What’s Your Plan To Vote?

OPTION 1
VOTE BY MAIL
Apply Online by Oct. 27
Ballot Postmarked by Nov. 3

OPTION 2
VOTE EARLY
Oct. 24 – Nov. 1

OPTION 3
VOTE ON
ELECTION DAY
Nov. 3

NYSUT.org/Vote2020
Dear NYSUT retiree:

We are pleased to provide this Retiree Voter Guide so YOU and your VOTE can help move the state and the nation away from regressive corporatism and toward progressive solutions.

We don’t need to spell out all the ways that 2020 is different from other election years in recent memory, but one thing you need to think about is the need to vote safely and to vote early. Thanks in part to our efforts, concern about exposure to COVID-19 is now an official reason to secure an absentee ballot. If you plan to vote by mail, we urge you to request a mail-in ballot promptly.

Only through a strong, unprecedented turnout from NYSUT members can we ensure that the best interests of retired members, educators, health care professionals and New York’s public education system, from Pre-K through higher ed, will come through this pandemic stronger than before.

Our state and our country are clearly at a crossroads, and the decisions we make this fall will impact what happens from the halls of power in Washington, D.C., to the capitol in Albany and in each and every community in New York.

This guide provides the complete list of NYSUT-endorsed candidates as recommended by our local presidents and NYSUT’s Political Action Committee, and approved by the union’s Board of Directors. Please take the time to read and consider this information before you cast your ballot.

You will be able to vote by mail, vote early in your community, or on Election Day at your local polls, but it is most important to make a plan and to cast your ballot. Your VOTE is Our Voice for Our Union and Our Values.

In Solidarity,

Andrew Pallotta
Jolene T. DiBrango
Ron Gross
J. Philippe Abraham
President
Executive Vice President
Second Vice President
Secretary-Treasurer

Using an exhaustive, democratic process, NYSUT endorses Republicans and Democrats who share our commitment to public education, health care, retirement security, the right to bargain collectively and a strong middle class.

The union communicates its endorsements to all members. Not all of you will agree with them, but the process reflects the opinions of members’ representatives.

Candidates seeking NYSUT support first fill out a candidate questionnaire, and members of the Political Action Committee interview them. The PAC submits its recommendations during a two-day endorsement conference where they are reviewed with local leaders in thorough discussions.

Participants review the candidates’ positions, voting records and advocacy for accessibility and responsiveness. Once the proposed slate of endorsed candidates is set, it is submitted to the NYSUT Executive Committee for discussion and then to the entire Board of Directors for discussion and final approval.

“It’s a long process, but it is the best way to ensure the endorsed candidates have truly earned our support,” said President Andy Pallotta.
**THE TOP OF THE TICKET! LABOR BACKS BIDEN**

NYSUT does not issue endorsements in presidential elections, but our national affiliates — the American Federation of Teachers and National Education Association — do. Both have endorsed the Democratic team of former Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Kamala Harris, D–Calif. They say Biden and Harris will unite the country, protect public schools and colleges, expand health care and support the rights of working people in ways the current administration does not.

**DONALD TRUMP**

Named billionaire heiress Betsy DeVos secretary of education based solely on her record of opposition to public education and advocacy for charter schools and privatization.

Has failed to fill seats on the National Labor Relations Board and routinely attacked the rights of working people, making it more difficult to organize unions. Supports federal judges who favor so-called “right-to-work” laws and opposes unions for public employees.

The President’s personal experience running a private, profit-driven university ended in disaster for students who lost thousands of dollars and received nothing in return. DeVos backs for-profit “colleges” and has failed to support public colleges and universities.

Has been trying for years to dismantle the popular Affordable Care Act, which would take health insurance away from millions of Americans and allow companies to deny coverage because of ubiquitous pre-existing conditions. Pulled the U.S. out of the World Health Organization in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Policies have enriched the wealthy while opportunities have stagnated for the 99 percent. Tens of millions are unemployed or underemployed, can’t afford to feed their families, face eviction or loss of their homes and have already lost work-related health insurance coverage.

**JOE BIDEN**

Biden will replace Betsy DeVos with a secretary of education who has experience in public schools. Will attract and retain quality educators by supporting pay raises, paid leave and student loan forgiveness.

