

# Unions brace for shift under pro-business Trump administration

Article

**The news:** A number of unions are threatening strikes as they try to extract concessions at the bargaining table.

- Ninety-eight percent of unionized **Starbucks** baristas voted in favor of a stoppage as contract negotiations with the coffee chain enter the final stages.

- Union members at an **Amazon** facility in Skokie, Illinois, joined workers at two other facilities in [authorizing a strike](#), after the retailer missed a December 15 deadline to begin negotiations.
- And the [International Longshoremen's Association](#) (ILA) will resume its strike on January 15 unless progress is made on the issue of port automation.

**Why now?** After enjoying strong support from the Biden administration, unions are preparing for what's likely to be a sizable shift under President-elect **Donald Trump**.

- Pundits expect the Trump presidency to be markedly more pro-business than his predecessor's—especially given the prominent roles that **Elon Musk** and **Vivek Ramaswamy**, both vocal labor opponents, are expected to play.
- Musk's **SpaceX** is one of the many companies, alongside Amazon, Starbucks, and **Trader Joe's**, challenging the [constitutionality of the National Labor Relations Board](#)—a challenge which would, if successful, make it harder for workers to unionize and for the agency to enforce labor laws.

**On the other hand:** The incoming administration is making some efforts to court organized labor after making gains with union workers during the election.

- Trump's pick for labor secretary, **Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer**, supported pro-labor legislation during her limited time in office. She also has the backing of **Teamsters president Sean O'Brien**.
- Trump also publicly supported ILA dockworkers in their [fight against automation](#), tilting the scales in the union's favor as the strike deadline approaches.
- That said, there's often a discrepancy between what Trump says and his actual policies, which could pour cold water on union leaders' hopes.

**Our take:** The labor movement has been losing steam for some time—and that trend will likely accelerate under Trump's second term.

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