

***BYLAWS***

***of the***

***REVERE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION***

***COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION***

*Adopted by the RTA Executive Board on May 20th, 2025*

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## **ARTICLE ONE: NAME**

- 1.1. The name of this organization will be the RTA Committee on Political Education (hereinafter the "COPE").

## **ARTICLE TWO: PURPOSE**

- 2.1. To support and strengthen the commitment of the citizens and the government to excellence in public education at all levels.
- 2.2. To promote and strive for the improvement of public schools.
- 2.3. To encourage educators to know and understand the nature and actions of their government as it pertains to education.
- 2.4. To assist educators in organizing themselves for more effective political action, and in carrying out their civic responsibilities.
- 2.5. To engage in any suitable activities to achieve the purposes above.
- 2.5.1 To establish and register an Independent Expenditure Political Action Committee (hereinafter "IEPAC") with the city and/or state Office of Campaign and Political Finance (hereinafter "OCPF") in order to support the purposes above.

## **ARTICLE THREE: MEMBERSHIP**

- 3.1. The COPE shall consist of up to twelve (12) members, one per building and one retiree, appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Board.
- 3.2. The members of the COPE shall serve concurrently with the term of the RTA President.
- 3.3. The members of the COPE shall be payroll contributors to the IEPAC fund and members in good standing of the RTA.

## **ARTICLE FOUR: OFFICERS**

- 4.1. The Chair of the COPE shall be designated by the President of the RTA.
- 4.2. The Treasurer of the COPE shall be nominated by the RTA President and appointed by the Executive Board and shall serve at their pleasure.
- 4.3. The Treasurer of the COPE must be a retired RTA and/or MTA member, and cannot be actively employed in the public sector.

## **ARTICLE FIVE: MEETINGS**

- 5.1. Meetings shall be called by the Chair of the COPE when necessary. COPE meetings may also be called by a majority petition of the Executive Board or of the COPE members.
- 5.2. The COPE may meet remotely
- 5.3. Any meeting that results in the approval of expenditures will follow Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

## **ARTICLE SIX: REQUIREMENTS FOR A POLITICAL ENDORSEMENT**

- 6.1. Prior to any election in which the RTA may make political endorsements, the COPE shall notify all candidates in writing of the Union's intent to consider making an endorsement.
- 6.2. When an incumbent has a favorable record on education and labor issues, the COPE may choose, by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote to notify only the incumbent.
- 6.3. If the contest has no incumbent, the COPE shall give every candidate requesting an endorsement the opportunity for an interview.
- 6.4. In making recommendations on endorsements, the COPE shall take into consideration (1) the interview and (2) the individuals record on labor and education issues. The result of the interview and/or voting records shall be reported to the Executive Board and membership in writing.
- 6.5. Candidates for statewide public office and Federal office may send a representative to the interview or may, in lieu of an interview, stand on their voting record and public positions.
- 6.6. Candidates for State Senate, State House of Representatives, and municipal office must personally attend an interview in order to be considered for an endorsement.
- 6.7. In order to receive an endorsement, a candidate must receive a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the COPE and a simple majority of the general membership.

## **ARTICLE SEVEN: FINANCES**

- 7.1. The organization will be financed by voluntary contributions. All contributions shall be deposited in a fund distinct and separate from any other organization.
- 7.2. The IEPAC fund will be managed by the Treasurer of COPE.
- 7.3. The IEPAC fund shall be audited once a year by the RTA Executive Board or its designee(s).
- 7.4. Funds may be distributed by a majority vote of the committee for normal operating expenses.
- 7.5. If a candidate or campaign is formally endorsed by the RTA membership, funds may be distributed for political purposes at the discretion of the COPE, with the advice and consent of the RTA President.

7.6 In addition to the reporting requirements to the city and/or OCPF under state law, the COPE Chair will also make regular reports to the RTA Executive Board on all COPE activities including by not limited to organizing efforts, fundraising, and expenditures.

7.7. Within ninety (90) days following a final public election, the COPE shall make a final financial report to the RTA Executive Board.

#### **ARTICLE EIGHT: AMENDMENTS**

8.1. Amendments to these bylaws shall be made by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the RTA Executive Board.