His solidarity with unions is rooted in his working-class upbringing in Scranton, PA. He will defend against attacks on working Americans, encourage and incentivize unionization, strengthen collective bargaining and ensure workers are treated with dignity.

As first lady, Dr. Jill Biden — a community college professor and longtime union member (NEA) — will be a friend and colleague to public higher education. Biden and Harris support increased access to post-secondary academics for all students.

Supports and advocates improvements in the ACA to ensure coverage for all Americans, including removing pre-existing conditions as a reason to deny coverage. Would rejoin the World Health Organization and promises to follow the science and listen to the medical experts in battling the coronavirus.

Biden has pledged to bring leaders from both parties together to work out a bipartisan deal to help middle- and lower-income Americans. He promises more support during the pandemic for those who have suffered the most from the economic crash.

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**ISSUE**

**EDUCATION**

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**LABOR**

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**HIGHER EDUCATION**

As first lady, Dr. Jill Biden — a community college professor and longtime union member (NEA) — will be a friend and colleague to public higher education. Biden and Harris support increased access to post-secondary academics for all students.

**HEALTH CARE**

Supports and advocates improvements in the ACA to ensure coverage for all Americans, including removing pre-existing conditions as a reason to deny coverage. Would rejoin the World Health Organization and promises to follow the science and listen to the medical experts in battling the coronavirus.

**ECONOMY**

Biden has pledged to bring leaders from both parties together to work out a bipartisan deal to help middle- and lower-income Americans. He promises more support during the pandemic for those who have suffered the most from the economic crash.
IT’S NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT TO VOTE...
AND IT’S NEVER BEEN EASIER

The 2020 General Election will be one of the most influential elections in United States history. The results will determine the future of democracy as well as the values that will dictate our country’s place in the world. In New York State and across the U.S., the outcomes will shape education, health care, labor and civil rights for generations.

YOU have to vote this year. Due to the COVID–19 pandemic, election rules have been modified to ensure that all citizens can exercise their rights to vote in a way that they feel safe and comfortable.

Make a plan NOW, and vote by Nov. 3.

THREE WAYS TO CAST YOUR BALLOT

Choose one of three ways you can cast your ballot this year and make a plan to get it done!

★ You can vote by mail,

★ You can vote early in person at a designated polling site, or

★ You can vote on Election Day at your neighborhood polling place.

If you want to vote by mail, use the application at the back of this guide to request an absentee ballot. Completed applications must be postmarked by Oct. 27 or delivered in person to your county board of elections office by Nov. 2. You can cite concern over COVID–19 exposure as a temporary illness. Follow the instructions and deadlines on the form.

To submit your ballot, mail it no later than Nov. 3; put it in a drop box at an early poll site or at a poll site on Election Day, or drop it at your county board of elections between today and Nov. 3.

If you decide not to vote by mail and you live in New York State, double-check your polling place at https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/

Early voting runs from Oct. 24–Nov. 1 at designated polling sites. Check with your county board of elections for hours and locations.

On Election Day, polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at neighborhood polling sites.

APPLY FOR YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT TODAY

★ Use the form at the back of this guide to apply for your absentee ballot. Clip it, fill it out, put it in an envelope and address it to your board of elections as listed on the back.

★ Applications must be mailed seven days before the election or hand-delivered to your county board of elections by the day before the election.

★ Any registered voter can apply for an absentee ballot, but you must do it yourself.

★ By executive order, concern about COVID–19 exposure qualifies as a legitimate reason as a temporary illness.

★ If you don’t want to mail the form, apply directly at the state Board of Elections’ new online portal: https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov/
The day after Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., became the first female person of color to run for U.S. vice president, she endorsed a member of our union to take a seat in Congress.

Jackie Gordon spent almost three decades working in New York public schools, and served overseas duty in the Army Reserve.

“As an educator and as a mom, I believe all of our children deserve access to a high quality education that prepares them for their future, whether it’s a four-year college or a career and technical school,” she said. “I will work to make sure our schools and our teachers have the resources they need.”

Gordon already had support from her statewide union.

