NYSUT’s guide to union-endorsed candidates in the Nov. 6 mid-term elections
Dear NYSUT member:

We are pleased to provide this Voter Guide so YOU and your VOTE on Nov. 6 can help guide the state and the nation.

Your VOTE is Our Voice for Our Union and Our Values.

When Republican voters are most enthusiastic, Republicans win elections. When Democrat voters are most enthusiastic, Democrats win elections. But this fall, let’s make sure NYSUT voters are most enthusiastic. Then students, educators, health care professionals and New York’s public education system, from pre-K through higher education, will be the big winners!

Our state and our country are clearly at a crossroads, and the decisions we make this fall will impact what happens from the halls of power in Washington, D.C., to the Capitol in Albany and in each and every community in New York.

Up and down the ballot, there are candidates who will support students and public education, who will stand with working families, and who will fight for the issues and values that we share. This guide provides the complete list of NYSUT-endorsed candidates. Please take the time to read and consider this information before you cast your ballot Nov. 6.

In addition to statewide candidates Tom DiNapoli, comptroller, and Tish James, attorney general, we are proud to feature NYSUT members who are running for office: state Senate hopeful John Mannion; Assembly incumbents Christine Pellegrino and Monica Wallace; and Assembly challengers Patrick Burke and Keith Batman.

It is up to each of us to exercise the awesome power of our vote ... and to support those candidates who will support us. Make a plan to vote, and make sure that your friends, family, and colleagues remember to vote, as well.

VOTE Nov. 6 — Our Voice, Our Values, Our Union!

In Solidarity,

Andrew Pallotta
President

Jolene T. DiBrango
Executive Vice President

Paul Pecorale
Second Vice President

J. Philippe Abraham
Secretary-Treasurer
Using an exhaustive, democratic process, NYSUT endorses Republicans and Democrats who share our commitment to public education, health care, retirement security, the right to bargain collectively and a strong middle class.

While this is a “mid-term” election year, much has happened to make this one of the most important elections in recent memory — as important as the last presidential election two years ago. Powerful corporate special interests take every opportunity to strike at unions, public education and public services. They scheme to enrich themselves on the backs of middle-class families.

“We demonstrated the voting strength of the union last fall when we overcame a vast polling deficit to defeat the Constitutional Convention referendum by a percentage of 83 to 17,” said NYSUT President Andy Pallotta.

“That caught their attention!” he said. “Now, we must speak out again to oppose the lawmakers who sold out the clean bill to fix teacher evaluations, which stalled in the state Senate last spring, and to support those who share our union values.”

The union communicates its endorsements to all members. Not all of you will agree with them, but the process reflects the opinions of members’ representatives.

Candidates seeking NYSUT’s endorsement first fill out a survey, and members of the Political Action Committee interview them. The PAC submits its recommendations during a three-day endorsement conference where they are reviewed with local leaders in thorough discussions.

Participants review the candidates’ positions, voting records and reputations for accessibility and responsiveness. Once the proposed slate of endorsed candidates is set, it is submitted to the NYSUT Executive Committee for discussion and then to the entire Board of Directors for discussion and final approval.

“It’s a long process, but it is the best way to ensure the endorsed candidates have truly earned our support,” Pallotta said. “We use our union voice to support those who stand for good jobs, public schools, health care and justice.”
State Comptroller
Thomas DiNapoli

There’s a reason Comptroller Tom DiNapoli gained more statewide votes than any other candidate in 2014, and it’s not just because he has been a champion for pensions, fiscal responsibility and public integrity.

People like him, and they trust him to do the right thing.

A longtime NYSUT ally, DiNapoli has been working with labor to mitigate the damage of the negative Janus v. AFSCME ruling in the U.S. Supreme Court last spring. And he pledged to defend against any attack on defined pension plans of which NYSUT members are a part.

“No way,” DiNapoli told delegates to the NYSUT Representative Assembly earlier this year. “Not on my watch!”

The comptroller said while today’s national news is dominated by stories of teachers in West Virginia, Arizona and Oklahoma rising up and fighting for fair pay and basic job protections, he takes solace in knowing New York is home to NYSUT — the nation’s strongest teachers union. And he urged NYSUT delegates to use that power to wage war against those seeking to weaken organized labor and cause harm to public schools.

