



American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

AFT Teachers
AFT PSRP
AFT Higher Education
AFT Public Employees
AFT Healthcare

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April 29, 2010

Dear WTU Member:

I am writing to inform you that the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) has received notification from your leadership about potential procedural problems with the Washington Teachers' Union's upcoming elections. If left uncorrected, these concerns could result in a violation of your local's constitution. Two of the candidates seeking the office of WTU president have asked the national union to provide assistance and limited oversight.

It is unique for the AFT to become involved in an internal election of one of our locals at this point in the electoral process. Locals typically seek assistance from the AFT only after the completion of a local election—most commonly when a losing candidate requests an AFT investigation. The AFT commends both candidates for seeking intervention early as a way to make sure that the election procedures prescribed in WTU's constitution are followed. The AFT wants to ensure a transparent and democratic process that comports with WTU's constitution and the AFT's national constitution.

WTU President George Parker and General Vice President Nathan Saunders made the AFT aware of a potential violation of the WTU local constitution related to underrepresentation on the WTU Elections Committee. Both parties contacted the AFT about the underrepresentation issue on both the Elections Committee and for your union's delegation to the national AFT Convention.

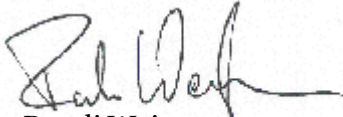
According to the WTU constitution, members are to elect 15 representatives to serve on the Elections Committee. To date, only four of your colleagues have run for a position on this committee, and only 17 have sought to fill 44 delegate slots for the national AFT Convention. It will be necessary to reopen nominations to allow you to exercise your constitutional right to elect representatives to serve on the Elections Committee and as delegates to the AFT Convention. These problems need to be resolved prior to the internal election for officers and members of the executive board.

At the request of President Parker and General Vice President Saunders, the AFT will provide assistance of very narrow scope, pursuant to our constitutional authority to resolve election disputes in AFT locals. The AFT's role will be limited to monitoring and assisting with the reopening of the nominations for positions on the Elections Committee and delegates to the AFT Convention. Our involvement will be consistent with the provisions of the WTU and AFT constitutions.

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The AFT is committed to ensuring that the democratic processes of our union are conducted fairly and openly. Our goal in reopening nominations is to protect your democratic rights. As your national union, the AFT will work with your local leadership to safeguard those rights.

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randi Weingarten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Randi Weingarten
AFT President

cc: George Parker, WTU President
Nathan Saunders, WTU General Vice President
WTU Executive Board
Antonia Cortese, AFT Secretary-Treasurer
Lorretta Johnson, AFT Executive Vice President
AFT Executive Council
AFT State Federation Presidents
Al Squire, AFT Southern Region Director
Ann Mitchell, AFT Affiliate Services Director
David Strom, AFT General Counsel