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## **\* \* \* 1650 Election Bulletin \* \* \***

Local 1650 Members,

Thank you to all 1650 members who supported the Local's efforts in three important campaigns impacting the College: (1) the HFC millage renewal, (2) the campaign in support of Local 1650's endorsed Trustee candidates, and (3) the campaign to establish a firewall against a Republican controlled State government and its anti-public employee, anti-public education/anti-union agenda.

Thank you for the poll work, lawn sign distribution, and contributions to the 1650 Political Action Fund. 80% of 1650 members contributed! Thank you to Rick Goward, Sam Bazzi, David Tillman, and Eric Gackenbach for their community-wide distribution of lawn signs. Our successes would not have been possible without membership support. Thank you to all 1650 PAF contributors for recognizing that the decisions of elected officials determine the fate of our professions and our livelihoods.

### **Local Political Efforts**

The HFC Millage renewal passed by an overwhelming percentage (70% YES, 30% NO) despite the efforts of Trustee Hussein Berry's misleading campaign opposing the millage renewal.

Our endorsed Trustee candidates, though, were not successful. We knew going into the campaign that current Trustee James Thorpe and former Trustee Roxanne McDonald would be very strong candidates, and they did prevail.

The Federation was unable to support either Trustee Thorpe or Trustee-elect McDonald since both strongly supported Dr. Jensen, despite his public and private insulting, dismissive treatment of faculty and detrimental policy decisions. Given their inability to see the multitude of problems caused by Dr. Jensen, they would have supported retaining him – and Dr. Jensen would still be wreaking havoc at the College. Nevertheless, the Local has congratulated both on their election to the Board of Trustees, thanked them for taking on a very demanding role; and extended the faculty's best wishes. If you wish further elaboration on the Local's Trustee endorsements, please call.

## State Offices

A special thank you to Eric Rader who assumed a leadership role in the Local 1650 and AFT-Michigan political efforts at the State level, while I concentrated on the College millage and Trustee races.

Eric developed the literature distributed to faculty regarding the Michigan candidates and walked neighborhoods for AFT-Michigan endorsed candidates on nine Saturdays! Other 1650 members walked as well, Linda Brandt and Peggy Kearney on several occasions.

The Michigan vote produced many important victories that will prevent further Republican laws under funding education and attacking our bargaining rights, such as the hard cap cost shift of insurance premiums to faculty, taxation of pensions to help fund huge tax breaks for corporations, the gutting of K-12 tenure, the prohibition of payroll deduction of K-12 union dues, and of course Right-to-Work for Less legislation, which set the stage for the Janus decision nationwide, and the list could go on.

We were successful in supporting the victories of AFT-Michigan endorsed candidates for Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, five Senate seats, six House seats, one Supreme Court seat, all University Regent seats, and the two State Board of Education seats. Proposals 2 and 3 also passed, ending gerrymandering and empowering voter participation in elections.

## Federal Election Results

While NO Local 1650 funds go to candidates for national office, the system of checks and balances has been restored at the federal level with the elections of a Democratic majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. Among those federal House victories were those of Elissa Slotkin (8<sup>th</sup> District) and Haley Stevens (11<sup>th</sup> District) in Michigan.

Again thank you brothers and sisters who supported 1650's efforts to support your College, its students, your professional lives and standing, your careers, your livelihoods, and the large immigrant community we serve, against whom some very dark forces unleashed in the last two years.

Thank you – but our political efforts can not and must not abate.

John