

aft UNION SPOTLIGHT

AFT Washington, AFL-CIO

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October 2020



In September, AFT Seattle, Local 1789, staged a counter-convocation to highlight the many inequities of this moment.

Photo by Bob Downing

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Powerful Locals Goes Digital

By Cortney Marabetta, Communications Specialist

This year, Powerful Locals went online for the first time, to rousing success! We had over 75 attendees, representing more than 15 AFT Washington locals. Based on the feedback and the engagement with local leaders, we succeeded in our goal of energizing locals even more than this challenging year has done, and giving them tools to build and strengthen their locals. The fight isn't over, but energy is important in a long battle, and that is what Powerful Locals is about: creating the energy to keep the fight going.

The drawback to the virtual platform was obvious: the time to network was limited. Nonetheless, connections were made, and lots of ideas shared. For future events, we are considering ways to overcome the networking limitation of the virtual platform.

The overall goal of the program was to create the sense that our union isn't powerless against administrations, and that union power is built by planning for the future. The question to be asked is always "What is the next step? What is in

the next contract? Who is the next new member?" Every contract you ratify, every member we sign up, every grievance we pursue grows the strength of the union, and that strength is reflected at the next contract and the next new member and the next victory.

Powerful Locals is more than a conference, as well. The Powerful Locals Assessment Tool is a tool locals can use to determine their level of power and understand which steps are most crucial to take. In the face of the pandemic, it is critical that locals maximize their own power.

We are considering ways to offer more Powerful Locals skill building sessions outside of the traditional summer program! If you have ideas for what you or your local would benefit from, or if you're interested in learning more about the Powerful Locals assessment tool, contact your local leaders – they can get you started on that. This is a challenging time, and a good way through it is to harness the power of #UnionStrong.

Doing The Important Work on Human Rights

By Tracy Lai, Vice President For Human Rights

Our Human Rights Committee has been actively engaging our AFT Washington membership this year in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts. We have had two Zoom events to highlight the need for more DEI focus as individuals, which can translate to local action. The first event was a session with State Senator Joe Nguyen on the racism experienced by Asian and Pacific Islanders, the impact of electing BIPOC folks to the legislature, and the effects of bias and racism in our Community Colleges on May 6.

Additionally, on June 23, we held a Listening Session: AFT Washington Confronting Racism, which has led,

among other outcomes, to efforts to establish a white accountability group, and an examination of ways to keep the work of becoming anti-racist going. Our next listening session, a follow-up to the June event, will take place on October 20th – watch for more information coming soon. As well, our Chairperson Tracy Lai, and other members of the Human Rights Committee were integral to the DEI plenary session at the Powerful Locals training on August 6, which was well-received by attendees.

There is work on the topic of human rights still to be done. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Ray Carrillo at rcarrillo@aftwa.org.

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Board meetings are usually held on the first Saturday of the month except for holidays and summer months. Board members are elected to two-year terms. AFT Washington represents over 6,500 members and prospective members in early childhood education, K-12, and higher education in Washington State and is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, which represents 1.7 million members nationwide.

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Karen Strickland

President's Column

We are Stronger Together

it's pretty straightforward - but it does require planning, member involvement, communications, and outreach ... all the elements of a powerful local. This work is amplified when we engage other unions, community allies and elected officials, and that takes power and organization in our locals.

One of our newer community allies is the Communities for Our Colleges Coalition (C4C), which began to form just before the pandemic required a shutdown in March. In spite of the barrier posed by not being able to meet in person, Fernando Mejia-Ledesma, Project Director, has successfully launched the coalition with students from numerous colleges and community organizations from around the state and AFT Washington representatives. The goal of the coalition is investment in the CTCs, especially in support of equity and racial justice. The coalition has had numerous meetings with legislators and the governor's staff, and has hosted several webinars, one with Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal. You can see the principles of the coalition at @OurCollegesWa. We're working closely with C4C to coordinate our legislative agendas and advocacy for the session convening in January. We amplify their work, they amplify ours, and the legislature hears a louder cry for anti-austerity efforts and racial equity.

