

R2 – 11 SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters Shall Remain in Salem

Committee Recommendation: ✓ Do pass as amended

Economic and Social Policies/International Affairs (ESP/IA) Committee: Paula Pena (Sub-Local 581), Joy Vegar (Homecare 99), Darrahlyn Young (DHS) Greg Ivers (DHS) Ivonne Rivero (Homecare), Rebecca Sandoval (Homecare) Wanda Davis (OHA)

Committee Report

The committee is recommending this resolution as a “**do pass as amended**” to the General Council.

The committee’s vote on this resolution was split 4/1 with the majority of committee members supporting a do pass. This resolution is coming from the Stewards committee. After hearing both pro and con statements and an amendment to the resolution was passed, the majority of the committee is recommending a “do pass as amended” to the General Council. Here are some of the statements that were heard:

- We heard from delegates about the importance of our headquarters being located where our state government is, and the importance of our union leadership being present in Salem when possible. We heard that Salem is more central to members across the state and that travel and parking in Portland is hard.
- We heard some concerns about requiring the President and Executive Director to travel more than necessary to be in the Salem office and how we may lose good leadership because they won’t want to make the commute all the time.
- We also heard concerns how the conference rooms in the Salem office are too small for the Board of Directors meetings or Home Care Council meetings anymore where the Portland building has more space to hold members.
- We heard from one rural delegate who felt that Salem was easier for rural members to travel to, but we heard from another rural delegate that stated they travel all over the state for meetings and Portland is more central for them and easier to get to than Salem.

When the resolution moved to committee, an amendment was proposed to add “when feasible” after “prioritize” in order to clarify the author’s intent and eliminate any unintended consequences. The amendment passed by majority vote. After the amendment provided clarity, the committee saw the importance of continuing to have our SEIU Headquarters housed in Salem where our State Government is, to remind

Legislators that SEIU is here and in Salem, therefore they voted 4/1 with a majority in favor of recommending a “**do pass as amended**” to the General Council.



Service Employees

Budget Impact/Cost Estimate: No fiscal impact outside of operating budget.

International Union

Local 503,

2020 Committee Recommendations:

Oregon Public

Do Pass

Pass as Amended

Employees Union

Do Not Pass

2020 General Council Ballot & Resolution Number:

Round 2 Resolution 11

SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

1 **Subject: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters Shall Remain in Salem**

2 **Authored by: Alisha Goodwin, Jo Hickerson, Shawn Holliday, Tammy Tate Houdroge, Diana Lobo,**
3 **Mike Scott, Adam Korst, Sally Cumberworth, Rhonda Morgan, Janet Ferris, Terry Haydon, Micki**
4 **Varney**

5 **Submitted by: Micki Varney, Co-Chair, SEIU 503 Stewards Committee**

6 **Resolution Endorsed by: SEIU 503 Stewards Committee**

7

8 **WHEREAS**, Section 1., Article XIV, of the Oregon Constitution establishes the permanent seat of
9 government for the state shall be Marion County; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the State of Oregon is comprised of thirty-six counties, each of which has members who have
11 chosen to be Represented; and

12 **WHEREAS**, SEIU 503 OPEU bylaws designate our Union Headquarters are located within our state
13 capital, Salem, Oregon; and

14 **WHEREAS**, ‘headquarters’ connotes more than a street address; from Merriam Webster, it refers to “the
15 place from which a commander performs the functions of command. It is the administrative center of an
16 enterprise.”

17 **WHEREAS**, our state Legislature and Governor are housed in Salem and it is essential that our events
18 and strength be visible to our Legislature; and

19 **WHEREAS**, we rely on our political power to further the tenets of our Union; and

