

LOCAL 1600
College Union

VOICE

COOK COUNTY COLLEGE TEACHERS UNION,
LOCAL 1600, AFT, AFL-CIO
FALL, 2016

DECISION 2016:



***Vote to Defend Public Education
and Union Rights***



**Tony Johnston,
President**

Vote....and Bring the Family!

I am writing this message on the eve of the first debate between presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. It has been a long presidential campaign and many Americans have expressed how exhausted they are with the process. A few days ago I walked precincts for Merry Marwig (more about her below!) and met people weary from being inundated with political messages every day. I mention these experiences to say to you: I get it. We're overwhelmed with the media barrage of the electoral process and it's only going to get worse as we inch closer to Election Day on November 8th! However, all of the above does not take away from the fact that this is a crucial election and we need you and your friends and family to get out and vote so we don't end up with a repeat of November 2014.

What happened in November 2014? Many members of organized labor simply did not go to the voting booth. Voter turnout was a dismal 49% throughout the state and turnout in strong Democratic areas was lower than the 2010 mid-term elections. While many of our members voted, we did not get our families and friends out to vote. This is not the place to go into the details of why that happened. The weak candidacy of Pat Quinn and his attacks against our pensions soured many union members towards him and the Democrats. But one thing is very clear: low voter turnout brought in Gov. Bruce Rauner and his anti-labor, anti-public education agenda. We don't have the luxury for complacency in this election.

While Rauner is not running for office in November, the best way to weaken him is to vote for pro-labor, pro-public education candidates in the statehouse. Three candidates in particular have close races and we need you to help get them elected. **Merry Marwig** is running against sitting Republican Michael McAuliffe in the 20th district (Edison Park, Norridge, Harwood Heights). Senator **Laura Murphy**, (28th District – Park Ridge) and Representative **Michelle Mussman** (56th District – Schaumburg) are facing well-funded Republican candidates. These are seats we need to win so that we can stand tough against Rauner's so-called Turnaround Agenda and promote our interests. All three of the above candidates have committed to adequately funding community colleges, MAP grants and our own bill, HB 4312, which would create an elected board of trustees for the City Colleges of Chicago.

So yes, we want you to vote. We always want you to vote. But more than that, we need you to reach out to family, friends (Facebook and otherwise), fellow church and community organization members to make sure that they are voting. Let's keep November 2014 in our rear-view mirror to remind us always that elections do matter.

COOK COUNTY COLLEGE TEACHERS UNION, LOCAL 1600, AFL-CIO



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Member of AFT Communications Association and
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CCCTU ENDORSEMENTS 2016

FEDERAL:

President

Hillary Clinton

U.S. Senate

Tammy Duckworth

U.S. House of Representatives

Robin Kelly – 2nd District
Daniel Lipinski – 3rd District
Luis Gutierrez – 4th District
Mike Quigley – 5th District
Amanda Howland – 6th District
Danny Davis – 7th District
Raja Krishnamoorthi – 8th District
Jan Schakowsky – 9th District
Brad Schneider – 10th District
Bill Foster – 11th District
Charles Baricevic – 12th District
Mark Wicklund – 13th District
Jim Walz – 14th District
Cheri Bustos – 17th District

ILLINOIS:

State Comptroller

Susana Mendoza

Illinois Senate

Antonio Munoz – 1st District
Omar Aquino – 2nd District
Kimberly Lightford – 4th District
Patricia Van Pelt – 5th District
Ira Silverstein – 8th District
John Mulroe – 10th District
Martin Sandoval – 11th District
Kwame Raoul – 13th District
Emil Jones III – 14th District
Jacqueline Collins – 16th District
Donne Trotter – 17th District
Michael Hastings – 19th District
Iris Martinez – 20th District
Christina Castro – 22nd District
Tom Cullerton – 23rd District
Corinne Pierog – 25th District
Laura Murphy – 28th District
Julie Morrison – 29th District
Melinda Bush – 31st District
Steve Stadelman – 34th District
Christine Benson – 38th District
Toi Hutchinson – 40th District

Illinois Senate (continued)

Pat McGuire – 43rd District
David Koehler – 46th District
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant – 49th District
Sam McCann – 50th District
Scott Bennett – 52nd District
William Haine – 56th District
Gary Forby – 59th District