The next logical point on this story of Union power is the role of elections. C4C, our staff and our members have met with numerous legislators in recent months urging them to *fund our future* and *invest in public education*. This is where our endorsements enter the picture. We endorse candidates who care about our members' needs, our communities and the public good. These candidates need your support! You can show that support with your vote, of

course, but you can also contribute by volunteering for a FunBank (a virtual phone bank, but even more **fun** than usual!) and making calls to other union members to make sure they vote for our endorsed candidates.

On that note, this would be an incomplete column if I did not acknowledge the presidential election. The damage wreaked by Donald Trump due to his failure to effectively manage the pandemic, his attacks on immigrants and BIPOC communities, his enrichment of the obscenely wealthy through tax breaks and pandemic "relief," his unending onslaught of lies and his fomenting of violence is expansive, threatening our democracy and creating fear and instability. The repair will take a long time. That repair will only begin if **Joe Biden and Kamala Harris** are elected to replace him. Voters in battleground states need to hear from union members, so we need to **SHOW UP** and make calls in support! Please contact us at aftwashington@aftwa.org to sign up now!

And finally: we are unlikely to know who the next president will be on November 3rd. We can expect all forms of protest and legal delays. I am working with our staff and other labor leaders to prepare for the uncertainty during this time frame; we will provide needed information, resources and opportunities to make your voice heard as safely as possible. If you do not receive e-newsletters from us, please send your personal email address to Cortney Marabetta at cmarabetta@aftwa.org so we can keep you in the loop.

All my best to you and your families during these uncertain times. Always remember, we are *Stronger Together* and *When we Fight, We Win!* A better world truly is possible, but only if we demand it!

In our May edition of the Spotlight I referenced the phrase "A better world is possible." I still think that's true, even though, we are facing crisis after crisis after crisis. From the rash of threatening tropical storms in the south, to the smoky forest fires in the west, to the reality TV star in the White House who is threatening democracy itself, and to the party overtly and habitually obstructing justice, we are in crisis. We the people are under attack as never before.

But humans are a tenacious bunch and we are also witnessing real progress around racial justice in the ongoing Black Lives Matter demands for policy change, the need for systemic change amplified for the public conscience by ongoing protest. The work to achieve Healthcare for All and a Green New Deal is less visible, but advocates are doing the behind-the-scenes work that translates vision to policy, and AFT Washington's members are part of that work.

Closer to home, we are seeing the power of collective action and solidarity as our local leaders raise expectations and then engage the membership to contribute to the effort to achieve them. You've seen many of those stories in previous *Spotlights* and e-newsletters, and they're still happening. I just learned that our Head Start members moved the boss from 2% raises to 4.5% after the boss insisted they didn't have the money. The recipe for success isn't rocket science -

The 2020 Election Is Critical

By Travis Margoni, Vice President for COPE

Like so many AFT Washington members, I've never been more determined about an election than I am right now. You've heard time and time again how the stakes couldn't be higher, and you know how important it is to get out the vote. But, as your new VP for the Committee on Political Education (COPE), I'd like to highlight a race that may be closer than people realize, in addition to a couple of key campaigns across the state.

First, for those who don't know, COPE is AFT Washington's statewide political action committee (PAC). AFT Washington's COPE fund consists of voluntary contributions from members around the state. While we may not have the deep pockets of PACs funded by billionaire donors, when we pool small contributions from our union members it can really add up. In our COPE committee, we evaluate candidates for political office for endorsement and financial support. Together, through COPE and the COPE committee, we're able to amplify our values and help ensure that elected officials prioritize our communities and their educational needs. We aim to hold elected officials accountable when they receive the support of our union.

This process isn't new to me, as I became a COPE contributor and member nearly four years ago after my first year as a faculty member in the Yakima Valley College English department. The sense of urgency we feel, however – amid a pandemic, racist policies and rhetoric from the Executive and

Judicial branches, and a worsening climate crisis – has COPE members motivated to elect as many progressives as possible in November.

