured by one million, and lead some health plans to become insolvent.

House Vote Number 174

AFSCME opposed the legislation, which the House adopted by a vote of 252-162 on May 13, 2004.

Cutting AFSCME Jobs in Employment Training and Worker Services

AFSCME Position: No

The House of Representatives approved a bill (H.R. 444) that would authorize personal accounts of up to \$3,000 for unemployed individuals to pick and choose among job placement agencies and private job training programs, which would eliminate the jobs of thousands of AFSCME members who currently provide employment-related services.

House Vote Number 225

AFSCME opposed the legislation, which the House adopted by a vote of 213-203 on June 3, 2004.

Corporate Tax Cuts and Tobacco Buyouts

AFSCME Position: No

The House of Representatives approved a corporate tax cut bill (H.R. 4520) that would provide \$140 billion in new tax cuts for special interests and wealthy Americans. The bill also provides a buyout for tobacco farmers.

House Vote Number 259

AFSCME opposed the legislation, which the House adopted by a vote of 251-178 on June 17, 2004.

Cuts in Services That Benefit Working Families

AFSCME Position: No

The House of Representatives rejected the Budget Enforcement Act (H.R. 4663) that would result in a cut in spending for public services and other domestic programs for 2005 and 2006.

House Vote Number 318

AFSCME opposed the bill, which the House rejected by a vote of 268-146 on June 25, 2004.

Rescind the Bush Administration's New Overtime Rules

AFSCME Position: Yes

The House of Representatives adopted an amendment by Representative Obey (D-WI) to the Labor-HHS-Education spending bill (H.R. 5006) blocking the implementation of language in a new Labor Department rule that would cause millions of workers to lose eligibility for overtime pay.

House Vote Number 434

AFSCME supported the amendment, which the House adopted by a vote of 223-193 on September 9, 2004.