

Proposed Cope Endorsement Policy for UC-AFT

by John Rundin, January 16, 2021

The UC-AFT COPE shall generally endorse only California legislative candidates, candidates for California state-wide office, the national presidency, the House of Representatives, or the national Senate. It shall not endorse local candidates and contribute money to them unless they are UC-AFT members or some other extraordinary circumstances compel an endorsement. Local campus UC-AFT affiliates may endorse local candidates on their own and, within the boundaries of the law, facilitate contributions to them, but such candidates shall not receive UC-AFT COPE funds.

In each election year, before the California primary and the winter COPE Council meeting, the UC-AFT VP for Legislation shall consult with the CFT and the UC-AFT legislative committee and then propose to the COPE Executive Council a list of candidates for the UC-AFT COPE to endorse in the primary with recommended donation amounts for each. The list as amended and approved shall be presented to the winter COPE Council meeting. The winter COPE Council meeting shall then discuss the proposed list, amend it as appropriate, and pass it.

In each election year, before the California general election and the summer COPE Council meeting, the UC-AFT VP for Legislation shall consult with the CFT and the UC-AFT legislative committee and then propose to the COPE Executive Council a list of candidates for the UC-AFT COPE to endorse in the general election with recommended donation amounts for each. Candidates already endorsed in the primary shall get no further COPE donations except under extraordinary circumstances. The list as amended and approved shall be presented to the summer COPE Council meeting. The summer COPE Council meeting shall then discuss the proposed list, amend it as appropriate, and pass it.