Illinois House of Representatives

Daniel Burke – 1st District
Theresa Mah – 2nd District
Luis Arroyo – 3rd District
Cynthia Soto – 4th District
Juliana Stratton – 5th District
Sonya Harper – 6th District
Emanuel “Chris” Welch – 7th District
LaShawn Ford – 8th District
Arthur Turner – 9th District
Melissa Conyears – 10th District
Ann Williams – 11th District
Sara Feigenholtz – 12th District
Gregory Harris – 13th District
Kelly Cassidy – 14th District
John D’Amico – 15th District
Lou Lang – 16th District
Laura Fine – 17th District
Robyn Gabel – 18th District
Robert Martwick – 19th District
Merry Marwig – 20th District
Silvana Tabares – 21st District
Michael Madigan – 22nd District
Michael Zalewski – 23rd District
Lisa Hernandez – 24th District
Barbara Flynn Currie – 25th District
Christian Mitchell – 26th District
Monique Davis – 27th District
Robert Rita – 28th District
Thaddeus Jones – 29th District
Will Davis – 30th District
Mary Flowers – 31st District
Andre Thapedi – 32nd District
Marcus Evans, Jr. – 33rd District
Elgie Sims, Jr. – 34th District
Frances Hurley – 35th District
Kelly Burke – 36th District
Al Riley – 38th District
Will Guzzardi – 39th District
Jaime Andrade, Jr. – 40th District
Kathleen Carrier – 42nd District
Anna Moeller – 43rd District
Fred Crespo – 44th District
Cynthia Borbas – 45th District
Deborah Conroy – 46th District

Illinois House of

Representatives (continued)

Steve Swanson – 48th District
Valerie Burd – 50th District
David Harris – 53rd District
Martin Moylan – 55th District
Michelle Mussman – 56th District
Elaine Nekritz – 57th District
Scott Drury – 58th District
Carol Sente – 59th District
Rita Mayfield – 60th District
Nick Ciko – 61st District
Sam Yingling – 62nd District
Nancy Zettler – 66th District
Litesa Wallace – 67th District
Tricia Sweeney – 68th District
Angelique Bodine – 69th District
Mike Smiddy – 71st District
Michael Halpin – 72nd District
Bill Butts – 74th District
Martha Shugart – 75th District
Andy Skoog – 76th District
Kathleen Willis – 77th District
Camille Lilly – 78th District
Katherine Cloonen – 79th District
Anthony DeLuca – 80th District
Greg Hose – 81st District
Linda Chapa LaVia – 83rd District
Stephanie Kifowit – 84th District
Emily McAsey – 85th District
Larry Walsh – 86th District
Jehan Gordon-Booth – 92nd District
John Curtis – 93rd District
Bobby Pritchett – 94th District
Mike Mathis – 95th District
Sue Scherer – 96th District
Natalie Manley – 98th District
Anthony DelGiorno – 99th District
Carol Ammons – 103rd District
Dennis Malak – 110th District
Daniel Beiser – 111th District
Katie Stuart – 112th District
Jay Hoffman – 113th District
LaToya Greenwood – 114th District
Marsha Griffin – 115th District
Jerry Costello II – 116th District
John Bradley – 117th District
Brandon Phelps – 118th District

Appellate Court

Eileen O’Neill Burke – 1st Appellate
Bertina Lampkin – 1st Appellate
Brad Bleyer – 5th Appellate
Jo Beth Weber – 5th Appellate



Sean Noonan,
Legislative Chair

Decision 2016 – Our Take on the Candidates

National polling shows Clinton and Trump are in a dead heat between likely voters. Clinton, a prominent figure in the Washington establishment of the past quarter century, is statistically tied with the most unqualified candidate to run for president in recent US history. The major institutions of society are in the midst of a crisis of legitimacy. Polls show wide swathes of the population do not trust government, big business or the media. Few people trust Clinton and even fewer trust Trump. Much the same can be said about state politics where Governor Rauner and Speaker Madigan are both deeply unpopular. At both the federal and state level, the campaigns are going negative and slinging mud. Under these conditions, it is too easy for well-meaning people to arrive at the conclusion of “a plague on both your houses” and to stay home on Election Day. Don’t fall into the trap of false equivalence. Whatever shortcomings and weaknesses the Democrats have, Trump, Rauner, and the Republicans are existential threats to labor and quality public education.