“Public education is the pathway to the middle class,” DiNapoli said. “Public education is the door to economic security and a successful life, and teachers hold the key.”

It is time, he said, to fight back against attacks on public employees, against the DeVos agenda, and against those working to dismantle defined benefit plans. And, it is time to fight for safe schools and sensible gun legislation.

“It is time to stand up. And I will stand with you.” — DiNapoli

“Tom has been a wonderful ally through thick and thin,” said NYSUT President Andy Pallotta. “We need him. And he needs our support now.”

James easily won a wide-open Democratic primary election in September, leaving no doubt she was the party’s choice.

“She has been a steadfast ally during her time in the City Council and as public advocate,” said UFT President Michael Mulgrew. “She has shown herself to be an independent, strong advocate for public schools and the working people of New York City.”

“That’s exactly what we need in a state attorney general,” said NYSUT President Andy Pallotta.

Anti-worker, anti-public education activists have been emboldened by backing from right-wing billionaire radicals. They continue to undermine the pillars of fairness and due process in the state.

“The election of a strong ‘top cop’ in Tish James is crucial for the protection of the professions and careers of NYSUT members,” Pallotta said.

“At a time when our constitutional rights are under attack, the attorney general’s office must be occupied by someone who will be an advocate for everyday New Yorkers and stand up for all of our rights.”

— James

“Throughout my career,” James said, “I have been driven by the basic belief that the law is the most powerful and effective tool in our quest for progress and equality. I have used it to defend our most vulnerable communities, to uplift our working families and to ensure that no New Yorker lives beyond the protective shade of justice.”

James is running to succeed Attorney General Barbara Underwood, who was chosen by the state Legislature to finish the term of Eric Schneiderman, the former attorney general who resigned in May.
U.S. House of Representatives

DISTRICT/ NAME/ (PARTY AFFILIATIONS)

1 Perry Gershon (D)
2 Liuba Grechen Shirley (D-W-WE)
3 Thomas Suozzi (D-W-I-WE-RF)
4 Kathleen Rice (D-WE)
5 Gregory Meeks (D)
6 Grace Meng (D-W-RF)
7 Nydia M. Velázquez (D-W)
8 Hakeem Jeffries (D-W)
9 Yvette D. Clarke (D-W)
10 Jerrold Nadler (D-W)
11 Max Rose (D-W-WE)
12 Carolyn Maloney (D-W-RF)
13 Adriano Espaillat (D-W)
14 Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D)
15 José Serrano (D-W)
16 Eliot L. Engel (D-W-WE)
17 Nita M. Lowey (D-W-WE)
18 Sean Patrick Maloney (D-W-I-WE)
19 Antonio Delgado (D-W-WE)
20 Paul Tonko (D-W-WE-RF)
21 Tedra Cobb (D-W-WE)
22 Anthony Brindisi (D-W-I-WE)
23 Dana Balter (D-W-WE)
24 Joseph Morelle (D-W-I-WE)
25 Brian Higgins (D-W-WE)
26 Nathan McMurray (D-W-WE)

To find your district, go to https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/votersearch.aspx

Produced by NYSUT Research and Educational Services
Perry Gershon  
**CD1**
Gershon says those who are committed to tolerance, decency, progress, science and democracy must step forward. Decent employment, good health care, education and a secure retirement are the rights of every American.

Antonio Delgado  
**CD19**
Delgado advocates investment in public education and making college more affordable for all, including high school kids and folks who want to go to college later in life. He also supports training and apprenticeships as ways to the middle class.

Tedra Cobb  
**CD21**
Cobb is committed to increasing funding for education, from preschool to postsecondary, improving equity and resisting all efforts to dismantle public education. She also pledges to protect and promote the industries that drive the region’s economy.

Anthony Brindisi  
**CD22**
In the state Assembly, Brindisi led successful fights to increase educational funding to lower-income school districts, bolster apprenticeship programs, increase job training, and bring high-tech manufacturing and economic development to the Mohawk Valley.

Dana Balter  
**CD24**
Balter vows to work for adequate, affordable health care; equitable, high-quality education for every child; economic justice and meaningful employment; racial justice and equal treatment under the law; protection of natural resources; and respect for democratic institutions.