Following an exhaustive, online conference with union leaders and activists this summer, NYSUT issued endorsements in hundreds of general election races for state Legislature and recommended Congressional candidates for endorsements by the union’s national affiliates, the American Federation of Teachers and National Education Association.

“As cornerstones of our communities, government support for public schools, colleges and hospitals has never been more critical as we continue to weather the effects of the coronavirus pandemic,” NYSUT President Andy Pallotta said. “We need elected officials who will stand up for teachers, School-Related Professionals, medical professionals and those they serve, and we believe this slate of candidates can best deliver for the New Yorkers who will rely on them in the halls of power.”

Another strong candidate is West Genesee TA President John Mannion who is running a second time for the state Senate seat in District 50. In addition to NYSUT’s support, he is endorsed by the AFL-CIO and multiple labor unions.

“I am very proud and humbled by the outpouring of support from my brothers and sisters in organized labor,” Mannion said. It will be crucial as he strives to replace a GOP senator in a district Democrats have come close to flipping in prior elections.

Also running for Senate with NYSUT support is Western New York labor activist and United University Professions member Jacqui Berger, in the 61st Senate District. “This is a great opportunity and one I can achieve with labor’s support,” she said.

NYSUT endorsed member Jabari Brisport in Senate District 25, as well, and NYSUT members running for the Assembly with their union’s support include Chantel Jackson in Assembly District 79, Dia Carabajal in Assembly District 126 and William Conrad in Assembly District 140.

NYSUT-endorsed candidates receive grassroots support from fellow members, including phone banking, door knocking and literature distribution. The union also makes financial contributions from voluntary donations through VOTE-COPE, the union’s non-partisan political action committee.
KEY U.S. HOUSE RACES

JACKIE GORDON*  
CD 2  
Gordon is a combat veteran and an educator, with three decades of service in both fields. She taught thousands of young people in New York schools and says all children deserve access to a high quality education that prepares them for their future, whether it’s a four-year college or a Career and Technical Education. She will work to make health care more affordable, protect those with pre-existing conditions, and lower prescription drug costs. Prior to running for Congress, Gordon served 13 years on the Babylon Town Council.

MAX ROSE  
CD 11  
A U.S. Army veteran who served in Afghanistan, Rose is fighting to ensure teachers and public schools have the resources to prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century, so that all kids have a shot at good job opportunities with or without a college degree. In Congress, he led a bipartisan coalition to win $140 million in increased funding to combat the opioid crisis through prevention and treatment.

ANTONIO DELGADO  
CD 19  
Delgado says protecting the jobs of the hundreds of thousands of teachers, health care workers, service workers, farmers and factory workers in his district requires investing in those industries and communities. He is committed to fighting for a health care system that addresses rising premiums and deductibles, protects people with pre-existing conditions and provides real coverage to everyone. He encourages economic development and worker training in growth industries like tech and clean energy.

ANTHONY BRINDISI  
CD 22  
A political reformer with a proven record of working across the aisle to deliver results for Upstate New York, Brindisi says teachers must have the resources they need to give children a world-class education. He is committed to ensuring public schools are fully funded, including early childhood education programs, and that students are prepared for a 21st century economy. He supports investment in community colleges and Career and Technical Education programs.
NEW YORK STATE SENATE