20 **WHEREAS**, two of our union’s largest collective bargaining agreements—homecare and DAS--are
21 bargained in Salem; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the majority of public sector agencies are headquartered in our Capitol City, and our
23 headquarters should not appear abandoned or neglected; and
24 **WHEREAS**, the Janus Decision requires a fine-tuned sensitivity to the impressions SEIU 503 OPEU makes
25 throughout Oregon; and
26 **WHEREAS**, our Headquarters serves as both instrument and symbol, both of which matter because of
27 what they signify; and presence matters; and
28 **WHEREAS**, travel to meet with union leadership in Portland would most assuredly increase costs to
29 members because of the lack of parking spaces and the higher prices associated with the Metropolitan
30 Area; and
31 **WHEREAS**, the administrative branch of our Union should serve our members because the needs of the
32 many should inform the choices of the few; and
33 **WHEREAS**, the office of the President of Our Union should be located in Salem;
34 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the SEIU Local 503 OPEU Executive Director, President, staff and members shall
35 | prioritize, [when feasible](#), the utilization of Salem Headquarters in Marion County thereby demonstrating
36 we are an active, robust and vibrant union that is accessible and visible; and
37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in this time of post Janus transformation, our union shall keep our focus
38 on being INCLUSIVE of the diverse needs of our STATEWIDE membership.

SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Equity Statement

This resolution has a negative equity impact. The resolution lifts up one part of the state over other parts of the state as more important rather than recognizing that we represent workers across every region of Oregon. Further, the work of a majority of our members is not centered in Salem and it's important for Union leadership to be visible in different parts of our state as needed to support the membership.

Political Statement

No political impact.

Legal Statement

No legal impact.

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Micki Varney

Sub-local: ODFW Sub-local 109

Pro

SEIU 503 must preserve and promote its visibility, Strength, and accessibility in Salem we need our administrative, political and legal support available in Salem where our Capitol, our Legislature, our Governor, DAS and the headquarters of the majority of agencies our Union represents is located.

SEIU 503 members are diverse and live and work throughout the State of Oregon. Our union is increasingly being perceived as being Portland-centric thereby not being inclusive of the perspectives and needs of many of our rural and often distant members.

Our Salem HQ building no longer projects a sense of pride, strength and purpose; these things matter.

Are we in this together or not? In a post-Janus world and increasing political divisiveness our Union must keep our focus on being inclusive of the diverse needs of our statewide membership. The needs of our members should drive the decisions of our Board and Elected Statewide Officers. Don't just talk about member run, Do it!

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Elizabeth (Betty) Holladay

Sub-local: #218

Con

I am not sure why we need to pass this resolution. Salem is already designated as the headquarters for our union. This is redundant and unnecessary.

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Jason Cox

Sub-local: Forestry 629

Pro

SEIU will always be strong in Portland, whether or not it's the center of our union's business. But Salem is where the state's business gets done. Maintaining a functioning HQ in Salem means another power base in addition to Portland. If we signal to our members that we are a Portland-centric organization rather than a statewide organization, they'll believe us and act accordingly.

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Donna Weatherly

Sub-local: 99

Con

And again, Salem is just not big enough to accommodate all of our smiling faces.

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Latricia Straw

Sub-local: MCEA 294

Pro

SEIU needs to keep a strong presents in it's Capitol!

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Mary Stewart

Sub-local: DOR 150

Con

This resolution is a false assumption that our Union is Portland centric and not representative of our members:

1. The Salem office is the legal registered headquarters address of SEIU503 and remains so.
2. Our member centric processes; bargaining, mailings, elections and trainings occur from the Salem location and will remain so.
3. Needing to replace the Salem and Portland Foster Rd, buildings due to: age, building health, structural issues, lack of adequate meeting rooms, parking for members and technological capabilities, SEIU503 began a search for new buildings. An opportunity presented itself in Portland, the Forum Building, and the Union purchased the building. During the final processes Board of Directors held several discussions on how to proceed. It was decided by the BOD to suspend the search in Salem while the Portland building was completed. No buildings had been found suitable in Salem and the current building remains on the market today.
4. Today, we are making huge strides in use of technology which connects members and others instantly. The Board meets on ZOOM and we just completed our first virtual General Council. We continue to work through changes imposed by COVID19 and the use of technology will only grow and become more integral to our work. There is rapidly becoming little requirement to work or meet in any specific place.

This resolution is not required. I urge you to reject the premise that “everything is moving to Portland” and vote No.

