

Retirees

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Presented by Retiree Councils 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 40-42, and 43

Why should I bother to vote?

By Ken Ulric

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3rd. What a shame that this most precious of American rights is all too often ignored. In 2024, 64% of possible registered voters didn't bother to turn out. In real numbers, nearly 90 million registered voters didn't bother - more than the total who voted for either Trump or Harris. We can't let that happen again. There's too much at stake: the future of Social Security, the future of Medicare, the future of public education, the future of so many things vital to all of us.

NYSUT has endorsed candidates who support the position most beneficial to our members. Melinda Person, NYSUT president, said: "Who we elect right now will shape the future of our schools and communities. It's critical that we send leaders to Washington who understand what's at stake for public education and working families. NYSUT endorses candidates who have proven themselves as advocates who will push for the resources, respect and opportunities our educators and students deserve. Supporting them ensures we continue moving forward, not backward."

The message here is, very simply, "Vote." Check out this information from the American Federation of Teachers that is vital to exercising your right according to the U.S. Constitution:

<https://aft.turbovote.org/>.

How does NYSUT decide who deserves our endorsements?

NYSUT's endorsements are NEVER based on party. They are based on a very strict examination of each candidate's responses to a questionnaire and to interviews with the political action team. All candidates are invited to participate but not all do (this year, one candidate for Congress on Long Island did not respond to repeated requests to sub

mit appropriate documents and to come in for an interview.) On Long Island this year, 77% of endorsed candidates for State Assembly are Democrats and 23% are Republicans. In the State Senate, the results are reversed: 78 % of endorsed candidates are Republicans and 23% are Democrats. NYSUT does not endorse in Federal elections, but we do recommend endorsements to our national unions, the AFT and the NEA. We recommended in two of those and opted for "no endorsement" in two others. That means that people are encouraged in those cases to check out the candidates and make their own choices.

Here's the process:

- Political action coordinators in each state senate district send out invitations to candidates to complete a questionnaire and come in for an interview with the Long Island PAC team. The questionnaire examines the candidate's position on items important to NYSUT and, if the candidate is an incumbent, examines his/her voting record on similar issues.
- The candidate is invited to participate in an interview with the County PAC team.
- A meeting is held and attended by the County PAC team and presidents of NYSUT locals within that County. The PAC team explains its recommendations and the presidents vote on their recommendations.
- The recommendations of the PAC team and presidents are presented to the entire statewide PAC team and NYSUT's political staff. Discussion and a vote take place.
- The results of the decision of the statewide vote are presented to the NYSUT board of directors, and a final vote is taken. Ultimately, the final decision is made by the Board of Directors and is based on how well the candidate's positions mesh with NYSUT's.

**Please consider the endorsements
in this newsletter when you are
planning your vote.**

NYSUT Endorsements: New York State Senate			
SD	N.Y. State Senate Endorsements	SD	N.Y. State Senate Endorsements
1	Anthony Palumbo		
2	Mario Mattera	31	Robert Jackson
3	Dean Murray	32	Luis Sepúlveda
4	Monica Martinez	33	J. Gustavo Rivera
5	Steve Rhoads	34	Nathalia Fernandez
6	Siela Bynoe	35	Andrea Stewart-Cousins
7	Jake Blumencranz	36	Jamaal Bailey
8	Jarrett Gandolfo	37	Shelley Mayer
9	Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick	39	Lisa Radhika Kaul
10	James Sanders Jr	40	Peter Harckham
11	Toby Ann Stavisky	41	Michelle Hinchey
12	Aber Kawas	42	James Skoufis
13	Jessica González-Rojas	44	Jim Tedisco
14	Leroy Comrie	45	Daniel Stec
15	Joseph Addabbo	46	Patricia Fahy
16	John Liu	47	Erik Bottcher
17	Larry He	48	Rachel May
18	Julia Salazar	49	Mark Walczyk
19	Roxanne Persaud	50	Chris Ryan
20	Zellnor Myrie	51	Michele Frazier
21	Kevin Parker	52	Lea Webb
22	Sam Sutton	53	Joseph Griffo
23	Jessica Scarcella-Spanton	54	Pamela Helming
25	Jabari Brisport	55	Samra Brouk
26	Andrew Gounardes	56	Jeremy Cooney
27	Grace Lee	57	Victoria Guite-Williams
28	Liz Krueger	59	Kristen Gonzalez
29	José Serrano	61	Jon Rivera
30	Cordell Cleare	63	April N.M. Baskin

