

Resolution 2025-05

Restoring AFT-Oregon Non-partisan political status

Whereas, AFT-Oregon, like American Federation of Teachers, its national organization, has always been a non-partisan organization, not joining or working on behalf of any political party; and

Whereas, a non-partisan organization is not beholden to the word or requirements, or direction of any political party; and

Whereas, *non-partisan* does not mean abandonment of its values and objectives, but allows AFT-Oregon to express itself in any electoral or legislative activities that reflects the State Federation's values on behalf of its member-affiliates and their members, through its support of specific political campaigns, candidates and their legislative goals regardless of the political party, including contributions to a party's Political Action Committee (PAC); and

Whereas, the 2006 AFT-Oregon convention rejected a resolution (No. 2006-08) to join the Working Families Party with a substantial financial commitment of \$1 per member per year, and in addition seek to establish "fusion" voting in Oregon elections; and

Whereas, the convention stripped requiring AFT-Oregon to join and financially support Working Families Party from the resolution, leaving only the goal of "fusion" voting and a recommendation that it contribute to allowing "fusion" voting in Oregon: "Fusion" voting, is the opportunity of a political candidate to be the nominee of more than one party, was achieved in 2009; and

Whereas, nevertheless and notwithstanding the instructions of the 2006 convention, AFT-Oregon recently joined the Working Families Party at a cost of \$4,000, giving it a role and vote in the agenda, public positions, mechanics and operations of the political party; and

Whereas, after nearly 20 years, voter registration with the Working Families Party in 2024 was only hundredths (.27) of one percent of voters; its turnout in the 2024 general election was only half of its own registrations and 18 hundredths (.18) of one percent of the votes cast; and

Whereas, the funding and officer and staff participation in the governance and operation of the Working Families Party would be best spent on independently pursuing the goals and objectives of AFT-Oregon; now

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the AFT-Oregon Executive Council should re-examine its action to abandon its historic non-partisan status, joining and supporting a specific political party; and

Be It Further Resolved, being a non-partisan organization provides maximum political flexibility and does not interfere with AFT-Oregon support for any party PAC or candidate or legislative objective that align with its values, goals and objectives.

Submitted by AFT-Oregon Retirees Chapter 8035R