

AFT POLICY IN CASES OF CONFLICTING LOCAL ENDORSEMENTS

WHEREAS, the AFT has a proud tradition of local autonomy, yet recognizes that trust and solidarity among locals strengthens the whole union; and

WHEREAS, many AFT locals play a vigorous role in electoral politics and make important endorsements of local candidates; and

WHEREAS, it is possible that different AFT locals within a single city, county or district may decide to endorse competing candidates in regional or local elections for political office:

RESOLVED, that in order to honor both AFT's defining commitment to local autonomy and the importance of solidarity among locals, AFT shall establish the following policy for instances in which AFT locals endorse different candidates in the same regional, county or citywide election. A corresponding policy is in place at NYSUT.

AFT POLICY IN CASES OF CONFLICTING LOCAL ENDORSEMENTS

In cases in which all of the following occur:

a competitive election for local government office is taking place;
there is more than one AFT local a substantial portion of whose membership resides in the locality and the employer of whose members receives significant funding from the local government or negotiates contracts with the local;
the AFT locals meeting the above criteria endorse different candidates for the same office,

AFT policy shall be:

1. Before AFT provides any resources and/or staff support for the local's efforts on behalf of an endorsed candidate:
 - a. AFT leadership will convene a meeting of representatives from each local to discuss the election and requests for AFT resources;
 - b. AFT leadership will provide an opportunity for each local to make a request for AFT resources;
 - c. AFT leadership will seek to reach agreements with the locals about a fair allocation of resources;
 - d. AFT leadership will fully disclose to each local any and all requests for resources made by the locals involved;
 - e. AFT leadership will fully disclose to each local the nature and value of any and all resources provided by AFT to each local.

AFT POLICY IN CASES OF CONFLICTING LOCAL ENDORSEMENTS

2. The membership lists of each local will not be shared with any other local unless permission is given, in writing, by the president of the local in question.
3. AFT leadership will remain neutral in the election unless there is a compelling reason to intervene and the AFT Executive Committee determines that neutrality in the local election would be detrimental to the membership of AFT as a whole.

Barbara Bowen

President

Christine DeSola

Secretary