



Elections Matter

Postcard Party Kit



Where's the party?

Don't miss the most important party of the year, where you can have fun while doing your part to help elect leaders committed to supporting **public education and working families!**

Here's a **fun, easy, no-pressure** way to reach out to members around the country to let them know what's at stake in this election.

Please check the contents against the enclosed checklist. If you are missing anything from this package, contact Darrell Capwell at the AFT as soon as possible.

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Let's make a difference. Join me!






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Postcard Party

BACKGROUND FOR HOSTS

- The AFT is working hard to **reach our members** across the country.
 - The AFT and the labor movement are **concentrating on voter turnout and education** to ensure an increased labor-household vote in the fall.
 - It is essential that we get each and every one of our members out to vote on behalf of working families.
 - We are here to **handwrite messages on postcards** to AFT members across the country.
 - This is your opportunity to be a part of this important election because **every vote counts**.
 - Politics is serious work, but we're here to **have some fun!**
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Sample Messages

- ✓ Use the practice postcard sheet to try out your message before you start filling in postcards.
- ✓ Start with “Dear fellow AFT member.”
- ✓ Make the message as personal as possible.
- ✓ Close with “In solidarity,” and sign your name, including your local union or school district.

SAMPLE 1: PUBLIC EDUCATION

Public education is under attack. These attacks hurt our students, our schools, our teachers and our communities. This fall, we have a duty to help protect a bright future for our students by voting for candidates who understand the importance of investing in public education. We must get to the polls in November, and don't forget to bring your friends and family! Union strong!

SAMPLE 2: PROTECTING STUDENTS

Our neighborhood public schools are places of endless opportunity for our students. When we don't invest in our public schools, we rob children of their future. This November, let's use our vote to elect candidates who will stand with us in our fight for our students and their future. See you at the polls! Union strong!

SAMPLE 3: PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

It's up to us to support public education. We must elect leaders who will stand with us against efforts to disinvest in our schools and students. Let's support candidates who support children and public schools. I'm tired of politicians cutting positions of teachers, paraprofessionals and school bus aides. Our students are counting on us. This November, we will not let them down! In solidarity!

SAMPLE 4: USING OUR VOICE

It's up to us to fight for better schools, better colleges and a better life for all working people by caring, fighting, showing up and voting. Unions are under attack by right-wing groups that want to silence our voices and further stack the deck in favor of the rich and powerful. This November, let's vote for candidates who stand with working people like us and the students we serve every day. Solidarity forever!

SAMPLE 5: STAND WITH YOUR UNION

We have powerful tools—our voice and our vote. The best way for us to fight to improve conditions for students and win the respect we deserve is to stand with our union. This November, let's vote for candidates who stand with working people like us and the people we serve every day. Solidarity!

SAMPLE 6: SOCIAL SAFETY NET

Our nation's greatness is being tested by politicians who want to destroy the social safety net that protects the weakest members of our society—like the sick, the elderly and children. Their policies rob poor and working Americans to further enrich the wealthy. This November, it's up to us to vote for a change in Congress. The soul and greatness of our nation are on the line.

SAMPLE 7: AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The Republican leadership in Congress made several attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which would have taken healthcare away from some 25 million Americans—all to give the wealthy a big tax cut. This November, it's up to us to vote for a change in Congress. The soul and greatness of our nation are on the line.

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Sample Messages

Continued

SAMPLE 8: FIGHTING BACK

Nearly every significant measure of progress won in the past 50 years is at risk. Right-wing groups and their allies in the majority-Republican Congress want to take away the voice and power of working people like us. They are going after our healthcare, our pensions and wage protections. These issues are only part of what makes the November 2018 elections so important. It's up to us to be part of the checks and balances for our democracy and to safeguard the progress we have made as a nation. Union strong!

SAMPLE 9: STAND FOR DEMOCRACY

I believe that all Americans should be able to vote, even if they are poor or elderly, or have moved residences recently. I hope you do too. I am a [AFT or union member], and I am asking you to join me in taking a stand for democracy in our great country. This November, let's vote for candidates who stand with working people like us and are committed to democracy for us all! Solidarity forever!

SAMPLE 10: HEALTHCARE IS A RIGHT

I am asking you to join me in fighting to make sure healthcare is seen as a right, not a privilege. This November, let's vote for candidates who understand that access to affordable healthcare is a right we will not stop fighting for. Union strong! Solidarity!

