

VOTE-COPE VICTORIES

Because of NYSUT members' voluntary contributions to VOTE-COPE, these are just a few of the victories we've been able to achieve in the past couple years:



MAJOR FUNDING WINS

UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS



- Expanded to ALL 2.7 million NY students in participating schools
- Saves families an estimated \$165/month per child
- Means no child has to come to class hungry



BOCES & CTE FUNDING

- Increased the BOCES instructor salary cap
- Increases in Special Services Aid
- 9th grade now included in Special Services Aid

FOUNDATION AID INCREASED



43% increase in Foundation Aid over the past 5 years thanks to NYSUT advocacy.

INCREASES IN HIGHER EDUCATION OPERATING FUNDS

\$115.1 Million SUNY	\$147.5 Million CUNY	\$21.3 Million COMMUNITY COLLEGES
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SAVED SUNY DOWNSTATE

SUNY & CUNY RECONNECT



- Free community college for adults 25-55 in high-demand fields
- Covers tuition, fees, books and supplies

HISTORIC POLICY VICTORIES



BELL-TO-BELL CELLPHONE RESTRICTIONS

New York became the largest state to enact a statewide bell-to-bell cellphone restrictions policy

FIRST-IN-THE-NATION SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY LAWS



- SAFE for Kids Act
- Child Data Protection Act
- Social media warning labels law

AI OVERSIGHT



- Ensures human oversight of AI is required in public services
- Only state in the nation to introduce groundbreaking labor protections against AI threats



FIXES TO TIER 6

Lowered final average salary calculation from 5 to 3 years. Means bigger pension checks for life.

EXTREME HEAT LAW

First law in NYS establishing maximum temperatures in schools



WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT

Expanded to include schools



PASSAGE OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

by New York voters.



TOILETING & DIAPERING REGULATIONS

Set uniform standards statewide



FIXED APPR

- Ended test-and-punish teacher evaluations
- Returned evaluations to local control
- No longer required to use student test scores

WHAT WE'RE STILL WORKING ON

Because of VOTE-COPE, we get to fight for the things that matter to our students, educators and communities. We're continuing to fight for meaningful Tier 6 pension reforms and stronger investments in our public schools and colleges, and to defend public education against privatization efforts.

VICTORIES IN SCHOOL BUDGET & BOARD RACES

97%
of school budgets
PASSED

84%
of pro-public
school candidates
WON

73
NYSUT MEMBERS
ELECTED



Learn more and support at VOTE-COPE.org



Count me in!

I want to support educators, help our students, protect our rights, advance democracy and unite our nation — all through my voluntary contribution to VOTE-COPE.

There's no easier way to support VOTE-COPE.

Direct Contribution Card

Email: _____

Home phone number: (____) _____ - _____

*Mobile phone number: (____) _____ - _____

**By providing my mobile phone number I am expressly consenting to receive autodialed and/or prerecorded calls and/or text messages from, or on behalf of, AFT, NEA, NYSUT, AFL-CIO and/or the local union at the wireless number provided. The scope of this consent relates to any purpose for which any of the above entities may call.*

Contribution Amount: \$ _____

Check enclosed # _____

(Please make check payable to VOTE-COPE.)

Credit card option:

Please visit nysut.org/votecope to make a secure one-time contribution online.

It is important that we receive the original form so we can accurately credit your contribution.

Pension Deduction Authorization Card

Please read and sign the reverse side.

Please return this form to:

VOTE-COPE

P.O. Box 295

Canajoharie, NY 13317-0295

I belong to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS)

I belong to the New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS)

I hereby request monthly withholding of union deductions from my monthly benefit as permitted by Section 536 of the Education Law and Section 110-b of the Retirement and Social Security Law. NYSTRS or NYSERS is authorized to continue taking such deduction until NYSUT receives written notice from me to the contrary. I understand that NYSUT VOTE-COPE is my agent and all requests to begin, modify or revoke deductions must be submitted through NYSUT VOTE-COPE.

Please provide your email address: _____



Dear NYSUT Member,

We're writing to you today to ask you to join us and thousands of our union sisters and brothers statewide in participating in NYSUT's political action fund VOTE-COPE.

A contribution to VOTE-COPE is one of the best investments you can make in keeping our public education system strong — and it is needed now more than ever.

Please contribute what you can to help us fight for priorities in this legislative session, such as: funding for public schools, colleges and hospitals; safe schools for all; tier equity; workplace rights; retirement security and so much more.

Any donation amount is appreciated, and with your support, it will help us advance NYSUT's efforts to advocate on behalf of all of our members.

Our public schools are what unites us. Please give to VOTE-COPE today.

The NYSUT Officers



It is important that we receive the original form so we can accurately credit your contribution.

Please keep a copy for your records.

VOTE-COPE is the New York State United Teachers' political action fund.

Contributions or gifts to VOTE-COPE are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

To contribute through pension deduction, please complete the bottom section.

If you wish to make a direct contribution by check, please use this middle section.

Return the form to your local VOTE-COPE volunteer:

If you prefer, or if there is no name and address listed above, you may mail your form directly to:

**VOTE-COPE
P.O. Box 295
Canajoharie, NY 13317-0295**



Pension Deduction Authorization Card

The undersigned authorizes the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS) or the New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS) to deduct from each of my regular defined-benefit pension payments the sum of \$10, \$5 or Other \$___ (per month) and to forward that amount to VOTE-COPE, c/o NYSUT, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110. I understand that this monthly amount will continue to be deducted until revoked by me in writing.

Such guidelines are merely suggestions. NYSUT members are free to contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest, and NYSUT will not disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount of their contribution or decision not to contribute. Contributing to VOTE-COPE is voluntary, and NYSUT members may refuse to contribute to VOTE-COPE without reprisal. Contributing to VOTE-COPE is not a condition of membership in any labor organization. VOTE-COPE may use the money it receives to make political contributions and expenditures in connection with federal, state and local elections.

I expressly acknowledge and understand that the deduction, as specified above, be withheld monthly and that NYSUT will transmit this authorization to the appropriate retirement system. I hereby certify to NYSTRS and NYSERS that I am a member of NYSUT, an employee organization entitled to receive union deduction payments as provided by law.

Name _____ Pension # _____

Phone # _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Local from which you retired _____

nysut.org/votecope

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