

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: State Federations and Central and Area Labor Federations

FROM: Richard L. Trumka

DATE: June 29, 2015

SUBJECT: AFL-CIO Presidential Endorsement Process

As we head into another presidential election, I wanted to give you an update on the presidential endorsement process and remind you of policies related to it.

As of now, all major, declared presidential candidates – both Democrats and Republicans - have received our questionnaire with a request to return it by July 3rd. We have also set aside some time at our July Executive Council meeting and will invite candidates who have returned the questionnaire to meet with us. Our national affiliates are also working through their internal endorsement processes of questionnaires, member surveys, and meeting with candidates.

Because in years past, and already this year, a number of questions have been raised, I want to remind you all that the AFL-CIO endorsement for president and vice president belongs to the national AFL-CIO. State federations, central and area labor councils, and all other subordinate bodies must follow the national AFL-CIO endorsement regarding president and vice president.

To be clear, this means not only that state and local bodies cannot endorse a presidential candidate but that state and local bodies may not introduce, consider, debate, or pass resolutions or statements that indicate a preference for one candidate over another. The Rules Governing State and Local Bodies says that no state or central body shall make any different endorsements direct or implied from that of the national AFL-CIO regarding the presidential election. Resolutions and statements calling on union members, or the national AFL-CIO, to support one candidate over another are implied endorsements and, therefore, not permissible.

It should be noted that this rule applies to "personal" statements by state and local AFL-CIO officers as well. As officers, you are linked to your organizations and need to follow the same guidelines in place for your organizations.

Thank you in advance for your compliance.

RLT/jhl