

COPE

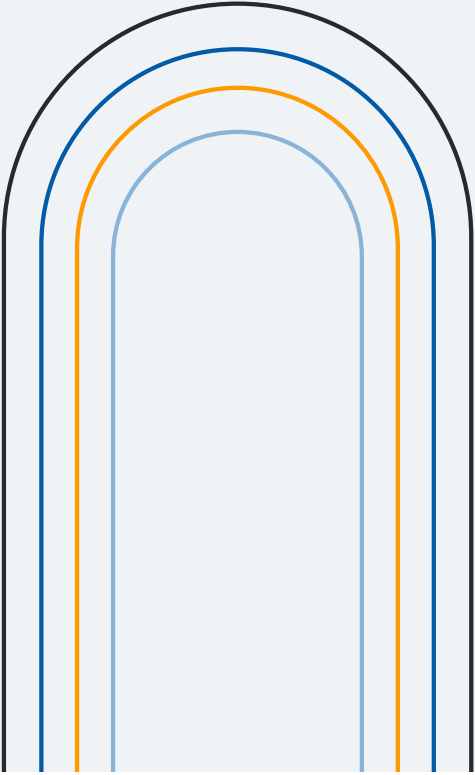
OUR VOICE, OUR POWER

Emma Cleveland
State & Local Political Coordinator






COPE: Committee on Political Education

- 
- Under federal law, unions can't use members' dues to influence politics
 - ATU members can donate money through a PAC to get involved in issues that affect us at the local, state, and federal level`



POLITICS MATTERS MORE THAN EVER


FISCAL CLIFF



With federal transit funding in threat, the states need to step up to fund operations for our systems!

TRANSIT AGENCY BOARDS

Most of our transit agency boards are appointed by politicians – better to bargain with a pro-transit board!



ELECTED OFFICIALS ON OUR SIDE

Friends of ATU show up on the picket line when our members need them!



SIGN UP YOUR MEMBERS FOR COPE

Use the all-in-one Membership, Dues & COPE form.

Copies can be requested for FREE from officeofthepresident@atu.org.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the Officers and Members of Local Union _____

I hereby apply for membership in the above named union and authorize said union to act for me as my collective bargaining agent in all matters pertaining to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment and other terms and conditions of employment.

Name _____
 First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Address _____
 Number _____ Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____ Telephone No. _____

Cell No. _____ Permission to Text Yes No Married or Single _____

Date of Birth _____ Sex _____ Social Security _____

Employer _____ Badge Number _____

Employee ID Number _____ Employment Date _____

Job Title _____ Work Location _____

Signature: ✕ _____ Initiation Date _____
 Date _____ Employee _____ Local Union Secretary _____

AUTHORIZATION OF DUES

I voluntarily authorize and direct my employer and any successor employer (Employer) to deduct from my pay and remit to Local Union of the Amalgamated Transit Union and its successors (Union) the Union's dues, fees and/or assessments.

This voluntary authorization and direction shall continue year-to-year and remain in effect, irrespective of my membership status in the Union, unless I provide a written notice of revocation to the Employer and the Union during either of the following time periods: (1) not more than twenty days and not fewer than ten days prior to each annual anniversary date of this authorization and direction, or (2) not more than twenty days and not fewer than ten days prior to the termination of the collective bargaining agreement (if there is one) between the Employer and the Union. This authorization and direction shall continue in effect if my employment is terminated and I am later re-employed by the Employer.

I recognize that this authorization and direction is voluntary and not a condition of my employment. I understand that Union membership is not a condition of this voluntary authorization and direction; and that this authorization and direction may be revoked only as specified by its terms.

Signature: ✕ _____ Name: _____
 Date: _____

TEAR HERE



I voluntarily authorize and direct my employer and any successor employer (Employer) to deduct from my pay the indicated sum per week:

\$2.50 \$3.00 \$5.00 \$ _____

and remit that amount to the Amalgamated Transit Union Committee on Political Action (ATU COPE).

This authorization and direction is voluntarily made by me; it is not a condition of membership in the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) or any affiliated local union, or a condition of employment with my Employer. I may refuse to contribute, or may contribute more or less, without reprisal or it affecting my membership or employment status. ATU COPE will use my contributions to make political contributions and expenditures, including but not limited to, in connection with federal, state and local elections. This authorization may be revoked at any time by notifying my local union or ATU COPE in writing of my desire to do so.

Signature: ✕ _____ Name: _____
 Date: _____

Contributions to ATU COPE are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

HOW DOES COPE WORK?

