

EFRAIN AGUILERA

UNITED FOOD & COMMERCIAL WORKERS UNION,
LOCAL 5
REPRESENTATIVE



Efrain Aguilera was born in Michoacán, Mexico. He came to the United States in January 1995 he got to this country without knowing a word of English, going to school was a challenge for him, he graduated from Salinas High School in 1997 and he wanted to continue with his education but because of his father getting sick and unable to support the family Efrain had no choice but to quit school and start working luckily he got a union job and with that he supported his family during those hard times. Efrain got married with its beautiful wife Norma in 2003 and has three sons: Efrain Jr. (17 years old), Eduardo (15 years old) and David (7 years old).

Efrain Aguilera is a Union Representative for UFCW Local 5, Agricultural Division. UFCW Local 5 members work primarily in retail grocery and meat and in department stores, retail drug stores, candy stores, jewelry stores, agriculture and food processing, wholesale meat, seafood processing, financial services, education and the cannabis industry among others.

Efrain got active in the labor movement in 1998 when he first started working at Fresh Express Salad Packing Facility in Salinas, California, where he worked as general labor. Because he had a union contract that allowed him to use his seniority to apply for better jobs, he went from general labor, packer, palletizer, forklift rotator to forklift loader. Efrain was elected Union Steward representing over 60 workers in the loading crew at Fresh Express Shipping Department as a Union Steward, he participated in several Collective Bargaining Negotiations between Fresh Express and UFCW 5. In 2003, his Union requested a leave of absences for Mr. Aguilera to conduct Union business for 24 months. Where he received training in Organizing workers under the Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB) and the National Labors Relations Board (NLRB). Efrain worked on different industries, organizing campaigns like dairies, grape & packing sheds workers in the Area of San Joaquin Valley.

In 2010 Efrain returned to the Salinas Valley and has been the Union Representative for workers at Fresh Express, Rate Aid Pharmacies, and other grocery stores like Safeway and Lucky/SaveMart. and currently continue helping on the Organizing Department focusing on organizing the Cannabis Industry within the UFCW Local 5's jurisdiction that extends from Crescent City on California's North Coast east to Vacaville and to King City at the foot of the Salinas Valley. In Agriculture the Union has California and Arizona as its jurisdiction.