<https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/voter-guide/endorsements>

NYSUT Endorsements: New York State House of Representatives			
CD	House of Representatives Endorsement Recommendations	CD	House of Representatives Endorsement Recommendations
3	Tom Suozzi	15	Ritchie Torres
4	Laura Gillen	16	George Latimer
5	Gregory Meeks	17	Cait Conley
6	Grace Meng	18	Pat Ryan
7	Claire Valdez	19	Josh Riley
8	Hakeem Jeffries	20	Paul Tonko
9	Yvette Clarke	21	Blake Gendebien
10	Brad Lander	22	John Mannion
11	Michael DeCillis	23	Aaron Gies
12	Micah Lasher	24	Alissa Ellman
13	Darializa Avila Chevalier	25	Joseph Morelle
14	Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez	26	Tim Kennedy

NYSUT New York State Assembly Endorsements

AD	Endorsements							
1	Tommy John Schiavoni	35	Larinda Hooks	71	Al Taylor	104	Jonathan Jacobson	
2	Jodi Giglio	36	Diana Moreno	72	Manny De Los Santos	105	Brooklyn Talarico	
3	Josh Slaughter	37	Samantha Kattan	73	Vanessa Aronson	106	Didi Barrett	
4	Rebecca Kassay	38	David Orkin	74	Keith Powers	108	John McDonald	
5	Doug Smith	39	Catalina Cruz	75	Tony Simone	109	Gabriella Romero	
6	Philip Ramos	40	Ron Kim	76	Rebecca Seawright	110	Phil Steck	
7	Trish Kopp	41	Kalman Yeger	77	Landon Dais	111	Angelo Santabarbara	
8	Lynn Trupiano-O'Keefe	43	Brian Cunningham	78	George Alvarez	112	Mary Beth Walsh	
9	Michael Durso	45	Joey Cohen-Saban	79	Chantel Jackson	113	Carrie Woerner	
10	Steve Stern	46	Chris McCreight	80	John Zaccaro Jr	114	Matthew Simpson	
11	Kwani O'Pharrow	47	William Colton	81	Jeffrey Dinowitz	115	Michael Cashman	
12	Craig Herskowitz	48	Simcha Eichenstein	82	Michael Benedetto	116	Scott Gray	
13	Charles Lavine	49	Joyce Xiaojiong Xie	83	Carl Heastie	119	Jon Lipe	
14	John Brooks	50	Emily Gallagher	84	Amanda Septimo	120	Timothy Allers	
15	Dean Tarulli	51	Marcela Mitaynes	85	Emerita Torres	122	Brian Miller	
16	Kim Keiserman	52	Jo Anne Simon	86	Yudelka Tapia	123	Daniel Norton	
17	John Mikulin	53	Maritza Davila	87	Karines Reyes	125	Anna Kelles	
18	Noah Burroughs	54	Christian Celeste Tate	88	Amy Paulin	126	Ian Phillips	
19	Edward Ra	55	Latrice Walker	89	Gary Pretlow	127	Albert Stirpe	
21	Judy Griffin	56	Eon Huntley	90	Frank Jereis	128	Pamela Hunter	
22	Michaele Solages	57	Phara Souffrant Forrest	91	Steve Otis	133	Andrea K. Bailey	
23	Pesach Osina	58	Monique Chandler-Waterman	92	MaryJane Shimsky	134	Josh Jensen	
24	David Weprin	59	Jaime Williams	93	Chris Burdick	135	Jennifer Lunsford	
25	Nily Rozic	60	Nikki Lucas	94	Matthew Slater	136	Sarah Clark	
26	Edward Braunstein	61	Charles Fall	95	Dana Levenberg	137	Demond Meeks	
27	Sam Berger	62	Michael Reilly	96	Patrick Carroll	138	Harry Bronson	
28	Andrew Hevesi	63	Matthew Mobilia	98	Karl Brabenec	140	William Conrad	
29	Alicia Hyndman	65	Illapa Sairitupac	99	Christopher Eachus	141	Leah Halton-Pope	
30	Patrick Martinez	66	David Siffert	99	Christopher Eachus	142	Patrick Burke	
31	Khaleel Anderson	67	Linda Rosenthal	100	Paula Kay	143	Ryan Taughrin	
32	Nathaniel Hezekiah	68	Diana Ayala	101	Brian Maher	145	Nathan McMurray	
33	Clyde Vanel	69	Eli Northrup	102	Janet Tweed	146	Karen McMahon	
34	Brian Romero	70	Jordan Wright	103	Sarahana Shrestha	149	Adam Bojak	
						149	Adam Bojak	
						150	Thomas Carle	

