Importance of VOTE-COPE

VOTE – stands for Voice Of Teachers in Education
COPE – stands for Committee On Political Education

What is VOTE-COPE?

- VOTE/COPE is the non-partisan political action arm of NYSUT
- VOTE/COPE monies support candidates of all parties
- Endorsements based on voting records on:
  - Education
  - Labor
  - Healthcare
  - Working family issues

How does NYSUT determine a candidate’s stand on other issues (i.e. gun control, death penalty)?

- It doesn’t. NYSUT respects the diversity of our membership and the wide spectrum of political views.
- NYSUT assumes that the vast majority of members support the NYSUT legislative program

Legislative Accomplishments

- Annual battle for better funding of public education & healthcare programs
- Year after year, restoration of education budget cuts proposed by the governor
- Every year, work to protect retiree health insurance benefits
- Fight to protect tenure rights
- Active participant in Campaign for Fiscal Equity
- Permanent annual COLA in TRS & ERS pensions
- Retirement incentives
- Pension enhancements for Tier 3 & 4, such as elimination of 3% contribution after 10 years
- Equity of 12 for 10 retirement credit for all SRPs
- Work for Medicare “reform” and protection from Social Security “quick-fix” schemes

Of all VOTE-COPE monies collected:

- 20% is rebated for local assistance programs
- 20% is rebated for local educational issue campaigns

*Last year we received 40% of our total contribution for local issues from VOTE/COPE. The money was spent on School Budget Campaigns, etc…

A VOTE-COPE contribution to fit all budgets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount per check</th>
<th>Yearly Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
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