

## *Vote No on Referendum Question #1*



## *November Elections*

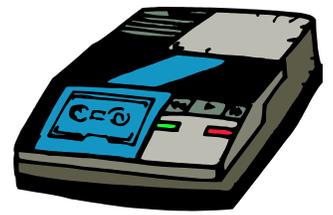
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## Dates to Remember

- 10/20:** DEC submits evaluations and appropriate recommendations to the Dean for 1st year renewals candidates (Jan. hires); 2nd year or later renewal candidates (Jan. hires); penultimate year tenure candidates (Aug. hires) and all promotion candidates submit relevant materials for consideration to the DEC
- 10/25:** Dean submits recommendations for first year renewal candidates (Jan. hires)
- 11/1:** Provost takes required action and informs first year renewal candidates (Jan. hires) of his decision; DEC submits evaluations and appropriate recommendations to the Dean for penultimate year tenure candidates (Jan. hires); professional assessment candidates submit relevant materials for consideration to the DEC
- 11/4: VOTE**
- 11/13:** Dean submits recommendations for penultimate year tenure candidates (Jan. hires)
- 11/15:** DEC submits evaluations and appropriate recommendations to the Dean for 2nd year or later renewal candidates (Jan. hires), penultimate year tenure candidates (Aug. hires), and promotion candidates.
- 11/25:** University-wide P&T Committee submits recommendations to the Provost for penultimate year tenure candidates (Jan. hires)
- 11/26-11/30:** Thanksgiving Recess (No Classes)
- 11/30:** Provost takes required action and informs penultimate year tenure candidates (Jan. hires) of his decision

Voicemail must be provided for all CSU part-time faculty who request it. If you are interested, request one through your department chairperson. Voicemail can be remotely accessed from any telephone, making it convenient for you and your students.



CSU-AAUP members can receive a **15% discount on Sprint Nextel plans**, for both new and existing customers. Sprint has also created a private online store for CSU-AAUP members only with special discounts. Contact your local AAUP office for more information!



### *Union News*

CSU-AAUP

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## 2008 Legislative Endorsements

It is a very different world for our Political Action Committee this year. With the new public financing law in place, we can no longer give money to candidates we think will support public higher education and labor issues. However, we can still endorse and do independent work for candidates so long as there is no coordination with the candidate's campaign and we report all expenses. We sent out questionnaires to all candidates and reviewed the responses for their support for public higher education and collective bargaining. We expected fewer responses because of the new law and that was the case. The endorsement list is only available in the printed version of the *Union News*. Because our web site uses a state-supported server, we cannot post this list with the on-line version of the newsletter.

Despite these changes, we will not be completely inactive this year. We will be mailing our members in the endorsed districts urging them to vote for, support and help these candidates however they can (short of money, of course). We are also contracting with another organization that has a very good statewide mailing list for some targeted mailings to urge voters to support these candidates. None of this will be coordinated in any way with individual campaigns.

If you would like to contact any of these campaigns and provide some help for the candidates and are having trouble figuring out how to do that, please John Harmon, Chair CSU-AAUP PAC, 860-832-2789, [harmonj@ccsu.edu](mailto:harmonj@ccsu.edu) or Michelle Malinowski (860-832-3790, [MalinowskiM@ccsu.edu](mailto:MalinowskiM@ccsu.edu)).

**For a list of endorsements  
please contact CSU-AAUP (860-  
832-3790) to request a printed  
copy of the *Union News*.**



# On Referendum Question #1

As the President of CSU-AAUP it is my responsibility to warn the membership of threats to its economic interests and to suggest steps that can be taken to defend our jobs, salaries, and benefits. The following are the facts related to Question #1 on this year's Connecticut ballot: ***“Shall there be a Constitutional Convention to amend or revise the Constitution of the State?”***

Proponents of passage of this question include two anti-public sector groups in Connecticut, the Connecticut Tax Payers Association and the Yankee Institute. (Yankee Institute Showdown Study) In recent press statements these groups have made clear their desire to incorporate into the state's constitution a provision for an initiative/referendum process, whereby voters can directly decide issues normally handled through the deliberative process of the General Assembly. Based on their statements and the actions of conservative groups in 31 other states, it seems likely that proposals to slash budgets, cap property taxes, ***curtail binding arbitration, restrict collective bargaining***, and possibly to eliminate the income tax will follow if Question #1 passes. One needs only to look to Massachusetts to realize what the initiative process could mean for Connecticut. On the Massachusetts ballot this fall is a proposal to eliminate the state's income tax, a step that would deprive Massachusetts of 45% of its income and impact discretionary areas of the budget, including higher education, up to 60% of the current total. In other states, proposals to weaken public sector unions have repeatedly appeared on the ballot (e.g., Oregon). In California, state and municipal employee unions and their supporters spent \$140 million dollars to defeat a single initiative question to end collective bargaining for state employees.

In assessing the merits of Question #1 in Connecticut, the following points should be kept in mind:

- Social scientists have proven that the proponents of major constitutional change are most often ex-

tremist elements of the left or right whose ideas have been rejected in the established political process. As political losers, their only hope is to overturn the existing rules of public policy deliberation and to replace them with electoral gimmicks in which special interest money and “30-second sound bites” replace the informed deliberations of elected legislators.