Joseph Morelle  
**CD25**
Morelle, the longtime majority leader in the Assembly, says he is running to work for universal health care; to defend women’s equality; to keep our streets and children safe from gun violence; to boost economic opportunities; and dismantle racial inequities.
The leadership in the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate has distinguished itself in recent years by its ability, more than anything else, to block legislation, stifle debate, stonewall appointments and get very little done.

Ignoring voters, they seem to respond only to deep-pocketed donors who want to privatize and polarize to the detriment of education and health care.

This year, voters have a great opportunity to send a message to Washington, D.C., that they expect more — more leadership, more progress, more responsiveness and more transparency.

“Our endorsements in Congress this year reflect the voter discontent in the state,” said NYSUT President Andy Pallotta. “We support incumbents who help fulfill our collective obligations to help students succeed and communities thrive. We support many challengers who would represent our values in Congress.”

Here are some of the federal issues:

**The education agenda**
The Department of Education is aggressively pushing an anti-public, anti-union education agenda that presents an existential threat to our professions.

**Quality of education**
The DOE supports plans to allow unqualified educators to be locally certified in many charter school systems.

**Student loan rights**
Making college less affordable is the wrong direction for the country today.

**Social Security and Medicare**
The current leadership in Congress has made no secret that it intends to cut these earned benefit programs to help them pay for their unaffordable tax cut that benefits the wealthy.

**Retirement security**
The federal agenda targets defined benefit pensions for public- and private-sector employees.

**The Affordable Care Act**
ACA withstood repeal attempts in 2017, but opponents in Congress are still trying to peel off key programs that will strip affordable health insurance from millions of Americans.
One of the biggest issues in the state pertains to unfinished business from the 2018 legislative session: Annual Professional Performance Reviews or teacher evaluations.

Last spring, the Assembly passed a bill to fix the state’s flawed APPR law with no strings attached. It would have ended the link between high-stakes standardized tests and evaluations and restored local control through collective bargaining for performance reviews.

The Senate had a matching bill, S.8301, with 87 percent of the senators signing on as co-sponsors. But it never got to the floor for a vote. The Senate majority had its own bill, S.8992, that would have enriched the privateers in the charter school industry, which they knew was a deal breaker.

“In endorsing for state Senate, we stand with those who have stood consistently with us,” said NYSUT President Andy Pallotta. “We made clear to the entire Senate and its leaders that S.8992 carried serious consequences. Those senators who turned their backs on teachers and public education — and held students and educators hostage in hopes of dealing for more charter schools — are now being held accountable for their vote.”

Here are some key issues:

Funding for education
The state must provide more funding to guarantee a fair and equitable education for all students.

Public higher education
State funding for public higher education continues to lag behind what it must be to ensure quality, accessibility and affordability.

Labor rights
New York’s Taylor Law is being challenged in the wake of the Janus v. AFSCME decision in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Charter schools
Corporate backing for charters moves some legislators to advance the industry’s agenda in exchange for unlimited campaign donations.

Health care
NYSUT backs candidates who support improved access to health care, who value the SUNY medical centers and who support commonsense legislation, such as safe staffing.
Key state Senate races

Monica Martinez SD3
An immigrant, a teacher and a Suffolk County legislator, Martinez vows to pass policies that provide better opportunities for all New Yorkers. She will work for gun-safety, support public education and protect women’s health care.

Jim Gaughran SD5
Gaughran’s experience positions him to take on the special interests in Albany. Elected to the Huntington Town Board at age 26, he wrote one of the state’s first ethics laws requiring officials to disclose all outside income.

Anna Kaplan SD7
Kaplan is committed to working with constituents and standing up in unity against hate and prejudice. She backs common sense gun reform, protecting child victims, early voting and campaign finance reform.

John Brooks SD8
Brooks is a volunteer firefighter and has served on the Seaford Board of Education. His legislative priorities include government corruption, public education, taxation, hunger, opioids, and making Long Island an affordable place to live.

Andrew Gounardes SD22
Gounardes says public schools and subways have been shortchanged millions of dollars in funding for years. He vows to bring funding back to schools and subways, make streets safe for pedestrians, and protect against unfair taxes and rent increases.

Jamaal Bailey SD36
Bailey believes education must focus on the whole child and provide academic, social and emotional assistance to students from early childhood through graduation and college enrollment. We also need to offer technical skills and job training.

