



AMAZON WORKERS WIN HISTORIC UNION ELECTION IN NEW YORK

For the first time in the United States, Amazon workers have unionized. The workers at Amazon’s JFK8 fulfillment center in Staten Island, New York voted to join the Amazon Labor Union (“ALU”) in an election concluding April 1, 2022. The ALU, an upstart union founded by former JFK8 worker Christian Smalls, used unconventional tactics such as disrupting anti-union meetings, distributing literature to workers, and social media activity. The ALU’s tactics connected with workers, and it defeated Amazon with little help from organized labor.

The victory is a “huge shot in the arm” for the labor movement. Amazon is notorious among labor advocates for its size, resources, harsh labor practices, and strong anti-union positions and campaigns, yet the ALU showed that workers can successfully organize at its warehouses. The victory is also a triumph for unconventional organizing campaigns specifically and should inspire other workers to follow suit. Workers at a second Amazon facility on Staten Island, LDJ5, will vote on whether to join the ALU on April 25, 2022.

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