

Library workers in Central Ohio are on a winning streak with the Ohio Federation of Teachers.

May 2024

Libraries are essential infrastructure in our communities, providing information, entertainment, and public services. In order to meet the needs of our patrons and to set standards that allow us to recruit and retain highly skilled staff, librarians and library workers need a voice. We also need and deserve fair treatment and job security.

That's why library workers in Ohio – across multiple library systems – are coming together to build their unions and have a voice at work. Here's a look at what we've accomplished so far.



Worthington Public Libraries United



Pickerington Public Library United Staff



Upper Arlington Public Library United Staff

June 2021 – **Library workers at Worthington Libraries present signed union cards from 70% of workers** & ask for voluntary recognition to join OFT.

More than 750 community members and library patrons contact WL's Board of Trustees in support of the workers. The board declines voluntary recognition but commits to take a neutral, non-oppositional stance.

August 2022 – Equitas Health workers win their union election to join OFT.

March 2023 – **Worthington Public Libraries United ratifies their first union contract** (effective March 23, 2023), which includes:

- Paid parental and bereavement leave;
- The ability to use vacation days on weekends;
- An end to disciplinary action for unscheduled absences (which include unscheduled sick days);
- Protections against unfair discipline;
- Fair procedures for handling furloughs, layoffs, and transfers;
- Partial tuition reimbursement benefit;
- Board raises averaging more than 15% over the life of the contract;
- A ratification bonus.

The contract is enforceable through a binding grievance and independent arbitration process.

November 2023 – Columbus College of Art & Design faculty win their union election to join OFT.

December 2023 – **Grandview Heights Public Library United ratifies their first union contract** (effective Jan. 1, 2024), which includes:

- Improvements on parental leave, sick and vacation leave, holidays, and tuition reimbursement;
- A collaborative labor/management committee;
- Health and safety protections;
- Protections against unfair discipline;
- Raises of 12% through the life of the contract.

The contract is enforceable through a binding grievance and independent arbitration process.

February 2024 – Kaleidoscope Youth Center workers join OFT through voluntary recognition.

May 2024 – **Upper Arlington Public Library workers win their union election to join OFT.** 79% of voters (73% of all eligible workers) voted for their union.

Click on the timeline blurbs for articles and more information.

October 2021 – **Worthington Libraries workers win their union election to join OFT.** 89% of voters (73% of all eligible workers) voted for their union.

August 2022 – **Library workers at Grandview Heights Public Library present signed union cards from 73% of workers** and ask for voluntary recognition to join OFT.

More than 350 community members and library patrons contact GHPL's Board of Trustees in support of the workers. The board voluntarily recognizes the union.

September 2022 – Educators at the School of Bright Promise (Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities) win their union election to join OFT.

May 2023 – KIPP Columbus educators win their union election to join OFT.

August 2023 – **Library workers at Pickerington Public Library present signed union cards from 76% of workers** and ask for voluntary recognition to join OFT.

More than 400 community members and library patrons contact PPL's Board of Trustees in support of the workers. The board declines voluntary recognition.

November 2023 – **Pickerington Public Library workers win their union election to join OFT** with a 92% majority. Every eligible worker voted in the election.

January 2024 – **Library workers at Upper Arlington Public Library present signed union cards from 70% of workers** and ask for voluntary recognition to join OFT.

More than 500 community members and library patrons contact UAPL's Board of Trustees in support of the workers. The board declines voluntary recognition and library management engages in anti-union communications targeted at workers and library patrons.

March 2024 – Equitas Health ratify their first union contract.

May 2024 – Educators at the School of Bright Promise (Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities) ratify their first union contract.



R.C., Library Associate, Grandview Heights Public Library

Krista, Reference Assistant, Pickerington Public Library

Lily, Youth Services Librarian, Worthington Libraries

Ety, Circulation Aide, Worthington Libraries

Caitlin, Cataloger, Upper Arlington Public Library

Interested in learning more?

Email OFT's organizing department at organize@oft-aft.org or call or text Kristin at **614-80-UNION** (614-808-6466).

