VOTE-COPE

The Acronym

VOTE – stands for Voice Of Teachers in Education
(The old political action arm of NEA)
COPE – stands for Committee On Political Education
(The political action arm of AFT)

What is VOTE-COPE?

- VOTE/COPE is the non-partisan political action arm of NYSUT
- VOTE/COPE monies support candidates of all parties
- Endorsements based on voting records on:
  - Education
  - Labor
  - Healthcare
  - Working family issues

How does NYSUT determine a candidate’s stand on other issues (i.e. gun control, death penalty)?

- It doesn’t. NYSUT respects the diversity of our membership and the wide spectrum of political views.

Legislative Accomplishments

- Annual battle for better funding of public education & healthcare programs
- Year after year, restoration of education budget cuts proposed by the governor
- Every year, work to protect retiree health insurance benefits
- Fight to protect tenure rights
- Active participant in Campaign for Fiscal Equity
- Permanent annual COLA in TRS & ERS pensions
- Retirement incentives

Of all VOTE/COPE monies collected:

- 20% is rebated for local assistance programs
- 20% is rebated for local educational issue campaigns

*A last year PRTA received $3,000 for local issues from VOTE/COPE. The money was spent on School Budget Campaigns, Déjà Vu etc…

http://nysut.org/pearlriver/votecope.htm