These candidates need your support. Here are a few of the races we are tracking closely this fall:

Perhaps no single elected position in Washington, outside Governor, has as much influence over education in the state than the Superintendent for Public Instruction (OSPI), a position currently held by Chris Reykdal. We believe it's critical that Reykdal be reelected. Reykdal has worked with labor during his time in office and has been an ally recently when it came to protecting union jobs such as transportation and nutrition workers. Reykdal's opponent is running a campaign that aims to support privatization of public education, and the candidate is in opposition of Referendum 90, a key ballot item that we believe must be passed in order to ensure all Washington students receive accurate, age-appropriate and science-based sex education.

In the 5th LD, we are supporting Ingrid Anderson in her bid for the state Senate against incumbent Mark Mullet. Anderson is a practicing psychiatric nurse and member-activist in her union, the Washington State Nurses Association. She brings strong labor bona fides, a willingness to confront corporate power, and leadership that make us think she'll be a strong ally and representative of her district (the 5th Legislative District is in the Snoqualmie area including North Bend). Importantly,

Mullet has been a bad vote on issues important to our members, including addressing our state's regressive taxation system. It's time for change and Anderson has a lot of momentum going into the fall.

Speaking of union members, we endorsed Senator Marko Liias in his campaign for Lieutenant Governor. Senator Liias has represented the 21st district (which includes areas of Edmonds, Everett, Lynnwood, and Mukilteo) since 2008, and has been a leader on LGBTQ issues and higher ed. He is also an adjunct professor at Everett Community College and a proud AFT member!

These are just a few of the progressive candidates whose values align with public educators across Washington. To date, AFT Washington has endorsed 98 candidates statewide. If you're reading this, I have no doubt you are already working to support the candidates best suited to represent your communities. But there's always more to do and, as I've stated here, the stakes are very high for us going into 2021. Below you'll find the full list of candidates endorsed by AFT Washington. Help get out the vote across the state, volunteer with campaigns, and if you're not already a COPE contributor, consider donating monthly to help strengthen our collective voice and help grow union power in our state. You can become a contributor by contact AFT Washington at aftwashington@aftwa.org – we'll get you signed up!

Election Information and Endorsements

By AFT Washington staff

Endorsements

Candidates endorsed by AFT Washington have been vetted through our member-driven Committee on Political Education (COPE) and endorsed by our executive board. We do this by sending out questionnaires that cover issues that matter to our members, and the responses and voting records of candidates are taken into account.

Important Election Dates

ELECTION DAY

October 26, 2020 (Monday)

- The deadline to register online to vote
- Mailed registrations must be received

November 3, 2020 (Tuesday)

- Ballots must be postmarked or in a MY VOTE! Drop box on or before 8 PM that day

November 3, 2020 (Tuesday)

- You can register to vote in person up to this date
- For in-person voting locations, check the Secretary of State's website.

Senate

- LD 1: Derek Stanford*
- LD 3: Andy Billig*
- LD 5: Ingrid Anderson
- LD 10: Helen Price Johnson
- LD 11: Bob Hasegawa*
- LD 16: Danielle Garbe Reser
- LD 19: Dean Takko*
- LD 22: Sam Hunt*
- LD 23: Christine Rolfes*
- LD 24: Kevin Van De Wege*
- LD 25: Julie Door
- LD 27: Jeannie Darneille*
- LD 28: T'wina Nobles
- LD 38: June Robinson*
- LD 40: Liz Lovelett*
- LD 41: Lisa Wellman*
- LD 49: Annette Cleveland