High Turnout is **KEY** to victory in Florida Races

2026 Florida Endorsements by FEA/
AFL CIO/FLARA

The **ESSENTIAL** targeted statewide races are:

Gov: David Jolly

AG: JJ Rodriguez

Sec Agriculture: Joey Atkins this position oversees consumer rights which are non-existent in FL

CFO (Chief Fin Off): Annette Taddeo

Senate: Angie Nixon

Congress:

Lois Frankel

Deb W. Schultz

Maxwell Frost

Cathy Castor

Leela Gray

Jared Moskowitz

Darren Soto

Pia Dantiya



DEFEAT ALL 3 PROPOSITIONS/ AMENDMENTS

BREAK THE GOP SUPERMAJORITY IN
THE FL LEGISLATURE BY ELECTING:

Senate: Brian Nathan, Louds,

House: Spencer, Emily Gregory, Bartelman,
Chambliss, Fox, Cornelius Fowler

Virtually every Democrat has been endorsed
Justification:

In FL to be GOP it is imperative to adhere to
platform which is, essentially, Project 2025:
destroy unions, dismantle public education

Early Voting in New York State

2026 General Election Early Voting: October 24th through November 1st

Early Voting Locations

Voters may visit any of their assigned Early Voting Centers in their county, except in New York City, where voters are assigned to one early voting site. Times vary by day. Go to

elections.ny.gov/early-voting

Then click on **FIND YOUR EARLY VOTING POLLING PLACE** and follow the prompts.

Early Voting in Florida

At a minimum, early voting must be offered starting on the 10th day before the election and ending on the 3rd day before the election. (October 24th through October 31st)

Early Voting Locations

2026 General Election General Election (Information will be available after October 4, 2026.

Go to dos.fl.gov/elections or call Division of Elections at 1.866.308.6739 (toll-free)

How to maximize your NYSUT membership

Your NYSUT membership offers special advantages unavailable to the general public. Make sure you're utilizing all the savings opportunities below provided by NYSUT Member Benefits.

Member-Only Pricing: Protect your loved ones with various life insurances. Plan for the future with quality long-term care insurance plans. Select from multiple highly rated auto and home insurance carriers. Receive reimbursement for eligible pet care through Nationwide.

Unbiased Advice: Ensure your financial and legal affairs are in order. Receive expert guidance on personal legal matters with unlimited advice from attorneys through our legal service plan. Obtain unbiased, objective phone consultations with a certified financial planner or registered investment advisor with our financial counseling program.

Travel Savings: Bundle and save on flights, cruises, vehicle rentals, and over 850,000 hotels and resorts for the optimal travel experience with MB Discounts & Deals. Enjoy reduced pricing on over 80 explorations across 100 countries with Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel, including new "Immersions" options for more active travelers.

Free Benefits: Check out our free benefits! All in-service and retiree members receive unlimited access to the popular Calm app and can add up to five dependents (age 16 or older). Whether you have a specific matter or simply need an empathetic voice, the Peer Support Line can help. Other benefits include: \$5,000 accidental death & dismemberment insurance, travel assistance services, financial learning center, and more.

Feel confident knowing you have a trusted advocate on your side if you ever need us.

Find out all that's available from Member Benefits. Scan the QR code, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org, or call 800-626-8101.



**MEMBER
BENEFITS**
nysut
Working to Benefit You

September/October 2026