James Skoufis SD39
In the Assembly, Skoufis fought for working- and middle-class citizens who are often overlooked by government. He’s been a champion of better public schools, stronger infrastructure and leveling the playing field.

Jennifer Metzger SD42
Known as a compassionate community leader, Metzger is progressive, principled and independent. She insists New York can create a clean energy economy, improve the health care system and bring thousands of good-paying jobs to the region.

Aaron Gladd SD43
A combat military veteran who has vast government experience and whose wife is a teacher, Gladd has helped fight poverty and deliver relief to struggling communities, including universal broadband, tackling the opioid epidemic and women’s equality.

John Mannion SD50
A high school science teacher and president of the West Genesee Teachers Association, Mannion says we have to prepare students for careers we cannot even imagine today. We need smaller class sizes and more pathways for all students to achieve.
NYSUT 2018 Voter Guide

35 Jeffrion L. Aubry (D)
36 Aravella Simotas (D-W)
37 Catherine T. Nolan (D-W)
38 Michael G. Miller (D-C)
39 Catalina Cruz (D)
40 Ron Kim (D-W)
41 Helene E. Weinstein (D-W)
42 Rodneyse Bichotte (D-W)
43 Diana C. Richardson (D-W)
44 Robert C. Carroll (D-W)
45 Steven Cymbrowitz (D-W-I-WE)
47 William Colton (D-W)
48 Simcha Eichenstein (D-C)
49 Peter J. Abbate Jr. (D-W-I)
50 Joseph R. Lentol (D)
51 Félix W. Ortiz (D)
52 Jo Anne Simon (D-W)
53 Maritza Davila (D-W)
54 Erik Dilan (D)
55 Latrice Walker (D-W)
56 Tremaine Wright (D-W)
57 Walter Mosley (D-W)
58 N. Nick Perry (D-W)
59 Jaime Williams (D-W)
60 Charles Barron (D)
61 Charles D. Fall (D-RF)
62 Michael Reilly (R-C)
65 Yuh-Line Niou (D-W)
66 Deborah Glick (D)
67 Linda B. Rosenthal (D-W)
68 Robert J. Rodriguez (D)
69 Daniel O’Donnell (D)
70 Inez Dickens (D)
71 Al Taylor (D-W)
72 Carmen De La Rosa (D-W)
73 Dan Quart (D-W)
74 Harvey Epstein (D-W)
75 Richard Gottfried (D-W-WE)
76 Rebecca Seawright (D-W)
77 Latoya Joyner (D)
78 Jose Rivera (D)
79 Michael Blake (D-W)
80 Nathalia Fernandez (D)
81 Jeffrey Dinowitz (D-W-WE)
82 Michael Benedetto (D)
83 Carl E. Heastie (D)
85 Marcos Crespo (D)
86 Victor M. Pichardo (D-W)
87 Karines Reyes (D-W)
88 Amy R. Paulin (D-W-WE-RF)
89 J. Gary Pretlow (D)
90 Nader Sayegh (D-G-W-I-WE-RF)
91 Steven Otis (D-W-WE)
92 Thomas Abinanti (D-W-RF)
93 David Buchwald (D-W-I-WE-RF)
94 Kevin Byrne (R-C-RF)
95 Sandra Galef (D-W-WE-RF)
96 Kenneth Zebrowski (D-W-WE-RF)
97 Ellen Jaffe (D-W-WE-RF)
98 Karl Brabenec (R-C-I-RF)
99 Matthew Rettig (D-W-WE)
100 Aileen Gunther (D-W-I)
101 Chad McEvoy (D-W-WE)
103 Kevin Cahill (D-W)
104 Jonathan Jacobson (D)
106 Didi Barrett (D-W-I)
108 John McDonald III (D-I)
109 Patricia Fahy (D-W-I)
110 Phil Steck (D-W-I-WE-RF)
111 Angelo Santabarbara (D-W-I-WE-RF)
112 Mary Beth Walsh (R-C-I-RF)
113 Carrie Woerner (D-I)
114 Daniel Stec (R-C-I)
115 D. Billy Jones (D-W-I)
116 Addie Jenne (D-W)
117 Ken Blankenbush (R-C-I)
120 William Barclay (R-C-I-RF)
121 Bill Magee (D)
122 Clifford Crouch (R-RF)
123 Donna Lupardo (D)
124 Christopher Friend (R-C-I)
125 Barbara Lifton (D)
126 Keith Batman (D-W-WE)
127 Al Stirpe (D-W-WE-RF)
128 Pamela Hunter (D-W-I-WE)
129 William Magnarelli (D-I-WE)
131 Brian Kolb (R-C-RF)
132 Philip A. Palmesano (R-C-I-RF)
134 Peter Lawrence (R-C-I-RF)
135 Mark Johns (R-C-I-RF)
136 Jamie Romeo (D-W-I-WE)
138 Harry Bronson (D-W-I-WE)
140 Robin Schimminger (D-C-I)
141 Crystal Peoples-Stokes (D)
142 Patrick Burke (D-W-RF)
143 Monica Wallace (D-W-I-WE)
144 Joseph DiPasquale (D-W-WE)
145 Angelo Morinello (R-C-I-RF)
146 Karen McMahon (D-W-WE)
148 Joseph Giglio (R-C-I)
149 Sean Ryan (D-W-I-WE)
150 Andy Goodell (R-C-I)
Key state Assembly races

