



The Republican in the race, Rob Astorino, is not someone who union teachers can support. While he is with us in opposition to the Common Core State Standards, he is also for the expansion of private schools and public vouchers that could be used by parents to send their children to private schools. He supports the Cuomo property tax cap. Nothing in his record indicated that he would support increased state aid to our public schools.

Hawkins is surely a long shot to be our next governor, but he is giving voice to issues that are important to us as union members working in public schools. For too long we have supported people who have taken us for granted. The PCT Executive Board believes it is time to support people who take clear, progressive stands on the issues and who unequivocally support working people, candidates who are not beholden to the one percent.

### NYSUT ENDORSED CANDIDATES

While NYSUT has not endorsed a candidate in the race for governor, they have made endorsements in other congressional and state races. The PCT supports NYSUT's positions. They are as follows:

Comptroller	D/WF/I	DiNapoli
Attorney General	D/WF/I	Schneiderman
CD1	DWF	Bishop
CD2		No Endorsement
CD3	D/WF	Israel
CD4	D/WF	Rice
CD5	D	Meeks
Senate District 1	R/C/I	LaValle
Senate District 2		No Endorsement
Senate District 3	D/W	Esposito
Senate District 4		No Endorsement
Senate District 5	R/C/I	Marcellino
Senate District 6		No Endorsement
Senate District 7		No Endorsement
Senate District 8	D/W	Denenberg
Senate District 9		No Endorsement
AD1	D/W/I	Thiele
AD2	R/C	Palumbo
AD3	D/W/I	Hennessey
AD4		No Endorsement
AD5	R/C/I	Graf
AD6	D/W/I	Ramos
AD7	R/C/I	Garbarino
AD8	D/W	Zove
AD9	R/C/I	Saladino
AD10	R/C/I	Lupinacci
AD11	D/I	Jean-Pierre
AD12	R/C/I	Raia
AD13	D	Lavine
AD14	R/C/I	McDonough
AD15	R/C/I	Montesano
AD16	D/W/I	Schimel
AD17	R/C/I	McKevitt

AD18		No Endorsement
AD19	R/C/I	Ra
AD20	D/W	Kaminsky
AD21		No Endorsement
AD22		No Endorsement

### VOTE/COPE DRIVE BEGINS

PCT SRC reps are beginning our annual VOTE/COPE collection drive. VOTE/COPE is the political action fund of NYSUT. All of our political activities are funded through the voluntary contributions of our members. Dued money is **not** used for our political activities. Up to 40% of a member's contribution comes back to the PCT to finance our local political activities.

The suggested contribution is \$50 for teachers and \$25 for clericals, although larger contributions are encouraged.

After the California courts struck down the tenure and seniority laws of that state, it wasn't long before the same group led by Campbell Brown filed a similar law suit in New York. While it is unlikely that this suit will prevail, it is entirely likely that some unscrupulous legislators in the pocket of the corporate school reform movement will seek to abridge our members' rights to the protections of the tenure and seniority laws. This in addition to our struggle for increased state aid, an end to the testing mania and the problems with the Common Core State Standards.

Members are asked to help their SRC Reps by volunteering their VOTE/COPE contributions. Collecting money is the part of their job that they tend to like least. Make it easy for them. Offer your check made out to VOTE/COPE before you are asked.

### HEALTH BUYBACK UPDATE

Last year the state decided to try to prohibit public employers from buying back health insurance from employees covered by the Empire Plan by a spouse working for a different public agency. The PCT immediately filed legal actions in both PERB and the Supreme Court Albany, where suits against the state are heard. We won both legal actions.

New York State decided to appeal the Supreme Court decision to the Appellate Division. That's where the case resides as of this writing. While the matter is before this court, there is a stay in place preventing the District from paying the buy-back. Pending the final decision in this matter, the district is holding the buy-back payment in escrow so that when we finally win, our members will receive the payments due them retroactively. It will probably be some months before this matter is settled.