

Build union democracy

Within our unions we need to build a vibrant culture of internal debate, study, and union democracy. For some existing unions, this will mean a big shift.

For real union democracy, we need to see internal caucuses as normal and welcome, not "divisive."

The strength of our unions depends on unity and solidarity. For real strength that can survive attacks from outside, we need the strong internal agreement that only comes from respectful serious debate and internal struggle. If we allow a habit of wishy-washy, go-along-to-get-along "unity," our external opponents can easily break that. We need to struggle fiercely and respectfully within our organizations so we can struggle fiercely and successfully against our external opponents.

We union members call other "brothers, sisters, and kin" for a reason. We can argue with each other *and* stand together against our shared opponents.

North Carolina's unions already do better at internal democracy than most other sectors of our broad movement, in which many nonprofit organizations have executive directors as dictatorial as profit-driven corporate CEOs. North Carolina's labor union members still need to continue strengthening our internal democracy.



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