

#AFTVotes

Election-related information, news, and updates for union members

Affiliated Union Member,

Today hundreds of **elected delegates representing their fellow AFT Connecticut-affiliated local union members** gathered in Southington for our state federation's annual business convention. They **took action on a number of issues** critical to advancing our strategic plan for 2018 — including an **endorsement in this year's gubernatorial election, which I wanted to share now.**

We held an **interactive "straw poll" on delegates' preference among the four candidates for governor** who completed all of the required steps in order to receive AFT Connecticut's formal endorsement. Those **still seeking the state's highest elected office who completed an application and appeared before our legislative and political action committee (LPAC)** to answer members' questions are:

- Central Connecticut State University Professor of Political Science and Philosophy **Ned Lamont**;
- former Connecticut Secretary of the State **Susan Bysiewicz**;
- former **Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Sean Connolly**;
- &
- Bridgeport Mayor **Joe Ganim**.

The results of the straw poll were decisive; **Ned Lamont was the overwhelming favorite**, coming in well ahead of the remaining three candidates. Delegates then **made a motion from the floor to endorse Lamont**, which was seconded and passed by the majority of those in attendance.

As **AFT Connecticut's highest decision-making body**, convention delegates provide the **most democratic voice for a diverse and large membership** across over 90 local affiliated unions. In the typical endorsement process, our LPAC forwards a recommendation to our executive committee. Today's annual convention was an **opportunity for the largest gathering of elected leaders to voice a wider range of members' opinions.**

Now that **delegates have spoken, we can begin having a positive impact** on what will be **among the most important elections in recent memory** — and whose consequences cannot be overstated.

I hope I can count on you to **be an active part of our political program** going forward. It's going to take the **"U and I in Union"** to **protect our collective bargaining rights** and **resist the powerful special interests** bent on stealing them.

More to come, and in solidarity,

Jan Hochadel

President, AFT Connecticut

[P.S. Click here for photos and highlights from today's convention at our Twitter feed.](#)
