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## AFSCME'S Political Program

In 2008, AFSCME will build on the successes of our historic 2006 political program, and execute the most aggressive, well-funded effort in our union's history. We will mobilize a volunteer army of 40,000 members and spend \$60 million to win the presidency, increase our majorities in the U.S. Senate and House, and influence key gubernatorial contests, state legislative races and ballot initiatives.

AFSCME takes pride in being the most effective political force in the American labor movement. Our members are more than just voters. They are messengers and activists, comprising a powerful grassroots network of volunteers and opinion leaders. When inspired by candidates who stand strongly for working families, AFSCME members can make the difference in close elections.

In 2006, AFSCME spent \$35 million in hard and soft dollars on member mobilization, candidate contributions, voter persuasion and GOTV activities in support of pro-worker candidates and measures. We deployed more than 22,000 volunteers and 1,100 staff for more than 200 races at the federal and state level.

In 2008, we will double our volunteer army to make a record number of member education and GOTV contacts in the workplace and at home. Exit polls consistently demonstrate that union members provide the margin of victory for candidates who support the cause of working Americans. In 2006, union members provided the margin of victory as Democrats took control of the U.S. House and Senate. Union households made up one-quarter of the electorate and gave Democratic candidates for the House of Representatives a 30-point advantage, while the general public was split evenly between the parties. In battleground states where U.S. Senate seats were in play, 73 percent of the union vote went to Democratic candidates, compared to 55 percent for all voters.

In the fight for the Democratic nomination, AFSCME will play a decisive role in the early primary and caucus states, including the pivotal state of Iowa, where we represent more than 30,000 workers and where approximately 120,000 voters participated in the presidential caucuses in 2004.

AFSCME President Gerald W. McEntee is Chair of the AFL-CIO's Political Committee, and has led the labor movement's widely respected efforts to elect pro-worker candidates to office at every level in government.

*AFSCME's 1.4 million members provide the vital services that make America happen. With members in hundreds of different occupations — from nurses to corrections officers, child care providers to sanitation workers — AFSCME advocates for fairness in the workplace, excellence in public services and prosperity and opportunity for all working families.*