Christine Pellegrino  
AD9
A proud NYSUT member, Pellegrino works for families and businesses to create better opportunities on Long Island. She wants to ease the property tax burden and ensure schools get their fair share of state school aid.

Steve Stern  
AD10
Stern previously served as a Suffolk County legislator. In addition to representing the community with a commitment to outstanding constituent services, he has authored several groundbreaking legislative initiatives in the state.

Matt Rettig  
AD99
As a community organizer in Cornwall and the former vice chairman of the American Eagle Airlines pilot union, Rettig is committed to improving schools, instituting ethics reforms and making the health care system more affordable.

Didi Barrett  
AD106
Barrett came to the Assembly in 2012 after a career as a community activist, writer and leader of not-for-profits. She is passionate about the region’s agricultural, natural and cultural resources and their value as economic engines.

Angelo Santabarbara  
AD111
A lifelong resident of Schenectady County, Santabarbara attended public schools and earned a bachelor’s degree from SUNY Albany. He worked in civil engineering for more than 15 years before taking office in the Assembly.

Carrie Woerner  
AD113
Woerner has advocated for responsible spending and is focused on improving the business climate for small businesses and farms, strengthening public schools and protecting the traditions, heritage and culture of Saratoga and Washington counties.
Bill Magee
AD121

Recognizing the importance of education, Magee has consistently fought to bring a fair share of state funding to local schools. He has fought for additional funding to ensure schools can provide a quality education while holding the line on taxes.

Keith Batman
AD126

A higher education NYSUT member with administrative and board of education experience, Batman has a rich background of public service. He vows to represent the district, obtain funding for projects and find solutions to local problems.

Al Stirpe
AD127

Stirpe crafted the legislative fix to allow districts to submit final cost reports for past approved school capital improvement projects without penalty. He has been a steadfast supporter of strengthening education in Central New York.

Pamela Hunter
AD128

Hunter says good jobs, improved schools and increased public safety will enhance quality of life and lead to stronger communities. She is the only female veteran in the Legislature, serving as chair of the Assembly Subcommittee on Women Veterans.

Patrick Burke
AD142

A member of United University Professions and NYSUT, Burke lists water quality, job creation and campaign finance reform among his priorities. He also stresses keeping kids safe, supporting education and growing the economy.

Monica Wallace
AD143

A member of United University Professions and NYSUT, Wallace’s legislative priorities include strengthening public education, standing up for working families, creating jobs by supporting economic development, upgrading local infrastructure and restoring integrity to government.

Karen McMahon
AD146

McMahon says the district deserves a representative who will be a tireless advocate. She will work to bring state dollars for projects to improve quality of life and will advocate to make the community healthier and safer.
VOTE Nov. 6  Make a difference!

Where do I vote?
If you live in New York State, double-check your polling place at https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/.

What time can I vote?
All polling sites in New York State must be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. for the general election. If you live out of state, check with your board of elections.

Do I need ID?
New York State has not adopted a voter identification law, but if you are among the many NYSUT retirees who live in other states, you should check your state’s requirements.