

UNIONIZATION → JAN-FEB 2021

The following are Oregon and Southwest Washington workplaces where workers have decided whether to be represented by a union. Thumbs-up means workers will be union-represented. The data comes from the National Labor Relations Board and Oregon Employment Relations Board.

Union election results

Employer (Location) Union	Yes-No
OHSU Hillsboro Medical Center (Hillsboro) Oregon AFSCME	164-61
■ 448 CNAs, housekeepers, food service workers, pharmacists, technologists, and others	

Unionization by majority signup

Employer (Location) Union
Portland Police Bureau (Portland) AFSCME Local 189
■ 7 police internal affairs investigators

Strikes disappear again in 2020

It's starting to look like the strike surge of 2018-2019 was a blip, not the start of a new trend. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) tracks work stoppages involving over 1,000 workers, and every year releases a summary of the previous year's work stoppages (a term that includes both worker strikes and employer lockouts). BLS tallied only eight such stoppages in 2020.

From the 1950s to the 1970s, there were hundreds of large strikes a year, but strikes fell off dramatically in the 1980s, and became nearly extinct by 2009, when there were just five, and 2017, when there were seven.

But a wave of teacher strikes that started in West Virginia in 2018 bolstered the annual tally. There were 20 large work stoppages in 2018, involving 485,000 American workers, the most in 33 years. And in 2019, 25 major work stoppages involved 425,000 workers.

Last year, just 27,000 workers took part in the large work stoppages included in the report. The

nation's biggest work stoppage in 2020 was a three-day strike at Swedish Medical Centers in Seattle by 7,800 members of SEIU Local 1199NW. SEIU was a party to four of last year's seven large work stoppages. Here's the full list:

- **Swedish Medical Centers** (Seattle, Wash.) 7,800 members of SEIU Local 1199NW, 3 days
- **University of Illinois** (Chicago, Ill.) 4,500 members of SEIU Local 73, 10 days
- **Bath Iron Works** (Bath, Maine) 4,300 members of Machinists Local S6, 44 days
- **St. Paul Public Schools** (St. Paul, Minn.) 3,600 members of St. Paul Federation of Educators, 3 days
- **Alameda Health System** (SF-area) 3,000 members of SEIU Local 1021, California Nurses Assn., and ILWU, 5 days
- **Cook County** (Chicago, Ill.) 1,600 members of SEIU Local 73, 1 day
- **University of Michigan** (Ann Arbor, Mich.) 1,200 members of Graduate Employees' Organization, 7 days
- **San Joaquin County** (Calif.) 1,000 members of California Nurses Association and SEIU Local 1021, 2 days

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**"THERE IS NO GOOD SOCIETY WITHOUT A GOOD UNION, AND
THERE IS NO GOOD UNION THAT ISN'T REBORN EVERY DAY IN THE
PERIPHERIES, THAT DOESN'T TRANSFORM THE REJECTED STONES
OF THE ECONOMY INTO CORNER STONES."**

—POPE FRANCIS



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503-777-8101



MARSHALL UNION MANOR

2020 NW NORTHRUP ST
PORTLAND, OR 97209
503-225-0677



KIRKLAND UNION PLAZA

1414 KAUFFMAN AVENUE
VANCOUVER, WA 98660
360-694-4314

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