

COPE Contributors - There Are Changes To The Program

For those of you that contribute to COPE, we want to assure you understand the changes to COPE under USW.

Under OCAW/PACE, each Local that had members contributing to COPE was able to direct *some* of the funds, by way of the International, to local elections. This was how we historically supported our local candidates.

Under USW rules, all monies collected via COPE automatic dues checkoff go to the International where the International directs *all* funds. In short, we no longer have a right to a portion of our COPE contributions to use locally *unless* the International decides to contribute.

This is a significant change from our past practices.

With that, we understand the need to fund candidates and legislation that protect our jobs. We realize that the battle is bigger than just our State. However, we have political allies that support us and we feel a need to support them. But how?

At last year's picnic, we voted to allocate all raffle monies to the WSLC DIME-PAC. The WSLC (Washington State Labor Council) is a coalition of *LABOR* (both union and non-union) that supports labor in Washington state. In this way, we are able to fund our local candidates. Another noteworthy change, the WSLC now requires minimum support for labor before contributing to an election campaign. No longer will they support any candidate if their voting record does not support labor [read more...](#)

What's this all mean to you? Well, you have additional options in how you contribute to COPE.

1. Continue contributing via automatic dues checkoff (if available at your site) and allow the International to disperse funds as it sees fit, or
2. Stop your automatic dues checkoff and contribute solely via the picnic raffle, assuring all funds stay within the state, or
3. Contribute some funds via the automatic dues checkoff and some funds via the picnic raffle to cover all the bases.

As always, the choice to support labor via your Union is purely voluntary. Your normal monthly dues are not used for political action.

For those of you that are interested in participating in the COPE program via automatic dues checkoff, there are some forms available on our [forms](#) page.