



Federal Workers are Vital to West Virginia's Economy

Elon Musk and the Trump administration are illegally firing federal employees who serve West Virginian veterans, seniors, farmers, and small businesses; keep our food, water, national parks, and workplaces safe; and carry out critical medical research, emergency response, and disaster relief missions. Federal employees and their families are also our neighbors who live, work, and send their children to schools across the Mountain State, spreading the impact of these attacks to every single West Virginian community.

Who are federal employees in West Virginia?

The federal workforce consists of roughly 3 million employees, most of whom (98.4 percent) live in the states.

- West Virginia is home to over 22,900 federal employees, about 3.2 percent of the state's total non-farm employment.
- This makes the federal government a larger employer in West Virginia than the coal mining industry.
- By Congressional District: 7,133 federal employees live in WV-1 and 15,844 federal employees live in WV-2.
- Major federal employers in West Virginia include the Bureau of Fiscal Services in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Attacking federal employees means cutting West Virginia jobs, services, and specialized expertise that is very difficult to replace.

Federal employees carry out agency missions that underpin our entire economy and do jobs that often require very specific experience or training. For example, Social Security offices serve seniors throughout the state. On average, federal employees have more experience and education than the workforce at large.

- Over 42 percent of federal workers are over the age of 50, compared with 33 percent of the overall workforce.
- Nearly 50 percent of federal employees have been in public service for over a decade.
- 55 percent of federal employees have a bachelor's or advanced degree, compared with 40 percent in the overall workforce.

Attacking federal employees means attacking large numbers of veterans, women, workers with disabilities, workers of color, and union members.

Due to strong equal employment policies, union contracts guaranteeing equal pay for equal work, and programs to recruit workers who have completed military service, the federal workforce is very diverse. Historically, federal employment has offered important opportunities to women and workers of color—in some states playing a central role in building the Black middle class.

- In West Virginia, 47 percent of workers are women compared with 44 percent nationally.
- 30 percent of federal workers are veterans, compared with only 5 percent of the overall workforce; 5,500 of West Virginia's federal workers (24 percent) are veterans.
- 21 percent of federal workers self-identify as disabled, compared with the overall U.S. disability rate of 5 percent.
- Black workers make up 19 percent of the federal workforce, compared with 13 percent of the overall workforce.
- About 1.6 million federal workers, including postal workers, are represented by a union (roughly 53 percent), compared with only 11.1 percent of the overall workforce.

West Virginia's federal workers are standing up against illegal, unconstitutional attacks to defend critical services.

Right now West Virginia federal workers and their unions are defending their obligations to the public and the US Constitution as they challenge illegal firings and funding freezes, while maintaining vital services as attacks continue. Contact West Virginia's federal delegation and urge them to support federal employees.