New York State Senate District

DISTRICT/NAME

1  No Endorsement
2  Mario Matura
3  Monica Martinez
4  Philip Boyle
5  James Gaughran
6  Kevin Thomas
7  Anna Kaplan
8  John Brooks
9  Todd Kaminsky
10 James Sanders Jr.
11 John Liu
12 Michael N. Gianaris
13 Jessica Ramos
14 Leroy Comrie
15 Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.
16 Toby Ann Stavisky
17 No Endorsement
18 Julia Salazar
19 Roxanne Persaud
20 Zellnor Myrie
21 No Endorsement
22 Andrew Gounardes
23 Diane J. Savino
24 No Endorsement
25 Jabari Brisport*
26 Brian Kavanagh
27 Brad Hoylman
28 Liz Krueger
29 Jose Serrano
30 Brian Benjamin
31 Robert Jackson
32 No Endorsement
33 J. Gustavo Rivera
34 Alessandra Biaggi
35 Andrea
Stewart-Cousins
36 Jamaal Bailey
37 Shelley Mayer
38 Elijah Reichlin-Melnick
39 James Skoufis
40 Peter Harckham
41 Karen Smythe
42 Jen Metzger
43 No Endorsement
44 Neil D. Breslin
45 Dan Stec
46 Michelle Hinchey
47 Joseph A. Grillo
48 Patty Ritchie
49 James Tedisco
50 John Mannion*
51 Jim Barber
52 No Endorsement
53 Rachel May
54 Pamela Helming
55 Samra Brouk
56 Jeremy Cooney
57 No Endorsement
58 Leslie Danks Burke
59 No Endorsement
60 Sean M. Ryan
61 Jacqui Berger*
62 No Endorsement
63 No Endorsement

* indicates NYSUT member
**KEY STATE SENATE RACES**

**MONICA MARTINEZ**
**SD 3**
In her first term as senator, the former member of NYSUT has fought for and secured record funding for schools ensuring Long Islanders get their fair share from Albany. Martinez also co-sponsored one of the most progressive pieces of Climate Change legislation in the country.

**ANDREW GOUNARDES**
**SD 22**
Gounardes says public education is the most important service government provides. It has enabled generations of Americans to realize their dreams. Every student in New York deserves access to a free, quality education from Pre-K to college, so they too can achieve their goals.

**PETER HARCKHAM**
**SD 40**
In the Senate, Harckham secured millions in school aid to improve local classrooms, expand Pre-K programs and reduce class sizes, and passed legislation to preserve natural resources. Harckham is the founding co-chair of the Senate Joint Task Force on Opioids, Addiction and Overdose Prevention.

**JEN METZGER**
**SD 42**
With strong support from labor, Metzger is committed to fixing the way schools are funded. She calls for balanced education funding statewide and progressive tax reform so schools get their fair share and seniors and working families get the property tax relief they need.

**JOHN MANNION**
**SD 50**
President of his NYSUT local union, Mannion has strong labor support in Central New York. He says we have to prepare all of our kids and grandkids for the careers we cannot even imagine today; another round of short-sighted mandates from Albany isn’t going to cut it.

**SAMRA BROUK**
**SD 55**
Brouk will be a voice for working people in Western New York and put the needs of under-resourced communities before the profits of ultra-millionaires. She promises to work to fully fund public schools, create more affordable housing, and boost economic recovery in Monroe County.

**LESLIE DANKS BURKE**
**SD 58**
Burke says every child deserves a quality education, whether they’re born into a rich or a poor ZIP code — but New York has shortchanged the poor ZIP codes, with rural schools getting hit particularly hard. She says investment in public education, Pre-K through post-secondary, more than pays for itself.

