

Building Our Union's Power, Building a Better Future

WHAT IS COPE?

COPE – our **Committee On Political Education** – is the political action committee for AFT Washington. COPE:

- provides information to assist our members in understanding and engaging with the political process,
- asks and learns about what values and issues our members want to see our union prioritize in the political arena,
- raises political money from our membership through voluntary contributions,
- decides which candidates and ballot measures deserve AFT Washington's endorsement and financial support.

AFT Washington's membership deserves effective representation in government. We need to elect candidates who will stand up for public education and economic issues of concern to our members and other working families.

COPE enables our union to engage the membership in both crafting our political agenda and in making meaningful financial contributions to support candidates who will champion our agenda.



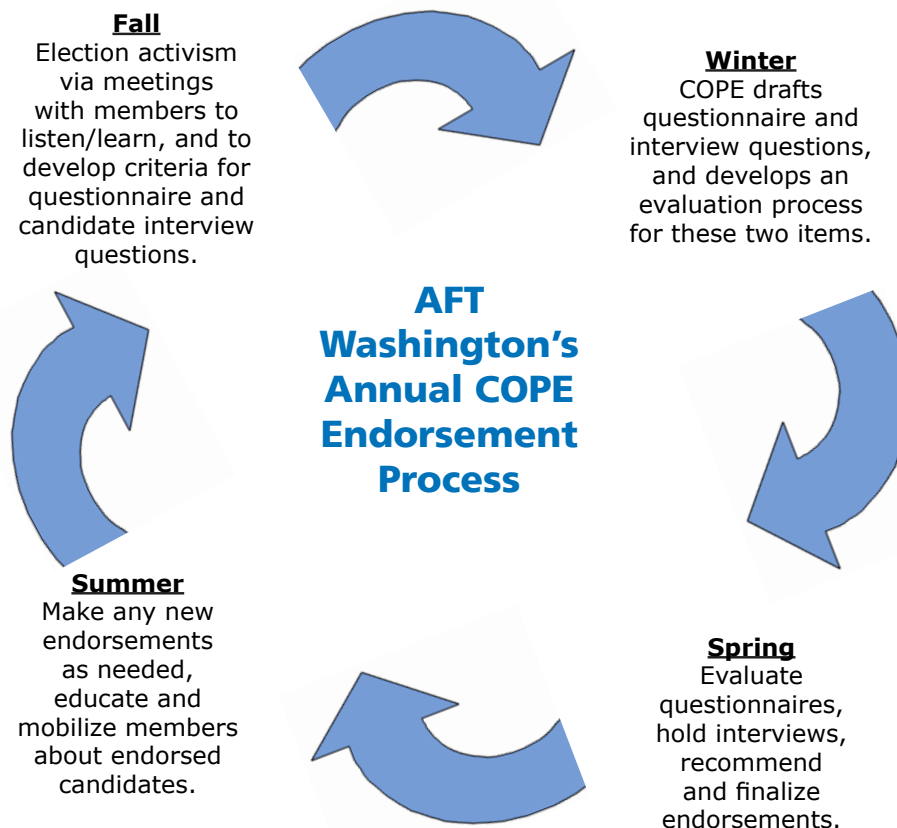
"COPE is one personal way that I can voice my opinion publicly and can do it legally. My paycheck is the direct way I can voice my point of view."

*Allen Stowers,
AFT Seattle #1789*

To make change for working families, labor unions have to be active in the realm of electoral politics. AFT Washington's COPE account is based only on voluntary member contributions. Our COPE account is only as plentiful and powerful as the amount of money that our members donate to it. For our union to play the strongest possible role in the political sphere, we're asking you to become a donor to COPE.

Please make a voluntary financial contribution to enhance our union's political power.

COPE is guided by an inclusive, member-based, democratic process. The chair of this committee is elected every two years at our Federation's convention, and the voting members of COPE are appointed by the AFT Washington president and approved by the AFT Washington Executive Board from among the member donors. As a donor to COPE, you have the opportunity to give meaningful input to our COPE decision-making process. AFT Washington's COPE meets approximately once every two months.



"The only way we are going to make changes is by working through legislation. COPE is a tool that we can use to help all of our members."

*Barbara Randall-Saleh,
Tacoma Federation of
ParaEducators #461*

Political contributions are not tax deductible.

Please become a regular monthly donor to AFT Washington COPE!

There are four EASY ways to become a COPE donor:

1. Payroll deduction every pay period; or
2. A one-time or monthly automatic contribution through PayPal by going to <http://wa.aft.org> and clicking on COPE; or
3. Annual donation via personal check; or
4. Monthly donation via checking account (ACH) withdrawal (will need a voided check from your checking account).

"As retirees, we still care deeply about education and about participating in the political process. COPE gives us an opportunity to join with our active colleagues to make a difference."



*K. Ann McCartney, Ph.D.
AFT Washington Retiree Chapter Local 8045R*

For more information about COPE, please contact our State Affiliate Political Organizer (SAPO) at 206-242-4777 ext. 8085 or aftwa@aftwa.org

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 A Union of Professionals
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