

# If you want more resources, strong collective bargaining, and effective, engaged politicians, you want to join COPE.

## What is COPE?

The Committee on Political Education, or COPE, is the political arm of AFT Washington. Through COPE, we work to support candidates and initiatives that support our members, collective bargaining, and our daily lives, regardless of party affiliation.

Not a single dollar of your dues goes to COPE. We depend on voluntary contributions to make our voices heard.

## You have a voice in how COPE

### funds are used

AFT Washington COPE is a statewide committee made up of contributing members that decide who we endorse and if contributions are made to campaigns.

COPE is guided by an inclusive, member-based democratic process. The committee chair is elected, and the voting members of COPE are appointed through their locals from among contributing members. Each local can appoint two members to COPE, and your voice matters, so talk with your local's board or council about representing your local.

## Why join?

- When legislators and candidates know we have a voice and are a united force, we have the power to:
- Influence candidates
- Advance our legislative agenda
- Support activist legislators
- Increase our political power

You and your fellow members not only deserve effective representation in government, but it is also a necessity. We need to elect candidates who will stand up for public education and economic issues of concern to our members and other working families.

## How to join

Our COPE fund is made up solely of voluntary member contributions and is only as powerful as the number of members contributing to it. To maintain a strong voice at the table, we're asking you to become a contributor to COPE.

Fill out the contributor form in this brochure, and submit it to your local leadership, or send it to AFT Washington's office to start contributing!

The address is:  
604 Oakesdale Avenue SW, Suite 103  
Renton, WA 98057

Want to do it electronically? Head to [wa.aft.org](http://wa.aft.org) for an online contribution form.

## Wins, wins, and more wins!

- ▶ Expanded collective bargaining laws allowing faculty to bargain for local dollars.
- ▶ Protected paraeducator employment by requiring employers to honor the experience of paraeducators.
- ▶ Creation of the Workforce Education Investment Account, an account solely meant for post-high-school education, through HB 2158.
- ▶ Fully funded I-732 COLAs.
- ▶ Funded paraeducator professional development.
- ▶ Gained tuition waivers for classified staff.
- ▶ Helped to pass the Democracy Package, which established:
- o The Washington Voting Rights Act
- o Automatic voter registration
- o Same-day voter registration
- o Postage-paid ballots
- o And More!



"In 2016, I decided it was time for me to become more engaged in meaningful political action, so I jumped at the opportunity to become involved with COPE. The ability of this committee to support candidates – and be supported by candidates – who appreciate the critical role of public education in our state and nation is truly powerful, and I've come to see COPE as a key element of AFT Washington. Our contributions have an impact. I believe we played a part in flipping Congress in 2018, and I'm excited to continue evaluating and supporting candidates who earn the trust of our union."

- Travis Margon, committee member, Yakima Valley College Local 1485

## AFT Washington COPE Contribution

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Home email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*We cannot use work email for political communications*

As a member, I want to voluntarily contribute to AFT Washington's **Committee on Political Education (COPE)** which allows me to have a voice in our political endorsement process to elect labor-friendly and public education champions.

I hereby authorize my employer, \_\_\_\_\_ [employer name], through its officers, agents, and employees, to deduct from that portion of my wages due me the amount indicated below and remit to the AFT Washington COPE, 604 Oakesdale Avenue SW, Suite 103, Renton, WA 98057, a contribution in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$2.50, \$5, \$10, etc.) per paycheck.

I want to make an ongoing **monthly or yearly** (circle one) contribution in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$5, \$10, \$20, \$60, \$100, etc.) from my checking account.

**Note:** In order for us to process your contribution by checking account withdrawal, please attach a check for bank verification. Mark "VOID" across the front of the check. We cannot use deposit slips because they do not have complete bank routing information. (Please see below on how to cancel your monthly/yearly automatic contribution.)

Enclosed is a **one-time** contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$60, \$75, \$100, etc.) payable to AFT Washington COPE.

Please contact me again in a year for another annual donation.

*This authorization shall become effective the date signed and shall remain in effect until written notification to cancel is provided to AFT Washington COPE, 604 Oakesdale Avenue SW, Suite 103, Renton, WA 98057. Contributions or gifts to AFT Washington COPE are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. No employer or union may discriminate against you for contributing or not contributing to a political committee or supporting or opposing a candidate, ballot measure, or political position or party. AFT Washington COPE, AFT Washington, and AFT will not give the financial information provided herein to any other organization for any purpose whatsoever. Contributions cannot be reimbursed by AFT Washington or otherwise paid by any other person or entity.*



*A Union of Professionals*

**AFT Washington**  
AFL-CIO

**Committee on  
Political  
Education  
(COPE)**

**The political muscle  
of your union**