

Leverage Your Power —

COPE ... *Most often asked questions*

Q *What is COPE?*

A COPE (**Committee on Political Education**) is a political action fund financed by voluntary member contributions separate from the PEF budget.

Q *Is COPE a new political program?*

A No. PEF's COPE program was founded in 1980.

Q *Is COPE really necessary?*

A COPE is a key part of PEF's effort to strengthen our role on the political stage and gain more respect for NYS public employees and retirees. This will help us influence more of the decisions made by government that affect public employees and their families.

Q *Where does the money go?*

A COPE is used to financially support candidates for federal elected office endorsed by PEF.

Q *Why should we support federal candidates?*

A We need to support candidates who will support us in the federal budget and on specific national issues of concern like social security, pension reform and privatization.

Q *Who decides who gets our support?*

A The PEF Executive Board and the Statewide Political Action Committee (SWPAC) carefully review candidate platforms and base endorsements on their position on key labor issues that directly impact public employees.

Q *Why should I contribute to COPE when the money only goes to Democrats?*

A The goal of PEF's involvement in politics is to pass legislation that assists active and retired working men and women. PEF endorses both Democratic and Republican candidates whose records and platforms coincide with PEF's priority issues.

Q *How do I participate in COPE?*

A Fill out and return the Authorization for Voluntary Retiree COPE Deduction card.



NYS-PEF Retirees Office
P.O. Box 12414
Albany, NY 12212-2414
1-800-342-4306 Ext. 289

MAIL-IN AUTHORIZATION FOR VOLUNTARY RETIREE COPE DEDUCTION

Instructions for Completing PEF COPE CHECKOFF CARD

1. Print last and first name.
2. Include all nine digits of your retirement (RET) number provided by the Retirement System.
3. Your home address.
4. Deduction amount per month.
5. Effective date (date you want checkoff to begin).
6. Sign your full name, and fill in the date.

PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE

1. Name: Last

First

Initial

2. Retirement (RET) #

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3. Home Address: Street & No

Apt. No.

City

State

Zip

4. *I authorize the following monthly deduction from my pension to be contributed to the PEF COPE fund*

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Effective no earlier than (enter date) 5. / / I hereby authorize, in addition to my regular membership dues to the NYS Retirees Public Employees Federation, an additional deduction from my monthly allowance from the NYS & Local Employees Retirement System in the amount specified hereon as a voluntary contribution to be paid to the treasurer of PEF COPE to be used in accordance with applicable federal and state laws for the purpose of making political contributions in connection with local, state and federal elections. My contribution is voluntary and I understand that it is not required as a condition of membership and that I may revoke this authorization at any time by giving written notice to the Treasurer of PEF COPE, such revocation being effective when accepted into the Retirement System's payment system. This authorization supersedes all previous authorizations.

A copy of the New York State Public Employees Federation COPE report is filed with the Federal Election Commission and is available for purchase from the Federal Election Commission, Washington DC. Copies of these reports are also on file with the New York State Board of Elections, Albany, New York.

Contributions to PEF COPE are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purpose.

6. Signature:

Date:



MAIL TO:

PEF COPE

ATTN: RETIREE OFFICE

NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES FEDERATION, AFL-CIO

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