**JACQUI BERGER**
**SD 61**
A member of United University Professions, Berger vows to provide the funding needed to ensure all students receive a quality education. She supports community schools to serve students and families, high-quality public higher education and increased funding for SUNY campuses and hospitals, and community colleges.
| 21 | Judy Griffin   |
| 22 | Michaele Solages |
| 23 | Stacey Pheffer Amato |
| 24 | David I. Weprin |
| 25 | Nily Rozic |
| 26 | Edward C. Braunstein |
| 27 | Daniel Rosenthal |
| 28 | Andrew Hevesi |
| 29 | Alicia Hyndman |
| 30 | Brian Barnwell |
| 31 | Khaleel Anderson |
| 32 | Vivian E. Cook |
| 33 | Clyde Vanel |
| 34 | Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas |
| 35 | Jeffrion L. Aubry |
| 36 | Zohran Kwame Mamdani |
| 37 | Catherine T. Nolan |
| 38 | Jennifer Gallagher |
| 39 | Catalina Cruz |
| 40 | Ronald Kim |
| 41 | Helene E. Weinstein |
| 42 | Rodneyse Bichotte |
| 43 | Diana C. Richardson |
| 44 | Robert C. Carroll |
| 45 | Steven Cymbrowitz |
| 46 | Mathylde Frontus |
| 47 | William Colton |
| 48 | Simcha Eichenstein |
| 49 | Peter J. Abbate Jr. |
| 50 | Emily Gallagher |
| 51 | Marcela Mitaynes |
| 52 | Jo Anne Simon |
| 53 | No Endorsement |
| 54 | Erik Dilan |
| 55 | Latrice Walker |
| 56 | Stefani Zinerman |
| 57 | No Endorsement |
| 58 | N. Nick Perry |
| 59 | Jaime Williams |
| 60 | Charles Barron |
| 61 | Charles Fall |
| 62 | Michael Reilly |
| 63 | Michael Cusick |
| 64 | Brandon Patterson |
| 65 | Yuh-Line Niou |
| 66 | Deborah Glick |
| 67 | Linda B. Rosenthal |
| 68 | No Endorsement |
| 69 | Daniel O’Donnell |
| 70 | Inez Dickens |
| 71 | Alfred Taylor |
| 72 | Carmen De La Rosa |
| 73 | Dan Quart |
| 74 | Harvey Epstein |
| 75 | Richard Gottfried |
| 76 | Rebecca Seawright |
| 77 | Latoya Joyner |
| 78 | Jose Rivera |
| 79 | Chantel Jackson* |
| 80 | Nathalia Fernandez |
| 81 | Jeffrey Dinowitz |
| 82 | Michael Benedetto |
| 83 | Carl E. Heastie |
| 84 | No Endorsement |
| 85 | No Endorsement |
| 86 | Victor M. Pichardo |
| 87 | Karines Reyes |
| 88 | Amy R. Paulin |
| 89 | James Gary Pretlow |
| 90 | Nader Sayegh |
| 91 | Steven Otis |
| 92 | Thomas Abinanti |
| 93 | Chris Burdick |
| 94 | No Endorsement |
| 95 | Sandra Galef |
| 96 | Kenneth Zebrowski |
| 97 | Ellen C. Jaffe |
| 98 | No Endorsement |
| 99 | Sarita Bhandarkar |
| 100 | Aileen Gunther |
| 101 | Chad McEvoy |
| 102 | No Endorsement |
| 103 | Kevin Cahill |
| 104 | Jonathan Jacobson |
| 105 | No Endorsement |
| 106 | Didi Barrett |
| 107 | Jacob Ashby |
| 108 | John McDonald III |
| 109 | Patricia Fahy |
| 110 | Phil Steck |
| 111 | Angelo Sanabarbara |
| 112 | Mary Beth Walsh |
| 113 | Carrie Woerner |
| 114 | No Endorsement |
| 115 | D. Billy Jones |
| 116 | Mark Walczyk |
| 117 | Ken Blankenbush |
| 118 | Robert Smullen |
| 119 | Marianne Buttenschon |
| 120 | William Barclay |
| 121 | Dan Buttermann |
| 122 | No Endorsement |
| 123 | Donna Lupardo |
| 124 | Randy Reid |
| 125 | Anna Kelles |
| 126 | Dia Carabajal* |
| 127 | Al Stirpe |
| 128 | Pamela Hunter |
| 129 | William Magnarelli |
| 130 | No Endorsement |
| 131 | No Endorsement |
| 132 | Philip A. Palmesano |
| 133 | ChaRon Sattler-Leblanc |
| 134 | Josh Jensen |
| 135 | Jennifer Lunsford |
| 136 | Sarah Clark |
| 137 | Demond Meeks |
| 138 | Harry Bronson |
| 139 | Stephen M. Hawley |
| 140 | William Conrad* |
| 141 | Crystal Peoples-Stokes |
| 142 | Patrick Burke |
| 143 | Monica P. Wallace |
| 144 | Michael Norris |
| 145 | Angelo Morinello |
| 146 | Karen McMahon |
| 147 | No Endorsement |
| 148 | Joseph Giglio |
| 149 | Jonathan Rivera |
| 150 | Andrew Goodell |

*indicates NYSUT member
KEY STATE ASSEMBLY RACES

**MIKE MARCANTONIO**
**AD 12**
Marcantonio is known for his local fight against a large utility to claw back taxes for his Long Island community and schools. He says he will fight to ensure public schools and colleges are fully funded so this part of the American dream remains on Long Island.