House

- LD 1: Davina Duerr*
- LD 1: Shelley Kloba*
- LD 2: Veronica Witcher
- LD 3: Timm Ormsby*
- LD 3: Marcus Riccelli*
- LD 4: Lori Feagan
- LD 5: Bill Ramos*
- LD 5: Lisa Callan*
- LD 6: Zack Zappone
- LD 10: Dave Paul*
- LD 10: Angie Homola
- LD 10: Beth Doglio
- LD 11: Steve Bergquist*
- LD 11: Zack Hudgins*
- LD 12: Adrienne Moore
- LD 16: Frances Chvatel
- LD 17: Tanisha Harris
- LD 17: Daniel Smith
- LD 19: Brian Blake*
- LD 21: Strom Peterson*
- LD 21: Lillian Ortiz-Self*
- LD 22: Laurie Dolan*
- LD 22: Jessica Bateman
- LD 23: Tarra Simmons
- LD 23: Drew Hansen*
- LD 24: Steve Tharinger*
- LD 25: Jamie Smith
- LD 25: Brian Duthie
- LD 26: Joy Stanford
- LD 27: Laurie Jinkins*
- LD 27: Jake Fey*
- LD 28: Mari Leavitt*
- LD 28: Dan Bronoski
- LD 29: Melanie Morgan*
- LD 29: Steve Kirby*
- LD 30: Jamila Taylor
- LD 30: Jesse Johnson*
- LD 31: Katie Young
- LD 32: Cindy Ryu*
- LD 32: Lauren Davis*
- LD 33: Tina Orwall*
- LD 33: Mia Gregerson*
- LD 34: Eileen Cody*
- LD 34: Joe Fitzgibbon*
- LD 35: Colton Myers
- LD 36: Liz Berry
- LD 36: Sarah Reyneveld
- LD 36: Noel Frame*
- LD 37: Sharon Tomiko Santos*
- LD 37: Kirsten Harris-Talley
- LD 38: Emily Wicks*
- LD 38: Mike Sells*
- LD 40: Debra Lekanoff*
- LD 40: Alex Ramel*
- LD 41: My-Linh Thai*
- LD 41: Tana Senn*
- LD 42: Alicia Rule
- LD 43: Frank Chopp*
- LD 43: Nicole Macri*
- LD 44: John Lovick*
- LD 44: April Berg
- LD 45: Roger Goodman*
- LD 45: Larry Springer*
- LD 46: Gerry Pollet*
- LD 46: Javier Valdez*
- LD 47: Debra Entenman*
- LD 48: Vandana Slatter*
- LD 48: Amy Walen*
- LD 49: Sharon Wylie*
- LD 49: Monica Stonier*

(*denotes incumbent)

(Continued on pg. 7)

In the Pandemic, Anti-Austerity Efforts Are Critical

By Cortney Marabetta, Communications Specialist

If history repeats itself, the depression caused by the pandemic will drive people back into school for retraining courses and enrollment will skyrocket as people search for employable skills in a vastly shrunken job market. Since worker retraining is a key component of Washington state's unemployment compensation package, it is entirely reasonable to expect that this will happen. It happened in 2008, with unemployed workers opting for worker retraining to give them a better chance at the jobs that were available. The underfunded community and technical college rose to the challenge of meeting the needs of students and communities. But there were harmful side effects, such as increased tuition, increased workloads, and wage stagnation, and students and their communities lost out to the effects of austerity budgeting on that system. This is not a mistake we can make again. Economic recovery will require an all-hands-on-deck approach to giving people the skills and experience they need for jobs. We need investment, not austerity.

A starved system cannot educate anyone. In 2008, data indicates non-retraining students, often first-time students of color just out of high school, lost access to higher education as enrollments were filled with the retraining workers. Tuition increases also locked out students for whom community college is the accessible choice. Budget adjustments meant that desired programs were cut or consolidated, eliminating faculty and students at the same time. Essentially, the effect of the austerity budget of 2008 was to cut off higher education for the poorest, most diverse, and youngest sector of our state's population, and they are still paying the price in terms of delays and roadblocks to steady work and a middle-

class lifestyle. We have seen the effect of austerity on a generation, and we are facing the possibility of austerity again.

The fact that the legislature is not yet talking seriously about cuts and austerity is good. However, a number of school districts and colleges are taking an austerity approach that goes beyond the guidelines issued by the state thus far. Faculty and staff positions have gone unrenewed, tenured faculty are facing layoffs and furloughs, classified staff have received layoffs, reductions in hours, and furloughs, and programs are threatened with closure. Tuition was raised in 2019, and it remains to be seen whether it will be raised again in the next legislative session. None of these choices are to the benefit of students, or to the benefit of faculty, pro staff, or classified staff either. Austerity is just a way of shifting the financial burden from the state to the workers and students.

