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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, AFL-CIO

## **Executive Committee/Executive Council Q&A**

### **1. Who is authorized to attend Executive Committee and Executive Council meetings?**

Executive Committee meetings are attended by the AFT officers and the vice-presidents who are elected to a two-year term at the annual convention. Executive Council meetings are attended by Executive Committee members and delegates from each local.

### **2. Who is a delegate?**

The number of delegates is determined by the size of the local. There is one representative for the first 25 members, plus one representative for each additional 50 members. Each local has at least one representative, typically the president unless otherwise specified in their Constitution or they have appointed a designee.

### **3. When and how are delegates elected?**

Delegates and/or designees to the Executive Council are elected by each local. No later than September of each year each local shall submit to the AFT Connecticut Office a list of delegates and alternates. The list is certified by the President and one other officer of the local and only certified members are eligible to vote at Executive Council meetings. The term of office of delegates or alternates to the Executive Council is determined by the local's Constitution.

### **4. What is the role of the Executive Council?**

The Executive Council; recommends a budget to the Business Convention, adopts a Legislative Program, sets the salary of the officers, acts on recommendations made by the Executive Committee for any modifications in the established administration and guidelines of the Local Assistance Program, and acts on vacancies in officer positions in accordance with Article IV of this Constitution and Bylaws. The Executive Council may also establish Ad Hoc committees as needed, submit Resolutions for consideration of Convention delegates, submit proposed amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws, and has the power to interpret and enforce the Constitution.

## 5. How does the Executive Council work?

There are four regularly scheduled Executive Council meetings, typically in October, December, March, and July. By Constitution the council must meet at least three times a year. An agenda is presented at the beginning of the meeting; however, any local may submit topics for discussion prior to the day of the meeting. Locals are encouraged to participate, in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. Votes are per capita; it is a democratic process.

## 6. What am I losing by not attending Executive Council meetings?

When your local is not represented, important issues are discussed and voted on without your membership's consent or voice. As an elected or appointed official, you represent not only yourself but your entire membership. You also lose the opportunity to talk about common issues you are facing with other union leaders, and lose the chance to gain their perspective. The voice of the union is strongest when we speak together.

## 7. How else does the Executive Council affect my local?

In addition to the important responsibilities listed above, the Council provides an opportunity to work with AFT-CT and other AFT locals. Union work can be difficult, and it shouldn't be done in isolation. Presidents and other delegates have the opportunity to discuss their issues both formally and informally with people who are often addressing the same problems. The Council also provides speakers, information sessions, and special committees that address concerns many locals face.

## 8. Are Council delegates the same as Convention delegates?

No. How locals assign delegates is determined by their constitution, but the thresholds for determining Convention delegates are not the same as for Executive Council.

## 9. What locals are represented at the Council?

AFT is composed of locals that represent teachers, healthcare workers, paraprofessionals and educator support personnel, and State workers. Each of these constituencies also have their own Constituent Council meetings that concentrate on their specific issues.

Log on to <http://aftct.org/about-aftct> for more info.