COPE IS A FEDERAL PAC

To make sure we comply with Federal Election Commission requirements, the ATU International tracks and reports on local COPE contributions.



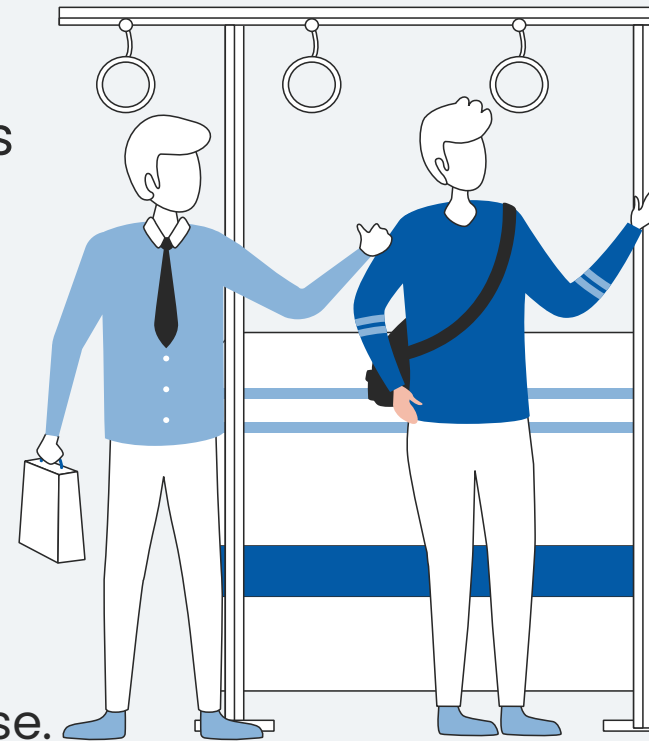
≡≡≡ HOW DOES COPE WORK?

THE 50/50 RULE

50% of COPE contributions made by members at your local can be requested to make donations to **local and state candidates.**

The other **50%** go toward contributions to **federal candidates.**

Write to officeofthepresident@atu.org if you have recommendations for federal candidates to endorse.





MAKING A COPE REQUEST

To find out your local's **COPE balance**, write to cope@atu.org.

To **request a COPE check for a local or state candidate**, fill out the COPE Request Form & send it directly to cope@atu.org.

Do not write to Office of the President.



The Voice of Transit Workers

COPE Cash Disbursement Request

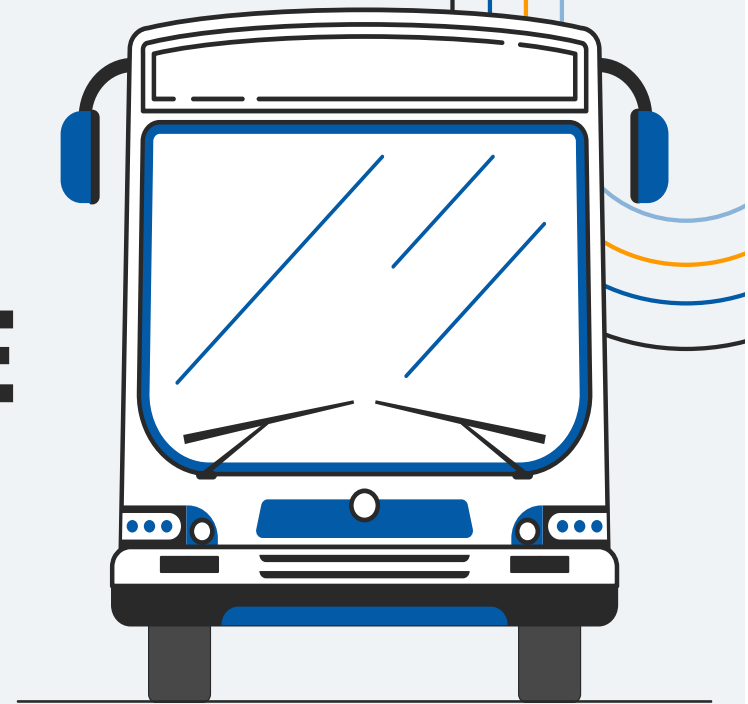
Please complete this form and email to cope@atu.org

