



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Minnesota Unions Support State Auditor Julie Blaha

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Minnesota unions representing a cross section of Minnesota’s workers, such as nurses, firefighters, teachers and skilled workers, support State Auditor Julie Blaha for reelection.

Auditor Blaha’s advocacy for workers, focus on local government effectiveness and stewardship of pension funds were driving factors for these endorsements. As a member of the State Board of Investments (SBI), Auditor Blaha has helped increase the funds that support public pensions by over \$30 billion.

AFSCME Council 5 represents more than 43,000 working Minnesotans across the state, and according to Executive Director Julie Bleyhl, Auditor Blaha’s focus on Minnesotans at the local government contributed to the endorsement.

“Local government is where things get done and Minnesota workers do that work,” Bleyhl said. “Auditor Blaha understands that when we focus on workers at the local government level, the streets get cleaned, the roads get plowed in the winter and graded in the summer.”

Education Minnesota represents nearly 90,000 educators from preservice teachers who are studying to enter the profession to retired educators. President Denise Specht said Auditor Blaha’s history of advocacy for Minnesota’s workers contributed to the endorsement.

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“Auditor Blaha’s record speaks for itself,” Specht said. “Whether it be as the Anoka-Hennepin Education Minnesota President, Minnesota AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer, or as our state auditor, educators know that Auditor Blaha will represent them.”

Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE) represents more than 15,000 professional state employees, and President Megan Dayton said Auditor Blaha’s stewardship of pension funds contributed to the endorsement.

“State Auditor Blaha’s lifelong commitment to working families continues to show in her work with government entities, her stewardship over nearly 600 local pension funds and as an employer of MAPE employees,” Dayton said. “She understands the challenges and opportunities facing Minnesotans and will continue to fight for greater accountability and transparency in government services, as well as assist communities in strengthening oversight of their finances and retirement funds.”

List of State Auditor Julie Blaha’s Union Endorsements:

- AFSCME Council 5
- AFSCME Council 65
- Duluth Firefighters Local 101
- Education Minnesota
- Inter Faculty Organization
- IBEW Local 292
- LiUNA! Minnesota & North Dakota
- Minnesota AFL-CIO
- Minnesota Association of Professional Employees
- Minnesota Nurses Association
- Minnesota Professional Firefighters
- Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation
- National Association of Social Workers
- Teamsters Joint Council 32
- Teamsters Local 120
- SEIU Minnesota State Council
- UFCW Local 1189

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