

...Machinist Larry Brown wins close race to lead Washington AFL-CIO

From Page 1

worked at the Rocketdyne space shuttle plant Canoga Park, California, as a NASA quality assurance representative after serving in the U.S. Navy from 1973 to 1977. Recruited by Boeing in 1979, he moved to Auburn, Washington, and became an active member of Machinists District 751. He joined the staff in 1997, working first as a business representative.

His daughter Cara Mattson is a union rep at Teamsters Local 117, the same union his wife Donna Brown belongs to in her job at Avis car rental.

In 2017, Brown was elected to the city council in Auburn, Washington, a city of 80,000 between Seattle and Tacoma. He plans to continue to serve on the city council, which meets twice a month.

Incoming secretary-treasurer April Sims is the first person of color to be elected as a WSLC executive officer. Sims has served as WSLC's political director since 2015. She comes out of the Washington Federation of State Employees, AFSCME Council 28, where from 2002 to 2015, she went from member to shop steward, union officer, and finally legislative and political action field coordinator.

Besides president and secre-

tary-treasurer, affiliated unions also elected 20 vice presidents representing six geographic districts, plus eight vice presidents to represent the interests of AFL-CIO-affiliated constituency groups for women, LGBTQ, retired, young, Black, Latino, and Asian Pacific American union members. In addition, any affiliated international union with over 10,000 Washington members that doesn't have an elected vice president will get to appoint an at-large vice president. Together, the top two officers and all the vice presidents make up the WSLC Executive Board, which meets quarterly to set WSLC's policies and priorities between annual conventions.

WSLC's six geographic districts at one time corresponded to Washington Congressional districts. (Today the state has 10 Congressional Districts.)

For the Third District (Southwest Washington), affiliated unions elected three vice presidents:

- **Steven Segall** of Washington Federation of State Employees (AFSCME Local 443)
- **Shannon Walker** of Machinists Woodworkers Local Lodge W536
- **Bob Guenther** of IBEW Local 77

All offices come with four-year terms which begin Jan. 5, 2019.

COMPLETE ELECTION RESULTS

See the full list of officers elected by Washington State Labor Council affiliates at <https://bit.ly/2GcJbQM>



April Sims

AFL-CIO commission discusses 'future of unions'

Labor leaders from across the country came together Dec. 17 in Washington, D.C., to discuss the future of unions. The session was the third phase of the national AFL-CIO's Commission on the Future of Work and Unions and focused on finding ways to grow union power and density through experimentation and collaboration.

The AFL-CIO Commission was created in 2017 with the goal of building bargaining

power and providing economic security for millions of working people in a period of great change.

The Dec. 17 meeting zeroed in on a number of key questions:

- How do unions significantly increase density?
- What new strategies and tactics can unions employ to grow our power and influence?
- How do unions work together to meet

our shared goals?

- What structural changes should unions make to more effectively organize and represent workers in a changing workplace and economy?

The commission will release its findings and recommendations in 2019.

Kitchen Table Economics

65%: Approval rate of labor unions among Americans ages 18-34.



Happy Holidays

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