



An Urgent Message to all NYSUT & UFT Retirees in Florida:

NYSUT Retiree Council 43 TRIF encourages **ALL** our Retirees in **Florida** to vote! Whether you vote by mail or vote in person, be sure to make your voice heard in this election! If you are able to take advantage of the vote by mail or early voting option, you should. If you go to vote on **November 8th**, as long as you are in line before the poll closes, you are entitled to cast a ballot. The future of our great democracy rests in your hands: **Stay and cast your vote!**

Two of the most important facts that politicians know about union members is that we are well informed and we vote. Union members and their families vote in higher percentages than most other groups. As Florida residents it is our obligation to cast our ballots in every election and this current election is definitely no exception.

Registered voters enjoy a host of positive benefits. People who vote are more likely to participate in civic and political activities; are more likely to be engaged citizens who connect with their neighbors and join in community activities; and tend to have stronger social connections, leading to a greater quality of life and longevity.

NYSUT Retiree Council 43 TRIF encourages everyone to be a part of this important **2016 Election Voting Cycle**. The policy differences between the two major-party candidates could not be more striking.

Hillary Clinton intends to seek increases in **Social Security**, funded, in part, by a scrapping of the cap on **FICA** (Federal Insurance Contributions Act) payroll deductions. Note the word "Insurance." We paid into the Social Security fund while we were working in order to have the benefits paid to us once we "retired." Hillary has also stated that she will not privatize Social Security accounts. No insurance should be subject to the whims of the stock market. Hillary will not use a "voucher" approach to **Medicare**. She will defend the **Affordable Care Act** and seek to improve it where necessary. Moreover, she will crack down on drug companies charging excessive prices, slow the growth of out-of-pocket costs, and provide a new credit to those facing high health expenses.

Hillary Clinton has the endorsement of the **AFT; NEA and AFL-CIO**. She is poised, well spoken, experienced, and qualified. Hillary is informed and knowledgeable about US and world politics, laws, current events, culture and history. She is willing to continuously learn, listen, seek advice from experts and work with others to find common ground and solve problems. She is a change agent. "**Hillary IS the Work Horse that sweats the details.**"

In addition to electing the next president of the United States, we will be voting for members of Congress, and state and local leaders. The outcome of these elections is likely to have a direct impact on your life, from the president, who will make lifetime appointments, to the justices of the U.S. Supreme Court and other federal courts to the city council members, who will decide whether or not you get that stoplight at the dangerous intersection near your home. **There are 7 candidates running to be the next Senator from Florida.** The **AFT, FEA, the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans**, and the **Florida AFL-CIO** have endorsed **Patrick Murphy for the United States Senate**. He has demonstrated his commitment to seniors through his votes in the House of Representatives. Patrick is opposed to cuts in Social Security, including privatization and raising the retirement age. He is a strong defender of traditional Medicare, Part-D, and Medicare Advantage, and will continue fighting against cuts that would hurt seniors.

The states, now led by 38 Republican governors, have tried to get rid of teacher tenure, have spent millions of tax payer dollars to contest Supreme Court decisions to turn around rights of the LGBT community, restrict a woman's right to choose as well as trying to defund defined pensions, and raise the minimum age to collect social security. With the passing of Antonin Scalia, **there may/will be 4 new Supreme Court Justices** to replace Scalia, Ginsburg, Breyer, and Kennedy. Think of a court without them and think hard about the implications of an ultra conservative court, which would affect our children and our grandchildren.

When we all go into the voting booth, we can vote with our hearts, our heads, our conscience, morals, and ethics. We strongly advise voting for **Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine, Patrick Murphy**, and the endorsed candidates on the local down ballots that further our beliefs and preserve our hard fought rights, our pensions, our social security, the preservation of public education and our wishes for a more peaceful country, and a world where our children and grandchildren will be protected and remain proud Americans. (Visit <http://flaflcio.org/> AND <https://feaweb.org/2016-elections>)

On November 9th, we invite you to continue your educational, social, civic, community and union activism by joining your **NYSUT and/or UFT Retirees in Florida** at one of the many meeting sites around the state.

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