

MEMORANDUM

TO: AFT
FROM: Guy Molyneux
DATE: June 30, 2015
RE: Survey of AFT Members on 2016 Election

This memo highlights key findings from a new national survey among 1,150 AFT members who are registered to vote. The survey explored members' attitudes toward AFT's issue agenda and the 2016 presidential election. Interviewing was conducted by telephone from June 22 to 27. The survey's margin of error is ± 3.3 percentage points among all voters, and ± 4.1 percentage points for Democratic primary voters ($n=683$).

I. Key Findings among AFT Democratic Primary Voters

Overall, 60% of AFT members either self-identify as Democrats or self-identify as independent and say they will vote in the Democratic primaries. Following are some of the most important results among these AFT Democratic primary voters.

- **Hillary Clinton enjoys overwhelming support as AFT members' first choice to be the Democratic presidential nominee.** Fully two-thirds (67%) of Democratic primary voters pick Clinton, giving her a commanding 48-point lead over Bernie Sanders (19%) while O'Malley, Webb, and Chafee all receive no more than 1% of the vote. Clinton is the clear first choice among every division within AFT.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION			
	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Sanders</u>	<u>Differential</u>
	%	%	+/-
All members	67	19	+48
K-12 teachers	65	18	+47
PSRP's	77	14	+63
Higher education	57	31	+26
Healthcare	58	22	+36
Public employees	61	28	+33
Retirees	74	17	+57

- **AFT Democrats express strong enthusiasm for Clinton as their nominee.** Fully 84% of Clinton voters strongly support her (higher than the 72% of Sanders voters who strongly support him), and strong Clinton supporters outnumber strong Sanders supporters by four to one within AFT. Clinton also enjoys more support from Sanders voters (76% choose Clinton as their second choice) than Sanders receives from Clinton voters (46% name Sanders as their second choice).
- By an incredible 11 to one, AFT Democrats believe that Clinton (78%) rather than Sanders (7%) is **the most electable Democrat next November**. Even Sanders voters consider Clinton to be the stronger candidate against the eventual GOP nominee (59% to 28%).
- **AFT Democrats have much more confidence in Hillary Clinton than in Bernie Sanders** (or any other candidate) when it comes to:
 - **creating jobs** (48- point advantage over Sanders),
 - **respecting, supporting, and working collaboratively with educators** (+45),
 - **standing up for public education** (+41), and
 - **ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to achieve the American Dream** (+36).

Clinton has a strong lead over Sanders on all 10 key qualities and issues we tested.

- **A remarkable 79% of AFT Democratic primary voters say they would like their union to “examine the positions and records of the Democratic presidential candidates, and then recommend a candidate to members who it believes is best on education, healthcare, and other issues affecting union members and their families.”** Just 16% feel that the union should not make such a recommendation in the Democratic primaries. This represents an even larger consensus than existed in 2007, when 71% of the union’s Democratic members favored such action.

II. Key Findings among All AFT Members

- **AFT members overwhelmingly prefer Clinton over Republican Jeb Bush** in a hypothetical general election matchup, and Clinton beats Bush by twice the margin (+35 points) that Bernie Sanders does (+17 points). In fact, Clinton’s margin over Bush is larger than Sanders’s in every division of AFT.

DEMOCRATIC ADVANTAGE		
	Clinton vs. Bush	Sanders vs. Bush
	+/-	+/-
All members	+35	+17
K-12 teachers	+35	+15
PSRPs	+24	+9
Higher education	+54	+44
Healthcare	+24	+8
Public employees	+23	+16
Retirees	+37	+19

- Clinton beats both Scott Walker (+42) and Marco Rubio (+39) by even larger margins than she leads Bush, and again by larger margins than Bernie Sanders leads these same opponents.
- AFT members are looking to support a presidential candidate with the following qualities:
 - Believes in collaborating with educators in setting education policy (71% extremely important);
 - Supports and defends public education (71% extremely important); and
 - Will work for equity in public education so all children have a chance to succeed (68% extremely important).
- The survey tested member reaction to 14 progressive policies that presidential candidates might embrace. The single most popular policy is **“listening to school employees who work with children every day, and giving them a stronger voice on education policies”** (75% much more likely to vote for candidate). There is also very strong support for a progressive economic agenda:
 - Has an agenda for creating more good, middle-class jobs that pay a living wage and provide decent benefits (71% much more likely); and
 - Supports making sure that corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes (69% much more likely).