



How Does COPE Work?

The Nevada State AFL-CIO Committee On Political Education (COPE) Conference is held every two years and serves as a platform for affiliates to convene, hear directly from candidates, participate in the labor endorsement process, and vote on political endorsements.

Upon the conclusion of the COPE Conference, the Nevada State AFL-CIO, Central Labor Councils, and affiliated unions will make every effort possible to educate and mobilize our union members as well as their families about the importance of voting for labor's endorsed candidates in the upcoming election.

(1) Jurisdiction

The Central Labor Councils (CLC's) endorse candidates for local office including municipal, county, school board, and other local offices. They also endorse local ballot measures as well. See below for the jurisdictional boundaries.

The Nevada State AFL-CIO makes the endorsements for statewide candidates, state legislature ², statewide ballot measures, and congressional candidates.

The National AFL-CIO makes the final endorsement for President and Vice President of the United States.

(2) Recommendations

The Central Labor Councils (CLC's) are responsible for recommending candidates for state legislature and U.S. House of Representatives to the Nevada State AFL-CIO.

Upon receiving the recommendations from the CLC's, the Nevada State AFL-CIO Executive Board votes on the recommendations and sends them to the COPE Conference floor for final approval by the delegates.

The Nevada State AFL-CIO's recommends all statewide candidates and ballot measures to the COPE Conference floor for final approval by the delegates.

Nevada Central Labor Council Jurisdictional Boundaries

Northeastern Nevada Central Labor Council

- Elko, Eureka, White Pine

Northern Nevada Central Labor Council

- Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Humboldt, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing, Storey, Washoe

Southern Nevada Central Labor Council

- Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye

(3) Role of Delegates

Affiliates of the Nevada State AFL-CIO are allocated a certain amount of delegates depending on how much per capita is paid to the state federation.

The Executive Secretary-Treasurer will send delegate credentials to all affiliates prior to the conference.

Delegates are appointed by the local union or council's leadership to represent their organization at the COPE Conference.

(4) Final Approval

At the COPE Conference, delegates hear directly from candidates, review the recommendations from the Nevada State AFL-CIO Executive Board & Central Labor Councils, and vote on the final endorsements.

All ballot measurer(s) and candidate endorsements require a two-thirds vote by the delegates.

Once they are approved, these candidates officially become Nevada State AFL-CIO endorsed candidates.

Affiliated unions in good standing shall be entitled to representation based on per capita tax paid on the following members:

50 members or less - 2 delegates

51-100 members - 3 delegates

101-200 members - 4 delegates

201-400 members - 5 delegates

401-700 members - 6 delegates

701-1100 members - 7 delegates

One additional delegate for each additional 500 members or major fraction thereof above 1100.