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| PAYEE: | <input type="text"/> | (Name of the Committee) |
| PAC ID# | <input type="text"/> | (If applicable) |
| NAME: | <input type="text"/> | (Full Name of Candidate/Incumbent) |
| AMOUNT: | <input type="text"/> | |
| LOCATION: | <input type="text"/> | (Federal, State or Local) |
| OFFICE: | <input type="text"/> | (Senator/Rep., Mayor, Council, etc.) |
| STATE: | <input type="text"/> | |
| CAMPAIGN: | <input type="text"/> | (General/Primary, Other) |
| ELECTION DATE: | <input type="text"/> | |
| RE-ELECTION: | <input type="text"/> | (Yes/No) |
| DISTRICT: | <input type="text"/> | |
| PARTY: | <input type="text"/> | (Democrat/Republican, Independent) |
| LOCAL UNION NUMBER: | <input type="text"/> | |
| MAILING ADDRESS OF COMMITTEE: | <input type="text"/> | (This information is required for state campaign finance reporting purposes.) |

IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ATU COPE AT COPE@ATU.ORG

COPE

PROGRESS UPDATE



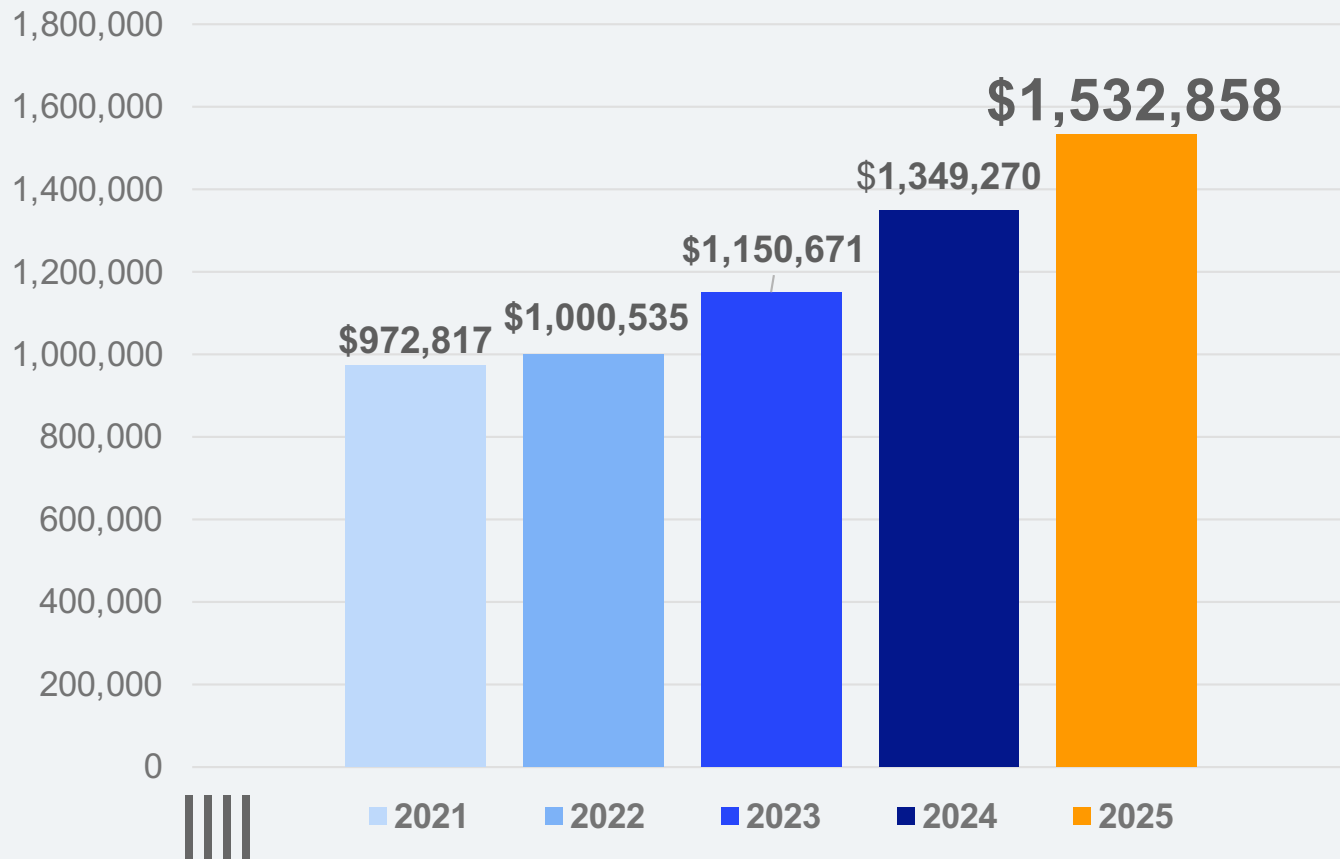


\$1,532,858

**ATU Members' Contributions
to COPE in 2025**

Highest Dollar Amount Contributed to COPE
since we started tracking in 2016

INCREASE IN COPE CONTRIBUTIONS (2021 to 2025)





