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**Comments on Middletown Voters' Rejection of
Public Education Privatization**

AFT Connecticut President Jan Hochadel made the following public remarks on Middletown Mayor Ben Florsheim's decisive election victory yesterday:

"The voters in Middletown have once again spoken loudly and clearly in favor of broad investments in their community's public schools and rejected privatization of their children's education. Yesterday, they overwhelmingly embraced Mayor Ben Florsheim's vision for delivering what all kids, not just a select few, need.

"This has been the second time the entire community has had a meaningful opportunity to weigh in on the siphoning of limited resources to a privately operated charter school. Like they did in September's Primary Election, when Mayor Florsheim secured his political party's nomination, voters chose the candidate with a track record of investing in public education.

"This message was echoed in communities far beyond Middletown. Parents from Danbury to Killingly also voted 'NO' to handing over accountability to outside operators or authority to school officials resistant to serving all their students.

"Voters sent a clear message to school boards and elected leaders alike. They expect those in power to fund Connecticut's future for all our communities' kids."

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AFT Connecticut represents more than 30,000 hard-working women and men in PreK-12 education, healthcare, public service and higher education from more than 90 local unions throughout the state. Visit aftct.org for more information and follow the labor federation on Twitter at @AFTCT, Facebook at AFT Connecticut and Instagram at @aftconnecticut.

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