**ELLEN JAFFEE**
**AD 97**
Jaffee has stood up for middle-class and working families, fighting to lower taxes, create jobs, support business development programs, and increase funding for public schools and community colleges. She has reached across the aisle to deliver landmark legislation to improve quality of life for all.

**REBECCA SEAWRIGHT**
**AD 76**
Seawright advocates for women's rights, public education at all levels, senior citizens, human rights, LGBTQ+ rights, affordable housing, environmental protection, public health and criminal justice reform. She opposes tuition increases at SUNY and CUNY.

**CHANTEL JACKSON**
**AD 79**
Jackson is a proud UFT member and social worker at a New York City public high school, professor and author. She wants to make sure needy school districts receive the funding owed to them by the state, to fund mental health services and to provide coverage for the underinsured.

**DIA CARABAJAL**
**AD 126**
As a 30-year educator, Carabajal knows that great schools and access to quality, affordable higher education are the keys to our children’s future. As a NYSUT member she has been in the fight for the Foundation Aid funding needed to address inequality in our schools.

**JEN LUNSFORD**
**AD 135**
Lunsford says we must fully fund education, because asking schools to do more with less is unfair to students and educators. The COVID-19 crisis has taught us that we need a health care system focused on patients and outcomes, not who can afford the best insurance.

**WILLIAM CONRAD**
**AD 140**
As a teacher and coach for 20 years, NYSUT member Conrad believes we need to call for an educational system that is reflexive and responsive. With the aging workforce in skilled trades we need to strengthen career pipelines to help industries and our students reach their full potential.
New York State Absentee Ballot Application

Please print clearly. See detailed instructions.

This application may either be personally delivered to your county board of elections not later than the day before the election, or postmarked by a governmental postal service not later than 7th day before election day. The ballot itself must either be personally delivered to the board of elections no later than the close of polls on election day, or postmarked by a governmental postal service not later than the day of the election and received no later than the 7th day after the election.

1. I am requesting, in good faith, an absentee ballot due to (check one reason):
   - □ absence from county or New York City on election day
   - □ temporary illness or physical disability
   - □ permanent illness or physical disability
   - □ duties related to primary care of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled
   - □ resident or patient of a Veterans Health Administration Hospital
   - □ detention in jail/prison, awaiting trial, awaiting action by a grand jury, or in prison for a conviction of a crime or offense which was not a felony

2. absentee ballot(s) requested for the following election(s):
   - □ Primary Election only
   - □ General Election only
   - □ Special Election only
   - □ Any election held between these dates: absence begins: __________/________/______ absence ends: __________/________/______

3. last name or surname
   first name
   middle initial
   suffix

4. date of birth MM/DD/YYYY
   county where you live
   phone number (optional)
   email (optional)

5. address where you live (residence) street apt city state zip code
   NY

6. Delivery of Primary Election Ballot (check one)
   □ Deliver to me in person at the board of elections
   □ I authorize (give name) ______________________ to pick up my ballot at the board of elections.
   □ Mail ballot to me at: (mailing address)
   __________/________/______

7. Delivery of General (or Special) Election Ballot (check one)
   □ Deliver to me in person at the board of elections
   □ I authorize (give name) ______________________ to pick up my ballot at the board of elections.
   □ Mail ballot to me at: (mailing address)
   __________/________/______

Applicant Must Sign Below

8. I certify that I am a qualified and a registered (and for primary, enrolled) voter; and that the information in this application is true and correct and that this application will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit and, if it contains a material false statement, shall subject me to the same penalties as if I had been duly sworn.

Sign Here: X Date __________/________/______

If applicant is unable to sign because of illness, physical disability or inability to read, the following statement must be executed: By my mark, duly witnessed hereunder, I hereby state that I am unable to sign my application for an absentee ballot without assistance because I am unable to write by reason of my illness or physical disability or because I am unable to read. I have, or have the assistance in making my mark in lieu of my signature. (No power of attorney or preprinted name stamps allowed. See detailed instructions.)