57% increase

**In the Dollar Amount Contributed to
COPE over the last 4 years**



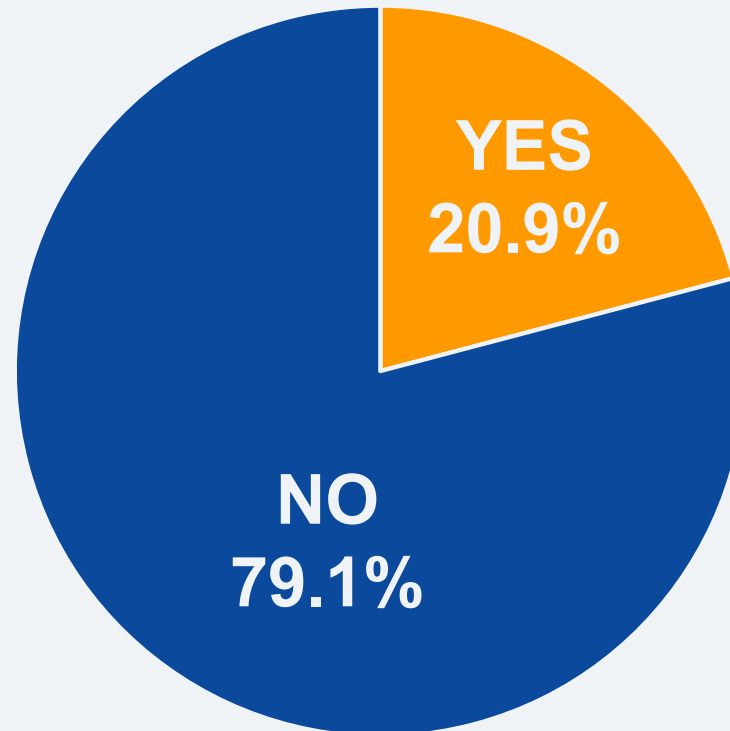
20.9%

**Percent of ATU members in the U.S.
Contributed to COPE in 2025**

Increased by 26% Over the Last 4 Years

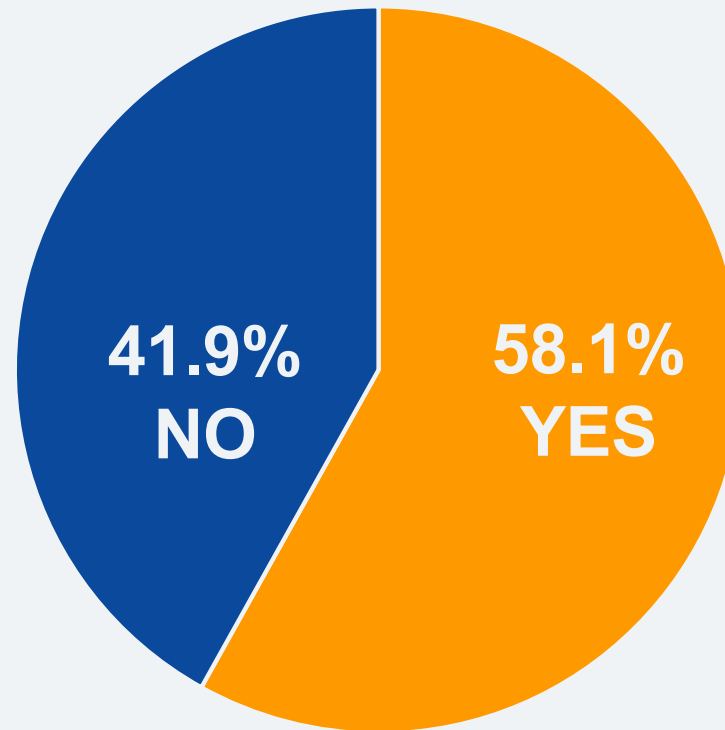
Highest Percent of Member Participation
since we started tracking in 2016

PERCENTAGE OF ATU MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTE TO COPE



**We still have over 79% of ATU
members left to sign up!**

PERCENTAGE OF BARGAINING UNITS WITH COPE CHECKOFF IN CBA



Two years ago, less than 49% of CBAs had COPE language. Let's keep bargaining it into our contracts!

Stronger together!

When we lead our members to be more involved in politics, our power grows. **Our livelihood and survival depends on it!**

Request support from the International to **create a COPE campaign** that works for your local and your members.



COPE AWARDS

