

The Facts: What happened in the Spring 2026 AFT Leadership Election?

What rules govern AFT elections?

The **National AFT Constitution** (Article IV, Section 5) requires locals to hold elections in accordance with Title IV of the LMRDA (Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act). This includes:

- Union Bill of Rights: Equal rights and free speech for union members
- Democratic Elections: Rules and regulations for fair elections
- Article X of our Contract specifies that the union has the right to conduct official business on campus. Leadership elections are official union business.
- NJ Statutes N.J.S.A. 11A:2.2.3 and N.J.A.C. 4A:10-1.2, which prohibit political campaigning on campus, **have never applied to union elections.**

Read AFT National's decision letter in full here:

www.betterunionbetterfuture.org



Why did AFT National overturn the election?

1. Local campus campaign restrictions are unlawful.
2. Members deserve full access to election materials and the right to campaign.
3. Our Adjunct Representative candidate was unlawfully disqualified.

What happened in this election?

May 14, 2026: We wrote a formal complaint to the Elections Committee Chair contesting the election, stating that members' rights were violated.

May 14, 2026: The Elections Committee Chair replied to our complaint, affirming the election outcome. This reply was sent without consulting the Elections Committee.

May 18, 2026: We sent our formal complaint, along with evidence and the Elections Committee Chair's reply, to the AFT National Secretary-Treasurer.

June 10, 2026: The Elections Committee Chair responded to a request for more information and provided evidence to AFT National attorneys.

August 7, 2026: AFT National sent its decision letter, overturning the election results and ordering a redo election. **The decision is final. No replies or further information were requested.**

"In particular, imposing election rules that prohibit campaigning to members who have not "opted-in" is an unreasonable restriction on members' freedom of speech and inhibits a free and fair election. Therefore, we are directing AFT Local 1796 to re-run the 2026 election of officers consistent with this decision. The AFT's decision on this matter is final."

Where do things stand now?

With the local not moving ahead with a new election, as instructed by AFT National, the matter has been escalated to the AFT Executive Council for further action.

Slate 2 will continue to stand up for members' democratic and contractual rights!