Instead of austerity, we must seek investment in our schools, our students, and – critically – our members. AFT Washington represents members at all levels and job classifications of the education system. From the underpaid Head Start employees who work in the chronically underfunded early childhood education sector, to the underpaid para-educators whose salaries are exacerbated by their part-time hours, to the classified staff whose jobs are much more difficult remotely, to the adjuncts who lack job security (and are underpaid), all the way to the tenured instructors who are now supposed to figure out how a furlough works when the course-load is the same, and not forgetting anyone not named here, we are a union of all of these people. Austerity will hurt us all. It will impact us again – more wage freezes, more hiring freezes, more layoffs – and, importantly, it will not help the state recover.

Investing in educators is a part of the solution to our current economic crisis. It goes beyond not making cuts and not favoring an austerity budget. It goes to investing in students, with money investments in programs and staff, with not raising tuition, and with investing in educators. If we figure out new ways for workers to do work, those workers are available when we need them for their old jobs. When adjuncts are retained in programs not seen as “high demand”, we increase our schools' capacity to teach in the face of the deluge that's coming. When we demand inventive solutions from administrations, we keep people employed, insured, as safe as we can make them in the face of insecurity.

Difficult challenges demand extraordinary responses. The legislative session has not started yet. More challenges will undoubtedly occur before we get there. But we must be prepared to fight against austerity every step of the way. Whether it's advocating with friends and family for the passage of the HEROES Act or planning now to talk to your legislator at a town hall or at Lobby Day or any other time you can, or simply pushing back against administration demands, it is critical that we advocate for investment.

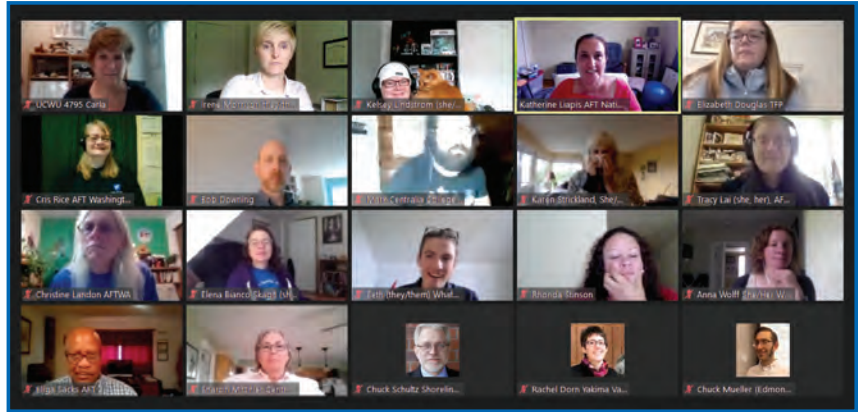
Everywhere that governments try austerity, it fails. It's not usually spectacular failure, but cutting students out of public education because we reduce capacity and accessibility is still failure. We must fight against it. We must demand better than we've had in the past. We must demand that education be taken seriously at all levels, as a valuable and crucial part of the economic engine. The state will not recover without education. We need investment, not austerity: the call to action is that simple. Fight for investment, fight for us.

Still Working Hard

By AFT Washington members and staff



Seattle Central faculty march after their teach-in in September (Above)



Zoom couldn't stop Powerful Locals (Above)

On September 2nd, we Demanded Safe Schools (right)



Even in the pandemic, AFT Washington members and staff are still working hard at amplifying our voices! We have photos from a selection of socially-distant events, and we're looking forward to getting even more – if you have any from your local that you'd like to share, please send them to Cortney Marabetta, at cmarabetta@aftwa.org.

Seattle Woodworking Faculty Receives Educator of the Year Award

By Cortney Marabetta, Communications Specialist



Jeffrey Wasserman

In April, the Woodworking Machinery Industry Association announced that Jeffrey Wasserman, an instructor at Seattle Central College's Wood Technology

Center, would receive the 2020 Educator of the Year Wooden Globe Award, which is given in recognition of the recipient's contribution to training individuals for careers in the wood-working industry.