Donald Trump is not an outsider to the conservative movement. Trump’s white nationalism, his deep sexism, his anti-muslim stances are the denouement of the right’s reactionary counter movement against the gains of the New Deal era from the 1930s to 1970s. Trump seeks to turn white, native-born Americans against immigrants (especially Latinos and Muslims). Rather than uniting the poor, the working class, and the middle class, the conservative strategy has always been to divide and conquer – to turn the near-poor against the poor, the working class against the near-poor, and the middle class against the working class. Trump’s efforts to turn working people against each other should motivate everyone to get to the polls (early if possible, on Election Day at the latest) and Dump Trump, Dump Trump, Dump Trump.

In the U.S. Senate, Mark Kirk (IL-10) knows Trump’s white nationalism is a losing proposition at the polls. As a consequence, Kirk has distanced himself from Trump. But we shouldn’t give Kirk a free pass on Trump. Kirk’s party, the Republican Party, created the conditions for the rise of Trumpism. A victory for Tammy Duckworth over Mark Kirk can be part of the restoration of facts, logic, and reason to the US Senate. With an open seat on the Supreme Court and other seats likely to become vacant in the near future, control of the US Senate is essential to preserving our rights and interests as unionists and educators, along with our civil rights and civil liberties.

In Illinois, Governor Rauner has already spent \$20 million of his own money in this election. He is pursuing a “turnaround” agenda that is driving the lower rungs of the working classes deeper into poverty and eroding the middle class. Rauner’s agenda is based on the false notion that labor costs are too high in Illinois due to the excessive power of unions. He is claiming that if the power of unions can be curbed, then investors will flock to Illinois, businesses will grow, and the economic well-being of everyone will improve. This is a pernicious lie. Rauner’s agenda is a poison pill for labor, for working class, and middle class people across the state.

With Springfield voting along almost solely party lines, party ranks have tightened. You are either for cutting collective bargaining for public employees or you are against it. Even Republicans in districts with community colleges and universities, who have been hammered by the Rauner budget crisis, are still loyal to the Republican governor’s agenda. Subsequently, there are no real close calls in terms of who to support in November. Instead, there are a small number of hotly contested swing districts (about a dozen statewide) which are critical to win in order to weaken Rauner.

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Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump on the Issues that Matter to AFT Members

Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump
PUBLIC EDUCATION	
“Public education remains the foundation of our democracy, and we are going to fight for it.” ¹	“Vouchers are “the American way.” ²
GUN-FREE SCHOOL ZONES	
“Parents, teachers and schools should have the right to keep guns out of classrooms.” ³	“I will get rid of gun-free zones on schools. My first day, it gets signed, okay? My first day.” ⁴
HIGHER EDUCATION	
Developed a New College Compact that eliminates tuition at in-state public colleges for working families, provides free community college, and cuts interest rates on federal student loans. ⁵	Started Trump University, which faces multiple lawsuits and state investigations for defrauding students. ⁶
UNIONS	
“We’ve got to stand up for unions and working people who have been at the core of the American middle class.” ⁷	“It’s the balance of power: Teachers’ unions with too much power; parents with too little.”
HEALTHCARE/AFFORDABLE CARE ACT	
“Affordable healthcare is a basic human right.” ⁹	“We are going to repeal Obamacare.” ¹⁰
IMMIGRATION	
“If Congress refuses to act, as president I would do everything possible under the law to go even further [than President Obama].” ¹¹	“When Mexico sends its people, they’re not sending their best. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists.” ¹²
TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP TRADE DEAL	
“I don’t believe we can keep giving new agreements the benefit of the doubt.” ¹³	“The deal is so pathetic and so bad.” ¹⁴

GET THE FACTS 1. Hillary Clinton’s remarks on K-12 education, Durham, N.C., 3/10/16. 2. Donald Trump, The America We Deserve, 2000. 3. New York Times, 5/21/16. 4. Washington Post, 1/8/16. 5. Washington Post, 7/6/16. 6. Huffing/on Post. 9/10/15; Boston Globe, 9/9/13. 7. Vox, 2/11/16. 8. Donald Trump, The America We Deserve, 2000. 9. Washington Post, 4/15/16, updated 6/8/16. 10. Washington Post, 4/15/16, updated 6/8/16. 11. Rea/ClearPolitics, 5/5/15. 12. Washington Post, 6/16/15. 13. Time, 10/7/15. 14. Breitbart News, 6/19/15.



By Don Radtke, Retiree Chapter Chair

Protect your Pension: Vote for Union-Endorsed Candidates on November 8th

“Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.”

