



January 18, 2013

A Union Means You Get More (Sometimes Even Before the Vote) And Keep It

As you know, NTEU has filed a petition for an election to determine [if CFPB employees want NTEU as their representative](#). We just received a copy of what's called an Opening Letter from the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) that was sent to CFPB. The letter asks CFPB for its position on the petition and directs the agency to post notices of the filing of the petition around the workplace.

Meanwhile, there are reports and rumors about CFPB making changes, or promising to make changes, to the agency's leave and travel requirements that are favorable to employees. It is not uncommon for agencies to seek to address employees' concerns when there is talk of union representation. Be your own judge about whether there is a connection between the two. If these improvements come to fruition, NTEU applauds these measures. We support whatever changes are taken to improve employees' work lives.



This leads to a big reason to [support NTEU representation](#); whatever is given by an agency can be taken away just as easily, unless the workforce is represented by a union. If a benefit is contained in a negotiated contract, it cannot be changed. And by law, before an agency can change working conditions of represented employees, it must notify their union representative and bargain first. The other nice thing about job improvements promised or put in place by an agency before a union election is that it's pretty hard for the agency to balk at including these measures in a contract after the election is over.

NTEU Election Update

On Dec. 19, NTEU filed a petition with the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) seeking a union representation election at CFPB.

The parties this week had an initial discussion and it was determined that the agency would produce a list of bargaining unit eligible employees to the FLRA by Feb. 8. The parties will meet again shortly thereafter to discuss the details of the election, including who is eligible to vote and how the election will be conducted.



NTEU looks forward to representing CFPB employees. Our goal is improving your work life, while working to make CFPB successful in its mission.

The filing of the petition reflects the fact that NTEU has secured the required showing of interest in union representation among CFPB employees. That is, more than the legally-required numbers of CFPB employees have signed forms committing to become NTEU members if the union wins the election.

It is expected that the election will take place in March or April.

Contact [NTEU](#) for more information or visit [NTEU's website for CFPB employees](#).

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