

# GIVE TO VOTE-COPE

SUPPORT EDUCATORS

HELP OUR STUDENTS

PROTECT OUR RIGHTS

ADVANCE DEMOCRACY

UNITE OUR NATION



**In just the past two years, candidates supported by VOTE-COPE have contributed to important victories:**

## 2021

- Suspending of APPR requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Record-breaking school aid increases.
- Establishing a required safe staffing process for hospital nurses.
- Creation of COVID-19 vaccine leave for our members who choose to get the vaccine.

## 2020

- Statutory changes to protect out members labor rights after the Janus decision.
- Providing a death benefit to the families of members who passed as a result of COVID.



**GIVE TO VOTE-COPE**


To Learn more about VOTE-COPE and how NYSUT members can contribute visit [VOTECOPE.org](https://VOTECOPE.org)

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**VOTE-COPE helps us protect the things that matter to all of our members:**


- Pensions**
- Collective Bargaining**
- Contracts**
- Academic Freedom**
- Tenure**

### How does VOTE-COPE choose which candidates to support?

 VOTE-COPE endorses candidates who support educators and public education and who align with our union values. We also make sure to support candidates who have the greatest likelihood of being able to advocate for us in the halls of power.

 NYSUT supports both Republicans and Democrats and has a thorough endorsement process for vetting candidates. The only criteria for earning our endorsement are a demonstrated commitment to labor and education issues.

### Why should all NYSUT members contribute to VOTE-COPE?

 Because VOTE-COPE is one of the best investments you can make in yourself, your family, your profession, your colleagues, your school and public education.



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**VOTE-COPE is the statewide union’s voluntary, non-partisan advocacy fund. NYSUT member contributions help us advocate for our members’ rights and for strong, safe public schools across the state.**



## VOTE-COPE BY THE NUMBERS

\$0

The total amount of NYSUT dues used to support political candidates.

UP TO  
40%

The typical amount of VOTE-COPE contributions sent to local unions for local activities.

15:1

The amount NYSUT is outspent by bad actors trying to break up our union.

95%

The amount of VOTE-COPE money that goes to pensions, tenures, and salaries.

**Millionaire-funded anti-public school forces are trying to weaken our schools and break our union apart. VOTE-COPE is how we fight back.**

SMALL DONATIONS

\$61.14

The average annual member contribution to VOTE-COPE

IN LARGE NUMBERS

194,000 +

NYSUT members contribute to VOTE-COPE every year



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# PUBLIC SCHOOLS UNITE US

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# But, there are well-funded anti-public school forces that are trying to weaken our schools and break our union apart

## What They Want

- To disrupt and defund public education
- To vilify and weaken the teachers union
- To destroy the power of labor unions and workers across the country
- To consolidate their power so they can make more money

## How They're Trying To Do It

- Actively pushing to defund public schools and promote unaccountable charter schools.
- Bringing the culture wars to our schools.
- Promoting misinformation and conspiracy theories designed to fracture our society and disrupt our kids' learning.

### Who are these bad actors?

**JUST FOLLOW THE MONEY**




### The Freedom Foundation

The incredibly cynical Freedom Foundation touts their desire to fight for what they call "worker rights." What they really mean is less pay, reduced or eliminated benefits, and the freedom for your employer to not worry about working conditions or safety. Going after unions is key to their efforts to strip workers of hard-earned pay and benefits. Why? So they make more money.

#### WHO'S FUNDING?

- Walton Family Foundation - \$3,275,000
- Dick and Betsy DeVos Foundation - \$1,000,000
- Mercer Family Foundation - \$500,000
- Charles Koch Charitable Foundation - \$25,000



### New Choice New York

These folks want to crush unions. Behind the veneer of "choice" and "freedom" is a stone-cold anti-labor operation hell-bent on making sure your paycheck is lighter and you have less voice in the workplace.

If you're annoyed by quality health care, a secure retirement, and a middle-class lifestyle, check New Choice out.

#### WHO'S FUNDING?

- The Mackinack Center/Donor's Capital Fund - \$4,962,550
- The DeVos Family - \$1,410,000

### New Yorkers for a Balanced Albany



The political action committee of the pro-charter group StudentsFirstNY, New Yorkers for a Balanced Albany is funded by hedge-fund managers and the Walton family. It has spent millions nationwide to promote unaccountable charter schools. If they really wanted "balance," they would join us in fighting for equity and wages.

#### WHO'S FUNDING?

- Jim C. Walton - Chairman and CEO of Arvest Bank Group, Inc. - \$1 million
- Alice Walton, daughter of Wal-Mart pioneer Sam Walton - \$1,035,000
- Daniel S. Loeb, CEO of Third Point LLC - \$5,025,000



### Reclaim New York

With their pockets stuffed full of money from the billionaire Mercer family, Reclaim New York is on a crusade to overturn school boards and replace qualified members with their hand-picked bomb-throwers. These culture warriors could care less about quality education or well-staffed schools. Making sure schools run well is boring to them.

#### WHO'S FUNDING?

- The Mercer Family Foundation - Billionaire Robert Mercer's private grant-making organization - \$1,600,000



### The Goldwater Institute

The group is promoting so-called "transparency bills" in 17 states that would require teachers to post online every single piece of instructional material used in the classroom over the course of a year. The goal is to give parents fodder to stage protests, opt their children out and cut what they see as "offensive lessons".

#### WHO'S FUNDING?

- Donors Capital Fund - DonorsTrust affiliate for \$1 million+ anonymous donors - \$665,462
- Mercer Family Foundation - Billionaire Robert Mercer's private grant-making foundation - \$500,000



**VOTE-GOPE is how we FIGHT BACK!**

Visit: [VOTECOPE.org](http://VOTECOPE.org)

✓ No Shady Billionaire Donors ✓ No Hidden Agenda ✓ No Dues Dollars Used