



East Central Illinois AFL-CIO

LABOR DAY PARADE & PICNIC

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH DOWNTOWN CHAMPAIGN

Line up: 10:00AM, Start 11:00AM
Picnic: 12:00PM Neil Street Plaza
FOOD, BOUNCY HOUSES, LIVE MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT



**GRAND MARSHAL
SUE GREY**



**We earnestly invite all to attend the
2026 Labor Day Parade & Picnic in
Downtown Champaign! Join us for this
Free event as we celebrate and
recognize all workers.**



UNITED WAY
Champaign County

**Tax-Deductable
Sponsorship
Opportunities!**



If your organization would like to be in the Parade
please contact Dave Beck at DBeck@AFSCME31.org
www.Facebook.com/ECIAFLCIO
LeadershipECIAFLCIO@gaggle.email

East Central Illinois AFL-CIO

PO Box 6088
Champaign, IL 61826



07/15/2026

Contact:

Luther Baker

President, East Central Illinois AFL-CIO

LeadershipECIAFLCIO@gaggle.email

East Central Illinois AFL-CIO to Host Labor Day PARADE & PICNIC

CHAMPAIGN – Labor unions across Illinois are joining in solidarity this Labor Day to celebrate working people and promote the silent battles they face everyday. With nearly one million Union members across the state, the East Central Illinois AFL-CIO Central Labor Council of the Illinois AFL-CIO that represents over 18,000 members across 11 counties, will host our annual Labor Day Parade & Picnic on Monday, September 7, 2026 in downtown Champaign, Illinois.

This year's theme is "Building the Foundation for Mental Health" and the ECI AFL-CIO is partnering with the United Way of Champaign County to bring more awareness to the Mental Health and Suicide crisis that plague workers. The Construction industry has one of the highest rate of suicides at roughly four times the national average and almost six times the rate of all construction fatalities combined. 56 out of every 100,000 construction workers died by suicide in 2021 and nearly 6000 Construction workers die by suicide each year.

Mental Health and Well-being affects everyone and September is Suicide Awareness Month, which is why this year we're supporting the United Way's 211 Helpline. The 211 Helpline is the most comprehensive source of information about local resources and services, including Mental Health, in the country. This Labor Day, we're hoping to bring the awareness, help, and resources needed by so many before it's too late.

WHO: Labor Leaders and members will be joined by Grand Marshal, United Way of Champaign County President Emeritus Sue Grey, and other community leaders.

WHAT: 2026 Labor Day Parade & Picnic in downtown Champaign, IL.

WHEN: Parade kicks off at 11:00am; Picnic follows immediately after the parade.

WHERE: Parade starts at the corner of Chestnut & Main, and proceeds through downtown Champaign, ending at Washington and Neil Street heading north. Picnic will take place at the Neil St Plaza, also in downtown Champaign.

WHY: To celebrate the people who make America work.

HOW: This free event is brought to you by the Labor Unions of East Central Illinois.

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PO Box 6088
Champaign, IL 61826



Union Leaders and Friends,

****PLEASE NOTE **** The Parade route and staging will be slightly different this year due to construction on Washington Street. More information will be sent nearer the date of the event.

For questions, contact David Beck at 217-721-5344.

The parade application is attached or may be obtained by contacting dbeck@afscme31.org. Please return it by August 26, 2026, if you plan on being in the parade. We encourage you to have a float, walk with your union banner or participate in some way. This Labor Day, we want to show the community that we do stand together and work for each other and the community.

In solidarity,

David Beck
Vice President
East Central Illinois AFL-CIO

2026 AFL-CIO LABOR DAY PARADE

APPLICATION FORM

Monday, September 7, 2026

“Building the Foundation for Mental Health”

ORGANIZATION _____

CONTACT PERSON: NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY & ST _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

ENTRY TYPE AND SIZE

FLOAT (Length)_____ **CAR**_____ **PICKUP**_____ **BAND**_____

OTHER_____

TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES_____

******No Bull Horns, No Leaving Parade Lines to Put Fliers on Doors, No Inappropriate Signs or Fliers, this is a FAMILY EVENT and discretion should be used******

PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO:

**Dave Beck
203 Lincoln Sq
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 721-5344 Cell Phone
dbeck@afscme31.org**

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED BEFORE AUGUST 26, 2026