

Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO COPE By-Laws

Pursuant to the Constitution and Rules of the AFL-CIO, the following COPE Bylaws are established.

I. Name

This organization shall be known as the Washington State Committee on Political Education of the Washington State Labor Council (Statewide COPE).

II. Purposes

This committee is vested with the duty and responsibility to assist the Washington State Labor Council to meet the need for sound political education on state and national issues. It shall encourage workers to register and vote, to exercise their full rights and responsibilities of citizenship and to perform their rightful part in the political life of the local, state and national communities.

III. Composition

Statewide COPE is a permanent committee of the Washington State Labor Council and shall be composed of the following members:

1. The Executive Board of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, except Constituency Group/Allied Organizations with 501C3 tax status.
2. A representative from each county, city or congressional district COPE within the state, for such terms as COPE may decide. In the event that the Central/Area Labor Council does not have a formally recognized and organized COPE, the Central/Area Labor Council shall be entitled to a representative on the committee.
3. The Political Director of the Washington State Labor Council. In the event there is no Political Director but a Field Director is employed, then that individual shall be entitled to a position on the committee.
4. A representative from each affiliate with 10,000 or more full per-capita members.
5. Such additional representation as the Executive Board of the Washington State Labor Council may decide.
6. Statewide COPE deliberations on recommended endorsement of candidates may be attended by accredited delegates. Decisions by the committee concerning recommendations to the convention shall be considered privileged information until submitted to the convention.

IV. Powers

1. Statewide COPE derives its power and authority from the Washington State Labor Council. It shall also operate in conformity with the policies of the national AFL-CIO and the national committee on political education.

2. The committee shall have the responsibility of encouraging affiliate participation in WSLC political campaigns:

(a) For the registration of AFL-CIO members and their families.

(b) To identify (ID), persuade, and Get Out the Vote (GOTV) of members and their families on pro-worker candidates and ballot measure positions.

(c) To encourage qualified candidates to seek public office.

(d) To educate members and their families on the political issues of the day and to encourage study and discussion of such issues and related candidates.

(e) To indicate approval or disapproval of candidates and proposals pursuant to the procedure set forth hereafter.

(f) To assist within geographical jurisdiction in the effective solicitation of individual contributions to the political education program of the AFL-CIO.

3. Statewide COPE shall have the power to establish subcommittees or departments as it deems desirable.

4. Central/Area Labor Council principal officers of the Washington State Labor Council, AFLCIO, shall serve as the chairpersons of the political education and COPE activities in their respective counties and shall work with WSLC Vice Presidents and affiliates in their respective counties to carry out COPE activities.

5. Statewide COPE, in cooperation with the Central/Area Labor Council principal officers and WSLC Vice Presidents in their counties, shall assist county, city and congressional COPEs to become established and, if necessary, shall form such COPEs and provide assistance, direction and coordination to the political education work of such councils and COPEs within the state.

V. City/County Congressional COPEs

1. City and county AFL-CIO COPEs shall be established pursuant to the bylaws and rules recommended for this purpose by national COPE.

2. The state committee may establish a congressional district committee in each such district where there is more than one city or county AFL-CIO council for the purpose of coordinating the political education activities of all within the district.
3. County, city and congressional district COPEs shall not take positive final action on matters of statewide legislative policy, but instead shall, acting through their Central/Area Labor Councils, refer all recommendations on legislation to the Washington State Labor Council for its consideration and action at convention or by executive board between conventions.
4. County and city COPE shall not take independent final action on endorsements for appointive political or public positions of a statewide nature, but instead shall refer their recommendations through the Central/Area Labor Council to Statewide COPE for its consideration and action, or by the WSLC Executive Board between conventions.

VI. Officers and Committees

1. The President and Secretary Treasurer of the State Council, AFL-CIO, shall be the chair and secretary treasurer, respectively, of the state COPE.
2. The President shall preside and preserve order at all meetings of the State COPE and shall transact any such business as may rightly pertain to the office. He or she shall be ex-officio member of all committees.
3. The Secretary Treasurer shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the state COPE, carry on all correspondence in connection with the business of the state COPE, pay all bills duly authorized, and deposit all funds in the bank in the name of the state COPE. He or she shall submit a report on the condition of the treasury at each meeting of the state COPE and shall give at least a semi-annual report to the local unions and COPE units and shall submit the books and records for audit to a public accountant and to the state AFL-CIO audit committee annually, or when requested to do so, and shall perform such other duties as are usual to the office or which may be assigned. The Secretary Treasurer shall give a bond, in the name of the Washington State Labor Council, to insure the faithful discharge of his or her duties. The chair of the state COPE shall act as trustee of, and hold, the bond. The Secretary Treasurer shall be ex-officio member of all subcommittees.
4. The Executive Board shall consist of the officers and such additional members as are selected

by state COPE.

5. The state COPE shall meet at least once a year. Special meetings shall be called by the state chair or at the request of 30 percent (30%) of the committee membership.

6. Statewide COPE shall establish a Political Committee pursuant to bylaws and rules recommended for this purpose by national COPE.

VII. Political Committee

1. This subcommittee shall be known as the Political Committee of the Washington State Committee on Political Education, AFL-CIO.

2. The purpose of this department is to achieve full participation of trade union members, families and retirees in the development activities of the Washington State Committee on Political Education, governed by COPE's constitution and bylaws and under its full jurisdiction.

3. The Executive Board of the Washington State Labor Council shall select one or more persons who will become a member of the state committee, with the title of Political Director of the Political Committee. They will be responsible for calling on area councils and local COPEs to implement the Political program as established by state and national COPE policies.

4. The Political Committee shall be comprised of Central/Area Labor Council Principal officers or their designees, and a designee from each affiliated local union.

