







Friday, December 9, 2005 2:00:05 PM

Message

From:  Keith Pickering

Subject: Recommendation of Ellen Tauscher as "friendly incumbent"

To:  LEA Site Reps 05-06
 LEA Exec Board-'05-06
 president@livermoreteachers.org

Please forward to all LEA Bargaining Unit Members,

Good afternoon everyone,

At the last Rep Council meeting, I spoke as one of the Tri-Valley's CTA State Council members and asked for input and a possible vote from Rep Council regarding LEA's vote on Ellen Tauscher's "Friendly Incumbent Status" with CTA.

Rep Council wanted more information about Representative Tauscher and what it meant to have "friendly incumbent status."

Please read the information (either "in brief" or "in detail", whichever you prefer) and give feedback to your Site Reps prior to the next Rep Council meeting on Jan 12. Rep Council will be voting on that day to endorse the recommendation for "friendly incumbent status" or not.

In brief: An incumbent politician who was a recommended candidate in the past election, who has a consistent voting record of support for CTA/NEA positions on education issues, and who has completed the application process with favorable responses can be determined by CTA State Council to be a "friendly incumbent." This allows the local regional service centers to bypass the interview process (interviewing all candidates in that region). This saves time and money because they would end up recommending that candidate anyway.

Representative Tauscher has not been in the forefront of most education legislation, but has consistently voted positively on bills supported by CTA/NEA and negatively on bills opposed by CTA/NEA. She is also a co-sponsor on House Resolution 147 designed to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions (also known as the Social Security/STRS Offset).

In detail:

Definition of "Friendly Incumbent Status":

From the CTA 05/06 Policy Handbook:

"Friendly Incumbents" are identified as incumbents who:

- a. Have an approved Governmental Relations Division voting record assessment in support of CTA or NEA legislative positions.
- b. Have been previously recommended in this district.
- c. Are accessible to local leaders.
- d. Have first discussed local school board candidates with the leadership of the local CTA Chapter before

recommending any of the candidates.

e. Have consistently been of assistance to CTA during the legislative session to advance the goals of public education.

CTA Policy supporting/authorizing "friendly incumbents":

Identifying and Recruiting Candidates for State Office

CTA believes in the election of pro-education public officials to statewide office. CTA may recruit and provide support to potential candidates during the exploratory phase of a campaign. CTA may also provide early recommendation of and financial assistance to "friendly incumbents" seeking a different office. (PIC: 95-01)

Political Recommendations

CTA believes the recommendation of candidates for public office is an essential part of the Association program. CTA shall maintain a fair and open process as established by the State Council of Education. Where there are two or more "friendly incumbents" in the same legislative district, CTA will be neutral in the primary election. (PIC: 96-05; 92-01; 91-03)

III. Recommendation Procedures

A. Friendly Incumbent Recommendations:

1. At the October meeting of the Board of Directors the Governmental Relations Division shall submit a list of "Friendly Incumbent" legislators.
2. Immediately following the October meeting of the Board of Directors, the Governmental Relations Division shall send to the SCC Political Action Chairs, SCC Chairs, CTA Board of Directors, NEA Board of Director(s), CTA/ABC Committee members, Chapter Presidents and Regional Political Consultants a list of candidates who may qualify as "Friendly Incumbents." "Friendly Incumbents" are identified as incumbents who:
 - a. Have an approved Governmental Relations Division voting record assessment in support of CTA or NEA legislative positions.
 - b. Have been previously recommended in this district.
 - c. Are accessible to local leaders.
 - d. Have first discussed local school board candidates with the leadership of the local CTA Chapter before recommending any of the candidates.
 - e. Have consistently been of assistance to CTA during the legislative session to advance the goals of public education.
3. In the event an incumbent State Senator or incumbent State Assembly member was not recommended in the preceding election, Governmental Relations may inform the Prime SCC Chair and PAC Chair that they may recommend the incumbent for "Friendly Incumbent" status if the incumbent has met all other requirements as listed under A.I. above.
4. By November 15 of the odd numbered year, all incumbents recommended for "Friendly Incumbent" status must be sent an addendum written questionnaire, provided by CTA or NEA, from the Regional Political Consultant. Legislators recommended for "Friendly Incumbent" status do not have to interview. Completion and return of the written addendum questionnaire is required for CTA Recommendation.
5. The Prime SCC Chair or designee shall use the CTA electronic voting system in securing the votes of chapters within the Legislative/Congressional District. A copy of the Credentials Report for each Legislative/Congressional district shall be sent to the chapters that vote in the district. The ballot shall show the number of votes to which each chapter is entitled.
6. The adoption of the recommendation for "Friendly Incumbent" requires an affirmative vote of 60 percent or more of the votes cast in the Legislative/Congressional District. If the incumbent in question does not receive 60 percent of the votes cast, then they will be asked to proceed through the regular Recommendation Process.
7. The Regional Political Consultant shall report the results of the "Friendly Incumbent" balloting to

Governmental Relations at least 15 days before the January meeting of State Council. The Governmental Relations Division shall prepare a list of "Friendly Incumbent" recommendations to be presented to the Board of Directors prior to the January meeting of State Council.

8. "Friendly Incumbent" legislators who seek election to a different elective office, shall not carry with them the "Friendly Incumbent" designation for the new office. Such candidates shall be interviewed as any other candidate for the election. If another "Friendly Incumbent" is also a candidate for the new position, CTA will remain neutral for the Primary Election.

9. Where there are two or more "Friendly Incumbents" running in the same Legislative/Congressional District, CTA will be neutral in the primary election.

10. CTA recommends only one candidate per Legislative/Congressional District, if a candidate recommendation is to be made.

11. The Board of Directors shall automatically refer consideration of any potential "Friendly Incumbent" recommendations not acted upon by the Prime Service Center Council to the January meeting of State Council, if recommendations are not received in a timely manner.

Websites for learning more about Ellen Tauscher:

<http://www.house.gov/tauscher/legislation.shtm>

<http://www.house.gov/>

Keith Pickering-Walters

Livermore Education Association

www.LivermoreTeachers.org

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