Date __________/________/______ Name of Voter: ___________________________ Mark: ___________________________

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the above named voter affixed his or her mark to this application in my presence and I know him or her to be the person who affixed his or her mark to said application and understand that this statement will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit and if it contains a material false statement, shall subject me to the same penalties as if I had been duly sworn.

______________________________ ______________________________
(address of witness to mark) (signature of witness to mark)

Board Use Only
2020 Absentee Ballot Application
The effects of the state legislative elections in November will have an enormous impact on the way New York responds to long simmering and new boiling threats to your retirement security, health care and public education.

NYSUT-endorsed candidates are committed to protecting pension systems for union members and support improved access to health care. They also value SUNY medical centers as public health institutions and training centers for the next generation of caregivers.

**Funding for education**

The state must provide more funding to stop the looming threats of layoffs and to guarantee a fair and equitable education for all students.

“The Foundation Aid formula that came out of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit 27 years ago was never fully implemented,” said NYSUT President Andy Pallotta. “So, the state has yet to provide the sound, basic education every student deserves under the state Constitution.”

With the COVID-19 pandemic pushing the economy over the brink into recession, this problem has grown exponentially. That’s why NYSUT started litigation in an attempt to force the state to take legislative action.

We must work together to elect candidates who will support the union’s position that the state has numerous ways to help close its budget gap — revenue-raising taxes on ultra-millionaires and billionaires, rainy day funds and cuts to less-essential budget lines in the state bureaucracy.

**Higher ed**

With COVID-19 steamrolling public higher education in real time, state funding — which has lagged for years — must be bolstered to ensure affordability, quality and accessibility.

The federal government’s failed response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its disastrous impact on the economy — which has left millions out of work, facing eviction and increasingly vulnerable — is only the latest reason to make changes.

Senior citizens and retirees are particularly vulnerable. Social Security and Medicare remain under attack by the Senate and the White House, which intend to cut the earned benefit programs to help pay for tax cuts benefiting the wealthy.

Despite many failed efforts, the administration and the Senate are still trying to slice away at key components of the Affordable Care Act that will leave millions more Americans without health insurance.

It’s no surprise our national affiliates are working for a change of tenants at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Two years ago, due in large part to the work of AFT and NEA, the House of Representatives turned from Republican to Democrat to provide a check on the GOP monopoly. But the House has been blocked at every turn as it attempted to restore support for public education, the ACA and retirement security.

Over the past four years, the White House and its followers in the U.S. Senate have done nothing to support public education and access to health care in this country.

Under Secretary Betsy DeVos, the Department of Education continues to aggressively push an anti-public, pro-charter and privatization agenda. This anti-union program aims to destroy public schools and public employee unions.

The Department also is trying to scale back student loan rights, making college less affordable, and seeking to promote private, for-profit post-secondary options, like the defunct Trump University.
GET UP! GET INTO IT! GET INVOLVED!

So much is at stake in this year's elections. The future of our state, our nation and our planet hang in the balance.

The richest, most powerful corporate special interests are working, with support in the corridors of power on federal and state levels, to destroy the labor movement, privatize public services for their own profit, and to disenfranchise working people.

YOU CAN HELP fight back to defend our rights, our professions and our future.

WE NEED YOU to help get-out-the-vote, locally, statewide and in regional swing states. Organize others to help make phone calls, distribute literature and help people participate in the elections process.

GET STARTED

NYSUT has organizers who are here to help you get involved.

If you are interested in the presidential election, contact Regional Political Organizer Peter Kim: Peter.Kim@nysut.org

If you are interested in local and regional races, contact your regional political organizer.

In the Rochester and Elmira areas, Anthony Plonczynski-Figueroa: Anthony.Plonczynski-Figueroa@nysut.org

In the Central New York and Vestal areas, Ian Phillips: Ian.Phillips@nysut.org

On Long Island, Jeff Friedman: Jeffrey.Friedman@nysut.org

In Western and Southwestern New York, Louisa Pacheco: Louisa.Pacheco@nysut.org

In the Hudson Valley and Tarrytown, Michael Grubiak: Michael.Grubiak@nysut.org

In the Capital Region and North Country, Peter Kim: Peter.Kim@nysut.org

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