In 2014, many voters were fooled by a Republican candidate’s promise to “Shake up Illinois”. With few policy details, the candidate asked voters to trust his billionaire credentials and ignore his lack of legislative experience. When in office, his “Turnaround Agenda” attacked unions, teachers, education, students, disabled, seniors, and health care by cutting funds for state services. Illinois’s problems continue to grow with Governor Rauner’s uncompromising temperament and persistent bashing of our state. In this year’s presidential election, another Republican candidate has promised to “Make America Great Again”. He offers few details, asking voters to trust his experience as a billionaire real estate developer. He flaunts his lack of legislative knowledge. With his self-centered temperament, he vilifies his opponents and praises dictators.

“What do you have to lose?”, Donald Trump asks. Plenty! The list includes: protection of our bargaining rights, fair share funding, ability to form unions, voting rights, civil rights, public education funding, a higher minimum wage, fighting global warming, overturning Citizens United, consumer protection, and, especially, our pension security.

We cannot be fooled again! Vote for candidates who support unionism and share our values. We want change. Not “trickle down” but solutions focused on the middle class and poor. We need fair solutions supported by our union members and retirees.

The best defense for our pension and union is to have a good offense in the 2016 Elections. Voting and getting involved in the political process will result in representatives who fight for us. Let’s make sure we win on Election Day!

Upcoming Retiree Chapter Social Events

- October 18th** 10 Signs - Early Detection” by Alzheimer Assoc. at IFT Westmont Office
- November 8th** **VOTE**
- December 8th,** “Crazy for You” at Drury Lane

Events held at the Westmont Office cost only \$10 and include a buffet lunch! Drury Lane Theater event with luncheon costs \$48 for members and \$54 for guests

To stay informed on our Retiree Chapter events, we need your email address. Please send it to your Retiree Chair, Don Radtke, at dradtke2133@gmail.com.

Missy Cabrera Elected Secretary of Local 1600



At the July 15th House of Delegates meeting, Missy Cabrera was elected Secretary of Local 1600. Missy ran unopposed.

Missy has been the Classified Chapter President at Triton College for the past 9 years and has been an IFT/Local 1600 union member for over 20 years. Through her tenure as Chapter President, Missy has maintained 100% membership! However, Missy’s time as Chapter President

hasn’t been easy. She was acting Chapter President when rif notices went out to 11 of her members. Missy was able to secure jobs or retirement packages for all but 2 members. Additionally, Missy has been lead negotiator for four contract negotiations, initiated several fundraisers for her chapter scholarships, and created “new” classified member welcome packets.

Missy prides herself on being an accurate record keeper, well organized, and hard working. She does not stop until the job is done, and done right. Missy has always been involved in team sports, which she credits for making her such a strong leader. She views her members as being part of a team: if the team does not support her, or she does not support them, the team becomes weak, but by supporting each other, the team becomes strong.

We congratulate Missy on her win and new position!

Decision 2016 (continued from page 4)

In Cook County, three races in the North and Northwest suburbs are considered highly-contested seats. These are traditionally Republican districts which are shifting due to changing demographics. Trump will likely increase turnout on the right and Rauner’s money puts the Republicans in a strong position, so we must work hard to turn-out the vote for these three key Democrats:

Representative Michelle Mussman (HD56 – Schaumburg) is up against a well-funded opponent in a traditionally Republican district. Rauner won this district by 16% in 2014. Mussman is a strong supporter of collective bargaining rights and her husband is a teacher and IEA member. She sits on the House Education Committee.

Senator Laura Murphy (SD28 – Des Plaines) is former Des Plaines alderman. Her opponent

is Mel Thillens – of Thillens stadium. Murphy is a strong Labor ally. She often contacts our IFT folks in Springfield to ask about the union position on a bill before she votes.

Merry Marwig is challenging Representative Michael McAuliffe (HD 20 – Northwest Chicago). McAuliffe is considered vulnerable. He used to be considered a pro-labor Republican, but he has voted against us ever since Rauner became Governor. Marwig is walking the district every day and is an anti-O’Hare noise activist. She has the potential to be a great asset in the House.

The consequences of losing in this election cycle could be devastating to us as unionists and educators. Be sure to vote. Election Day is November 8th. Village level early voting starts October 24th.



AFT-Local 1600
Cook County College Teachers Union
208 West Kinzie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60654

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LOCAL 1600
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VOICE

Decision 2016:

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- New Local-wide Secretary Elected

