

Importance of VOTE-COPE



A VOTE-COPE contribution to fit all budgets:	
<i>Amount per check</i>	<i>Yearly Contribution</i>
2.00	\$30.00
\$3.00	\$45.00
\$5.00	\$75.00

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...