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**Payroll Deduction**

**Authorization**

I, the undersigned, authorize Erie Community College (ECC) to deduct from each paycheck the amount checked or filled-in and initialed below, and to forward that amount to VOTE/COPE, PO 5190, Albany, NY 12205-0910.

**Please check or fill-in your contribution amount and place your initials on the line immediately below your donation. Thank you!**

**$100**

**$5**

**$3**

**Other $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**$2**

This authorization is made freely and voluntarily and not out of any fear of reprisal and with the understanding that the making of payments to VOTE/COPE are not conditions of membership in any labor organization or of employment with ECC.

With the further understanding that VOTE/COPE will use the money it receives to make political contributions and expenditures in connection with federal, state, and local elections.

This authorization shall remain in full force and effect during my employment at ECC, or until revoked by me in writing at the time of the annual VOTE/COPE campaign of my local. I understand that contributions to VOTE/COPE are not tax deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ NYSUT ID #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 or

 ECC Employee # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Tele. # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home (Not ECC) e-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Why is Contributing to VOTE-COPE Important?**

Across our nation and in Erie County public education continues to be under attack. To combat the pervasive negativity toward our profession, we need to advocate for high quality public higher education for our students. VOTE COPE makes sure our voices are heard in the halls of government.

In order for us to succeed in our current struggles to attain a Collective Bargaining Agreement that honors our past, present, and future members, and also maintains quality education for our students, we must not only join together to elect public individuals who have a clear understanding of our positive effect on the economy and our citizens; we must also advocate for our professions, our institution, and our students.

VOTE-COPE is the non-partisan political action arm of New York State United Teachers, which is funded entirely by voluntary contributions from members. The primary goal of VOTE-COPE is to support the goals of public education and to protect all of NYSUT's constituents, from our newest members to our retirees.

**In recent years:**

* Your VOTE-COPE contributions have helped make FFECC an important part of local government discussions.
* When the swipe cards were proposed legislators listened to our concerns.
* When budget hearings take place legislators on both sides of the hall listen to our concerns.
* When our Trustees have listened to other points of view our legislators have helped make our case.

**Statewide your VOTE-COPE contributions have helped NYSUT:**

* Lobby leading to the restoration of 40% of the cuts to SUNY community college base aid proposed in last year’s State Executive Budget
* Continue defending Triborough Amendment (which continues the terms of expired contracts until successor agreements are negotiated)
* Local VOTE-COPE rebate funds were used to secure the election of Tom Loughran who has been a huge supporter of ECC and the FFECC on the Erie County Legislature, supporting the maintenance of our three-campus structure among other issues.

**Please consider making a donation to your future.**

FFECC’s VOTE COPE drive is not asking for your life savings - we are just looking for a small regular payroll contribution. The money you contribute when combined with the VOTE COPE contributions of other FFECC members will make our voice stand out during election time. Your donation will be taken out of 20 payroll periods over the course of the year. You do not need to re-enroll – contributions continue until you notify payroll otherwise. If you are already contributing, please consider increasing your share. Remember, donations to VOTE-COPE are not tax deductible.

By law, our union dues cannot be used for many types of political advocacy. NYSUT keeps VOTE-COPE contributions separate from union dues. They are the only source of political action funds for NYSUT and its affiliates. VOTE-COPE provides a 40% rebate to all participating unions for local political action. Frequently NYSUT affiliates use these rebates to advocate for school board candidates, but ECC’s school board is Erie County Government. The FFECC uses our rebate funds to advocate for candidates in county elections.