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Louie Vidmar

Sub-local: 085

Pro

I would ask that you prioritize the views of those members in rural areas outside of the I-5 corridor, but living in Eugene, I believe that Salem is more "central" than Portland, and parking is more abundant.

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Joye Willman

Sub-local: homecare

Con

headquarters has always been the Salem office since I've been a member. Operations are housed there. I see no reason to micro manage where the President or ED spend their work time. I oppose this resolution

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Alice Redding

Sub-local: sub-local 99

Pro

. I feel it's important to be close to our state legislatures and governor. ; also our public sector agencies are in Salem

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Ivonne Rivero

Sub-local: Sub-local 99

Con

SEIU must maintain a place at our state's capital, near the Capitol. SEIU headquarters are ALREADY there. Besides maintaining a place where people CAN meet in Salem, bring our membership can gather to lobby and meet, and prepare for lobbying at the Capitol, we need to have clarity of the function of the day-to-day function of the Headquarters. As I understand, the headquarters house several operational departments. I would say, that given the need to protect our environment, and save money, more of the meeting should continue to be done remotely, until it is safe again to be indoors. I also believe that both the President and the ED should choose how to best use their time and travel.

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Rosalie Pedroza

Sub-local: Retirees

Pro

I have only been a member since 1987 and the union HQ has been in Salem since the beginning – why? Because the state capitol is in Salem and what it does affects all nooks and crannies of Oregon. We have always represented members throughout the state and having a HQ in Salem gives easy and quick access to the legislature on short notice. It also serves notice to the legislature SEIU is here – think twice before you mess with us! Parking is free. A new office will expand our capacity to find ways to better provide for meetings and other needs by locals and the Boar. What are our other alternatives? Portland, located a block from the Convention Center where parking is a disaster not to mention traffic; Bend; Pendleton; Medford; and Eugene. Each location also shuts out members in other parts of the state. With electronic meetings being proven to be alternatives to allow members all over the state to participate, I don't see the need to move our union HQ.

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Rhonda Morgan

Sub-local: Local 200

Pro

This resolution is misnamed as it does not attempt to declare the location of SEIU 503 OPEU headquarters. Per our Governing documents Our Union's headquarters are already identified as being in Salem. This resolution simply states the expectation that paid union leadership prioritize showing up for work at headquarters. Presence makes a difference. Over the past several years, our headquarters has become more and more abandoned by paid leadership, giving it the air of a mostly vacant building. This does not accurately reflect to those in our Capitol City- including the legislature and leaders of state agencies, the dynamic power of our members and our Union. As the supreme governing body of our union, we can set the expectation that paid Union leaders suit up and show up because it matters and people are watching. Please vote yes.

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Becky Wright

Sub-local: sub-local 503

Pro

Pro. I believe that the headquarters should remain in Salem. If it gets to be held in Portland then it would be harder for me and maybe for others who don't have a car to be able to get there to the building in Portland. I like the idea of being able to meet in the capital city where the Capital is for Lobby days

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Luella Larsen

Sub-local: Homecare Local 99 District 7

Pro

It is closer to our Capital.

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Michelle Jones

Sub-local: sub-local 109

Pro

Salem is the town of our capitol and a centralized location easy to reach from all sections in the state.

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Denare Archer

Sub-local: Homecare sub-local central oregon

Pro

I am ok with headquarters being in Salem. I did hear some remarks that the building is uncomfortable, tight, and in need of repairs. I would like to see a resolution for remodeling and expansion of the building so that it's more comfortable for everyone.

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Barbara Evans

Sub-local: Local 99

Pro

This should have included an amendment to include all district offices throughout the state "shall" allow full operation of member participation for the purposes of the many to inform the choices of the few (line 31-32).

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: jan montes

Sub-local: Homecare

Pro

i feel that it is best to be close to the capitol.

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Christina Feigner

Sub-local: homecare

Pro

Neutral

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Temari Asazuki

Sub-local: Homecare

Pro

No statement provided.

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Anna Young

Sub-local: Homecare Local 99

Pro

No statement provided

R2 - 11: SEIU 503 OPEU Headquarters in Salem

Name: Daniel (Dan) Smith

Sub-local: OSH #392

Pro

No statement provided