Wasserman, who retired this year, was an instructor from 2003, with a focus in his classes on the intersection of design and craft, which is particularly crucial in creating attractive, functional physical objects. He emphasized those skills for his students, who participated in several national student design competitions and were very successful in them. He also participated in education panels to shape the narratives around modern industrial training, and was an activist member of his local, with a seat on the Faculty Senate at Central, among other contributions to the union and the school.

Election Information

(from pg. 4)

Statewide

- Governor: Jay Inslee
- Lt. Governor: Marko Liias
- Secretary of State: Gael Tarleton
- OSPI: Chris Reykdal

Congressional

- CD 1: Suzan DelBene*
- CD 3: Carolyn Long
- CD 6: Derek Kilmer*
- CD 7: Pramila Jayapal*
- CD 8: Kim Schrier*
- CD 9: Adam Smith*
- CD 10: Beth Doglio

Referenda

- Referendum 90, Sex Education in Public Schools: vote yes to affirm legislation requiring comprehensive sexual health education for students.

(*denotes incumbent)



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Welcome Rashea Dickey



Rashea Dickey

Rashea Dickey started her role as AFT Washington's State Affiliate Political Organizer this October! She has been a 6-year Banquet Server, represented by Unite Here Local 8, hospitality workers'

union of the Northwest. Rashea most recently worked at the Economic Opportunity Institute, advocating for

policy that supports child care workers. She also worked at the Washington State Labor Council, as a Union Summer Intern and Coordinator, as well as their Political Intern during the Washington Fairness Approve I-1000 campaign. She graduated from the University of Washington Seattle in 2018 with a B.A. in American Ethnic Studies. Rashea is deeply committed to racial and economic justice as a BIPOC woman, and believes that racial and economic justice must coexist!

The 2020-2021 AFT Washington Scholarship is Still Fundraising

Not even a pandemic can stop the scholarship, but it still needs funds. If you or your local is interested in donating, contact AFT Washington at aftwashington@aftwa.org to find out how to donate.



If you'd like to go green and get *Union Spotlight* electronically, please contact Christine Landon, 206-432-8075 or clandon@aftwa.org.



2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IMPACTS

Now that my worst fear has been confirmed in a way I didn't even imagine (see my article in the last Spotlight), we are in for a long period of pro-conservative rulings from the Supreme Court. As I predicted, Justice Roberts has been a swing vote on several controversial issues. Once Judge Barrett is confirmed, replacing Justice Ginsberg, the possibility of future swing vote coalitions will be negated.

The confirmation will create a conservative super majority on the court and spell an end to any chance of liberal issue victories in cases heard by the court for many years into the future. Even pro-liberal laws/programs enacted in progressive states could be challenged and overturned by such a court. Worse than that, pro-liberal victories like a woman's right of choice in every aspect of her life and recognition of same sex marriage will be overturned.

In addition to the potential impact on the Supreme Court, the election results will also impact the first level appeals courts in the Federal Judicial System. The system consists of 13 regions called Circuits that contain a number of trial-level courts called District Courts and a number of Courts of Appeal called Circuit Courts. Circuit Courts are responsible for reviewing appeals of decisions from trial-level courts. Circuit Courts are considered to be possibly the most influential component in the Federal System since they might decide as many as 35,000 cases a year. In the last 13 years, the Supreme Court has heard an average of 77 cases per year, but each year the Supreme Court receives requests for review of Circuit and State Court decisions. Those cases the Supreme Court refuses to hear stand with no further review. The Supreme Court serves as the final arbiter for about 77 cases a year. Circuit Courts serve as the final arbiter for upwards of 30,000 cases in that same year. Supreme Court justice Elena Kagan has said she believes the Circuit Courts are the most influential mechanism for setting policy.

Judges for Circuit Courts are nominated and confirmed using the same processes used for Supreme Court Justices and they also have lifetime tenures. Presidents routinely have double-digit opportunities to nominate judges for Circuit Courts. Each of the last three presidents has averaged placing 57 judges which represents almost one-third of all the judges in the system during their term. Such a large influx of judges changes the conservative/liberal ideology of the entire system to be in sync with that President's ideology.

