



California Federation of Teachers
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Contact: Steve Hopcraft, 916/ 457.5546, steve@hopcraft.com; Twitter: @shopcraft

Educators Comment on Key Election Results: “Victories, Defeats, and Uncertainties” for Public Education

Sacramento, CA – The California Federation of Teachers (CFT) today responded to outcomes in several key elections. “It was a night of mixed results for public education: victories, defeats, and uncertainties,” said CFT President Joshua Pechthalt. “The failure to recall Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker is a wake-up call for California that our union rights are also under attack. California voters will counter the anti-union action when they reject the right-wing’s Special Exemptions initiative this November.” Pechthalt noted that the Walker campaign significantly outspent recall proponents, with the funding disparity at 8 to 1, after an avalanche of funds from national Republican groups. “We can’t let that happen here this November,” said Pechthalt.

The two State Assembly campaigns that revolved around the issue of charter schools are cliffhangers, with the two pro-charter candidates ahead narrowly with thousands of ballots of dropped off absentee voters yet to be counted. “Should these privatization advocates make the runoff, we will participate in a vigorous debate about the myth of their faux-reform movement,” said Pechthalt. “California voters are wary of turning our public schools into corporations that only look at the bottom line.”

The CFT represents 120,000 education professionals working at every level of the education system from ECE to the University. The AFT has more than 3,000 local affiliates nationwide, 43 state affiliates, and more than 1.4 million members.

For more information please visit: www.cft.org