5. The chairperson and secretary treasurer of Statewide COPE shall be ex-officio members of the Political Committee. The chair shall have the final responsibility of determining whether or not any policy or activity proposed is contrary to the program and policy of the state and national COPE.

6. Members of the Political Committee shall have voice and vote when they are regularly credentialed delegates to conventions.

7. No person shall hold more than one office on the Political Committee. No person who is an officer of a political club or a candidate of a political party shall hold office on the Political Committee.

8. Files and lists of membership made available to the Political Committee by the properly constituted authorities shall not be inspected nor given to anyone except by order of the officers of the Political Committee, with authorization in writing from the state or area chairperson.

VIII. Endorsements

The Washington State COPE is committed to the support of honest, sincere, qualified, progressive candidates for public office, who by their records have demonstrated their support of the objectives to which the AFL-CIO is dedicated. In the making of endorsements, the capability, intelligence, unqualified integrity, viability and the past record of the individual shall be used as criteria for endorsement.

Any AFL-CIO member has the same right as any other American citizen to run for public office. However, any AFL-CIO member running for public office who desires COPE endorsement shall meet with the proper committee of COPE and discuss the advisability of running, and any other matters connected with the campaign. Membership in an AFL-CIO union does not, in and by itself, assure any candidate of an endorsement.

No county, city, congressional district or state COPE officer or Executive Board member shall act in any official capacity whatsoever, on behalf of any political candidate, unless instructed to do so by the appropriate COPE. Any COPE officer becoming a candidate for a paid partisan political office should automatically be considered to have resigned COPE office.

Endorsements, if any, shall be made pursuant to the following rules:

1. The Washington State COPE shall support the action of the national COPE on candidates for President and vice-President of the United States.
2. Endorsements of candidates for state legislative office shall be made by regular or special statewide conference or convention to which all affiliated organizations are entitled to send delegates on the same basis as the regular state convention following consideration of recommendations from the appropriate area COPE and all information available from Statewide COPE.
3. Endorsement of candidates for U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives and statewide offices shall be made by the above-mentioned regular or special state convention or conferences. Statewide COPE or the WSLC executive board shall submit its recommendations for endorsement of candidates for these offices to such a convention or conference. Such recommendations will take into consideration all information available from national COPE and, in the case of candidates for congressional office, the recommendations of the appropriate

city, county and congressional district COPEs.

4. On those occasions when information about candidates for a political office cannot be measured by the criteria of capability, intelligence, integrity, and a past record in the support of the objectives of the AFL-CIO, a motion for "Neutrality" may be offered and, if passed by a majority vote, shall be construed to mean affiliated organizations may support the candidates of their choice for that office in any manner they deem appropriate but that the Washington State Labor Council and its officers and members of Statewide COPE shall remain neutral. In the event a candidate for a particular office is found to be severely lacking when measured against the foregoing criteria, a motion to "Oppose" may be offered, and, if passed, shall be construed to give direction to the activities of the Washington State Labor Council and in addition to admonish affiliated organizations to refrain from supporting such candidates. If support is nevertheless, given by an affiliate to such a candidate, it may result in a public disclaimer by the Washington State Labor Council on behalf of organized labor. All final actions to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues, whether by regular or special convention or by the state COPE when acting for the Washington State Labor Council, shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. In the absence of a two-thirds majority, either to support or oppose, the Washington State Labor Council and its officers shall be neutral.

5. No local area COPE or county central body shall make any endorsements for state legislative positions, congressional races or other statewide races prior to, or contrary to, the state COPE endorsement. Their recommendations shall be made in a closed meeting and submitted to the state COPE convention without prior publicity.

6. No COPE officer or committee member shall act in any official capacity whatsoever on behalf of any political candidates who have been refused COPE endorsement or who are candidates in opposition to COPE endorsed candidates.

7. The above procedures shall govern endorsements for both primary and general election. However, an endorsement of a candidate or an issue shall not be reversed or withdrawn by any convention except by a two-thirds vote of delegates present or a two-thirds majority in case of a roll call vote. In case no endorsement of an issue or a candidate was made before the primary,

or, in case the candidate endorsed before the primary was not nominated, it shall require a two-thirds vote by delegate or roll call to make an endorsement of an issue or a candidate in the special COPE convention after the primary.

8. Endorsements of candidates, made pursuant to the above procedures, are for that particular election and shall not constitute any endorsement of that individual for succeeding elections.

The executive board of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, shall have authority, by a two-thirds vote of the members present, to withdraw any endorsement previously made, if, after being elected, the candidate's conduct and voting record does not merit continued support. Such withdrawal shall be communicated to the public officeholder in writing by the chairperson.

9. Endorsement of candidates for municipal or county offices may be made by the respective city and county Central/Area Labor Councils.

10. A screening subcommittee may be appointed to check on voting records or other records, to interview candidates and to make recommendations to each COPE concerning candidate endorsements.

IX. Finances

1. Each AFL-CIO member shall be asked to contribute voluntarily to the national COPE drive. Any monies allocated by national COPE to the state COPEs shall be used only in campaigns of candidates for the United States President, vice-President, senate and house of representatives, but the apportionment among the several federal campaigns may be made at the discretion of the state COPE. Monies from this source will be kept in an account separate from treasury donations.

2. The COPE and its subdivisions are authorized to raise additional finances for their work by any legal means, as long as such activity does not interfere with the national COPE drive for individual contributions.

3. A finance committee consisting of the Secretary Treasurer and at least two additional members appointed from the state COPE by its chairperson may audit and make recommendations on the financial operations of the county, city and congressional district COPEs, within the state, whenever authorized by Statewide COPE