



Vote Feb 16: Chris Larson for County Executive

MTEA recommends Chris Larson, a true champion for public schools, for county executive. Please vote in the primary on Tuesday, Feb. 16, and the general election on Tuesday, Apr. 5. Get five family members, friends and neighbors to vote as well!

Chris Larson deserves your vote and your active support in his bid to unseat the current County Executive, Chris Abele. Larson's strong record of supporting public schools and public employees stands in stark contrast to Abele's dismal record and his willing participation in a Republican-orchestrated takeover of severely under-resourced public schools in Milwaukee.

Larson stood up for educators as one of the "Wisconsin 14" who battled against Act 10. Larson fought for more investment in public schools, and introduced community schools legislation.

In contrast, Abele has worked in concert with right-wing state legislators to orchestrate public school takeovers, and donated money to Dale Kooyenga, one of the architects of the MPS takeover. Abele claimed he opposed Act 10, then used it to strip county employees of rights and benefits.

You can help Chris Larson win by phone banking and canvassing out of the MTEA office on Saturday, Feb. 13 and Sunday, Feb. 14 from 10am to 2pm. And remember to VOTE on Feb. 16 and Apr. 5!

Show your love for public schools! Week of action February 14-20

Show your support for public schools by joining MTEA and our allies in a public school week of action this Feb 14-20.

On Tuesday, Feb. 16, be sure to VOTE for candidates who support public schools, including Chris Larson for County Executive (see article at left).

On Wednesday, Feb. 17, join us for a nationwide walk-in for public schools. (Visit bit.ly/walkinwisconsin for locations). Nearly 1000 schools in 30 cities across the country will walk in to celebrate public schools and stand up against take-

overs. Activists in Milwaukee, LaCrosse, Racine, Chicago, Los Angeles, Detroit and dozens of other cities will send a message that we love our public schools and stand united against attempts to hand them over to private operators who don't serve all kids and aren't accountable to parents or elected school boards.

These walk-ins call for public community schools that welcome and serve ALL children and offer excellent academics, bilingual education, special education services, art, music, physical education, libraries, as well as support services like health care, before- and after-school care, tutoring, and family involvement.

Finally, on Saturday, Feb. 20, parents, educators, students, and community members from all 132 public schools in Milwaukee are invited to head downtown to MATC (main building, room 605) at 9am. We will make signs and march to the county courthouse for a citywide demonstration supporting public schools, where we will hear from local parents and students, and NEA Secretary Princess Moss.



Deducting union dues on your income taxes

If you itemize deductions on your federal income tax return, you can deduct your union dues, minus the portion of your dues that go to the Political Action Committee, along with your other "miscellaneous deductions." Members who worked the full calendar year in 2015 may deduct:

Teachers: \$963

Educational assistants: \$284.80

Substitutes: \$240

Bookkeepers: \$480

If you worked less than a full year or have questions about what you can deduct, call Linda at 256-6760.

MTEA recommendations for local office; Photo IDs required to vote Feb. 16 and Apr. 5

Be sure to vote in the primary elections for local offices, including county executive, on Tue., Feb. 16 and in the general election/Wisconsin presidential primary on Tue., Apr. 5.

MTEA has endorsed Chris Larson for County Executive; see front page for more information. Turnout in the Feb. 16 primary is critical to our public schools and stopping the takeover.

MTEA has also endorsed several candidates, including three of our members, for local races. These individuals do not have primaries but will need your vote on April 5. They are:

- Tony Zielinski for 14th district common council
- Sequanna Taylor for 2nd district county supervisor

- Mike Glabere and Marcelia Nicholson for 5th district county supervisor
- Martha DeLaRosa for 18th district county supervisor

Photo ID is required at the polls. Acceptable forms of photo ID include:

- Wisconsin driver's license
- Wisconsin state ID
- US passport book or card
- University/college/tech college ID with enrollment verification
- US uniformed services ID
- Certificate of naturalization
- Receipt for a Wisconsin driver's license or Wisconsin state ID.

Open position on MTEA Executive Board

The MTEA Executive Board has an open position for middle school representative. All members teaching middle school are encouraged to consider running for this position. The Executive Board meets monthly, and board members also attend the MTEA monthly Representative Assembly meetings. Executive Board members play a leadership role in our union. The member appointed to this position

will serve on the board starting this April.

If you would like to be considered for appointment to this position, please submit a brief statement of interest to the MTEA office, 5130 W. Vliet St., 53208, or send your statement via email to lehstenk@mtea.weac.org by Friday, February 19 at 5pm.

MTEA seeks teaching and learning director

The MTEA is accepting applications from teacher unit members interested in a full-time release position as teaching and learning director. The position is for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year with the possibility of extension depending on budget and job performance. It is a 200-day position.

Visit mtea.org for a job description, qualifications and application instructions. The job is posted under the resources tab under "job opportunities at MTEA."

The deadline to submit applications is Friday, February 19, 2016 at 5pm.

Stay connected

Do you currently receive email and e-newsletters from MTEA? If not, please update your contact info: Send an email to scherliek@mtea.weac.org, call 259-1990, or visit mtea.weac.org/resources/member-data-update.

If you are retiring or resigning this spring, please contact Linda Scherlie at the MTEA office, 256-6760, or email lscherli@mtea.weac.org. We want to help you stop your dues and sign up as a retiree member!

Upcoming events

All events held at MTEA unless noted. For more info and to register, visit mtea.weac.org/events.

Professional development at the Milwaukee Center for Teaching, Learning and Public Education. Register at mtea.weac.org/mke-center.

Canvass/phone for Chris Larson for county executive, Sat., Feb. 13 and Sun., Feb 14, 10am-2pm at MTEA.

Election Day, Tue., Feb. 16.

Citywide and nationwide walk-in, Wed., Feb. 17 at 7am (most schools). RSVP at bit.ly/walkinwisconsin.

Citywide gathering for public schools, Sat., Feb. 20, 9am at MATC (main building, room 605) with march to county courthouse.

Social Worker Networking, Mon., Feb. 22 at 4:30pm.

New Teacher Roundtable, Wed., Feb. 24 at 4:30pm.

Short Term Disability Insurance Information Sessions, Mar. 29, 30 and 31, and Apr. 6 at 5pm at MTEA. Open enrollment for this plan runs March 1 through April 10, 2016.

MTEA Brewers Tailgate, Fri., May 13, 4pm (game starts 7:10). Save the date!

mtea

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