- If an initiative process is included in the Constitution, the inevitable result will be greatly increased spending on political campaigns. Proponents of such a process seek to outspend their opponents through the use of monies from national conservative organizations and to exhaust the energy and resources of the opposition. This is especially unfortunate now that Connecticut has passed a campaign finance law to limit political spending as one step toward shedding the label of *Corrupticut*. In most states that have passed initiative provisions, interest groups routinely spend tens of millions of dollars to influence the election.
- This is no vague, imaginary threat. Thirty-one states, primarily in the west and south, currently have initiative provisions. The states of California, Colorado, and Arizona offer testimony to the damage that can be done to the public sector through the initiative process. If an initiative provision ultimately emerges from a Connecticut constitutional convention, ***all of our lobbying efforts of recent years will be negated***, CSU 20/20 Bonding Package will be compromised, and proposals to “equalize” our retirement and medical benefits with those of the private sector will be forthcoming. With the exception of the renegotiation of our health care benefits in 2017, this is the greatest economic threat we will face.

(Continued on page 6)

## **AAUP and AFT Will Jointly Organize at Nation's Top Public Universities**

The American Federation of Teachers and the American Association of University Professors signed an agreement on September 17th that will bring the resources of both organizations together to jointly organize faculty and staff at our nation's top public institutions of higher education.

The two organizations have pledged to explore prospects for unionization on a number of campus, with a goal of launching two to four organizing drives within 18 months. This agreement is meant to build on the parties' previous success in organizing jointly both the full-time and part-time faculty at the University of Alaska and the University of Vermont.

This agreement seeks to advance the interests of the academic community and to create a climate conducive to aggressive joint organizing in a number of ways. The parties pledge to "enhance this cooperation at the national level on a broad range of public and professional issues in higher education". And although both organizations are free to continue their independent organizing programs and advocacy work, the no raid agreement now in effect will ensure that neither organization will take any actions that would interfere in the ongoing organizing or representation by the other.

"Drastic changes in higher education staffing levels, significant budget cuts and the corporatization of the university's research function have made it clear that faculty and staff at these institutions need a greater voice and more collective power within their workplace," said AFT President Randi Weingarten. "Organizing a union jointly affiliated with the AFT and the AAUP is the first step in that direction."

"The AAUP looks forward to reinforcing our long traditions of academic freedom and shared governance through a series of joint organizing campaigns with the AFT. Now, more than ever, these values need to be cemented in a collective bargaining contract," said AAUP President Cary Nelson. The AFT and the AAUP currently have seven locals in six states that already benefit from joint affiliations. The two organizations will begin meeting with faculty and staff immediately to determine other potential organizing opportunities. In addition, they will work together on efforts to address the ongoing academic staffing crisis, attacks on academic freedom and other key policy areas.

*The American Association of University Professors is a nonprofit charitable and educational organization that promotes academic freedom by supporting tenure, academic due process, and standards of quality in higher education. Founded in 1915, the AAUP has approximately 47,000 members at colleges and universities throughout the United States.*

*The AFT represents more than 1.4 million pre-K through 12th-grade teachers; paraprofessionals and other school-related personnel; higher education faculty and professional staff; federal, state and local government employees; nurses and healthcare workers; and early childhood educators.*

*(Material taken from [aaup.org](http://aaup.org))*

**CSU-AAUP  
Officers, Council & Staff**

**Vote No on Question #1**

*(Continued from page 4)*

At its September 2008 meeting, the CSU-AAUP State Council voted to join the “CT-Vote No” Coalition and to contribute \$10,000 to its electoral campaign (approximately \$850,000). The Council’s action was taken after reports from our lobbyist and lawyers, and in supporting “CT-Vote -No” we joined other constituent unions of the State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC). These include AFSCME Council 4, Service Employees International Union CT State Council, AFT Connecticut, the Connecticut State Employees Association (CSEA) and UCONN-AAUP. The Connecticut Education Association (CEA) and the Connecticut AFL-CIO are also members.

What can AAUP members do? **On November 4, take this letter to the polls and vote “NO” on Question #1.** Talk to members of your extended family and to your friends and neighbors and convince them that Question #1 is bad for Connecticut. Detailed information concerning Question #1 is available at the CT-Vote No website, [www.ctvoteno.org](http://www.ctvoteno.org). You may also wish to write letters to your local newspapers or call in to local radio talk shows to explain to listeners why Question #1 is a reckless proposal by special interest groups who seek to prevail in the Connecticut public policy process through the use of money from national groups opposed to a healthy public sector.

—David F. Walsh, President CSU-AAUP

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**CSU-AAUP September Council Notes**

- ◆ New England Resource center for Higher Education at UMass, Boston, has been hired to conduct a workload study for CSU-AAUP. Campus liaisons have been appointed to assist in the study.
- ◆ Approved sending up to 25 persons to the 27th Annual CT Lobbying Conference, October 16th.
- ◆ Approved donation to the organization CT-Vote No to aid in the defeat of the November Ballot Question #1.
- ◆ Approved funding for a political mailing by the CSU-AAUP PAC.