The confirmation process for Circuit Court vacancies occurs with little or no media coverage. Cases heard by the Supreme Court receive extensive media review while cases heard by Circuit Courts occur with little or no media coverage. Circuit Court decisions occur with little or no opportunity for public knowledge, discussion, or input.

A reelected President Trump will fill Circuit Court vacancies with conservative judges increasing the conservative ideology. His policy of nominating younger judges will leave a long-term legacy which will assure this conservative ideology in the Supreme and Circuit Court systems for many years into the future.

A President-elect Biden will fill Circuit Court vacancies with liberal judges increasing the liberal ideology, enhancing the possibility of requiring appeals to the Supreme Court where media coverage would encourage public knowledge, discussion, and input. If Candidate Biden has the opportunity to nominate a replacement for one of the conservative Supreme Court justices, that would change the Court's ideology from (6 to 3) conservative back to (5 to 4) conservative restoring the possibility of swing vote collations.

Washington is in the 9th Circuit which is the largest Circuit geographically and has the most judges, 29.

The current 9th Circuit judges have been nominated by 3 Presidents.

President	Number of appointees	Percent of Circuit total
Clinton	9	31%
Bush	3	10%
Obama	7	24%
Trump	10	35%

The current 9th Circuit consists of 16 liberal judges and 13 conservative judges (55% to 45%). No one can predict which judges would be replaced but it's not unreasonable to assume that a large percentage of the replacements will be of the judges with the most seniority. Each replacement of a judge with one of the opposite ideology changes the conservative/liberal ideology of the Circuit by 3.4%.

(Continued on back)

Join the Retiree Chapter!

When educators retire, we don't stop being educators. After working for years to make our workplaces better, the bonds with our brothers and sisters are strong. We know the power of we, not me. Many of AFT Washington's retirees remain affiliated with their local, but there's another option – the AFT Washington Retiree Chapter Local 8045R.

If you are considering retirement or are already retired, you are eligible to join the Retiree Chapter. Joining the chapter gives you access to AFT's Retiree Benefits program, and a way to stay active and engaged with your union!

How to Join

Once you retire, your membership is not automatically transferred to the Retiree Chapter. It remains with your local until you request that it be changed. You can fill out the membership form located at wa.aft.org/retirees and turn it in.

Via USPS: AFT Washington, 604 Oakesdale Avenue SW, Suite 103, Renton, WA 98057

Via email: to aftwashington@aftwa.org

There are no dues for retiree membership.

Keep In Touch

AFT Washington is still in the process of updating its database to a system called Connect, and it's a great time to update your information! Please contact Christine Landon (clandon@aftwa.org or 206-432-8075) to start the process.

Want to stay in touch with the Retiree Chapter? Contact Cortney Marabetta (cmarabetta@aftwa.org or 206-432-8084) to get on our list.

From AFT: Complete the Census

The AFT designated April 20th as Retiree Day of Action, to encourage retirees to complete the 2020 census. The Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years. Responding to the 2020 census is easy, safe, and important, and it is key to shaping the future of our communities. We're asking our retirees to stand together with us today by sharing your census stories with each other and with us. Help us spread the word by sharing with your members and followers!

2020 Election Impacts

(from front)

If President Trump is reelected and has the opportunities to fill vacancies for all of President Clinton's 9 judges, the 9th Circuit split would be 7 liberal to 22 conservative judges (76% to 24%) or 3 to 1 conservative.

If Candidate Biden is elected, and has the opportunity to replace President Bush's 3 appointees, the 9th Circuit split would be 19 liberal to 10 conservative judges (66% to 34%) or almost 2 to 1 liberal.

The elected president will have an even larger impact on the other 12 Circuits. The other Circuits have an average of only 12 judges. The replacement of one justice with one of the opposite ideology changes the average Circuit ideology by 8.3%, two and half times greater than the 3.4% impact on the 9th Circuit.

Since presidents routinely have the opportunity to replace one-third of all the judges in the Circuit Court System, that system's conservative/liberal ideology will be significantly changed. Specifically, the 9th Circuit's present slightly liberal advantage could change to a 3 to 1 conservative advantage, or to a 2 to 1 liberal advantage.

In conclusion, it is imperative for Joe Biden to win the 2020 election.

