

BRIEFING FOR CHAPTER CHAIRS ON JANUS CASE

Recard & Resist: UTLA All-In Campaign

The Janus case is an existential threat to unions

- The *Janus vs. AFSCME* lawsuit challenges the long-standing right of unions to collect “fair share” or “agency” fees from employees who do not want to join bargaining groups but benefit from representation.
- *Janus* is scheduled to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court next year and a ruling is expected in June 2018. Donald Trump’s appointment of Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court virtually guarantees that the court will rule to declare agency fees unconstitutional. The impact on unions would be immediate.
- *Janus* is the culmination of decades of attacks on unions and working people by corporate CEOs, the wealthiest 1%, and the politicians who do their bidding to rig the economy in their favor. In the 28 states that already have eliminated agency fees, wages are lower and the poverty rate is higher.
- The decision would create a new “free rider” class of UTLA member who would benefit from our organizing wins on salary, healthcare, pension protection, lower class size, and better working conditions without having to pay *any* dues to power that critical work.

UTLA’s all-in campaign will take on Janus & make us stronger

- In 2018, UTLA members will launch an “all in” campaign to get every member to recommit to UTLA by signing a new membership application with the updated language for post-*Janus* legal challenges.
- At a citywide chapter chair meeting on January 4, chapter chairs will discuss the campaign, how we make our union stronger, and how we can reach all members.
- The campaign was endorsed by the HOR and the BOD on November 29.

Union membership is the next battleground for public education

- UTLA has been a powerful and effective force in building coalitions with parents and the community to fight privatization, organize at school sites to improve learning conditions, and demand charter operator accountability.
- In a post-*Janus* world, it is only logical that our enemies will try to use coordinated membership drop campaigns to weaken us—forcing us to cut back on staff, representation, legal services, and contract and organizing campaigns.
- A strong UTLA is the only defense against the privatizers who want to take our jobs and our benefits, turn public education into a business, and eliminate our ability to advocate for our students and communities.
- UTLA members have united before to protect ourselves and our professions. We will do it again!

