

Amy Rueff Call Notes

What: Phone call between Reed Sutman and Amy Rueff

When: April 12, 2023 @ 4:05 pm

Additional Details: Recorded call for notes, with permission, but said I would delete the call after taking my notes.

Purpose: Investigating endorsements of Will Wetzel

I said that I recall DLTA affiliating with 4 AFSCME unions

Amy said "I think" DLTA has 5 affiliated AFSCME unions

I told Amy that Will had said he was endorsed by AFSCME, and I was wondering if that was just part of the endorsements from the conglomeration of Decatur Labor endorsements, or if any AFSCME organizations had done their own specific endorsements of Will.

She said "usually, um, the AFSCME does do their own endorsements of local candidates".

She continues "The labor council is the kind of the collaboration of all the unions in Decatur and we do have delegates from AFSCME who sit on our council who voted to youknow, accept the endorsements."

She continues "So, probably, technically, he didn't get the AFSCME endorsement, but he got the endorsement from all the unions in Decatur, which include AFSCME, if that makes sense."

I told her it made sense & that at one point Will said he got the list from DPACE, but then later corrected himself & said AFSCME was part of Decatur Labor. I asked if that "tracks".

She said DPACE is all the teachers & everything else in the school district like teaching assistants, DEA, maybe SEIU. She said DPACE is their political action committee, for the unions that work for the school district. She said "I don't think there's any AFSCME in the school district"

She said "our AFSCME is city workers, state workers, county workers, and prison workers."

I told her I couldn't find contact information for any of the AFSCMEs.

She said something I couldn't understand from the recording, then "they just got a new one. I can't think of his name."

She said "endorsements might be on AFSCME council 31's website. That's kind of their district council. Um. And I don't know which AFSCME would um ..."

She continues that when she ran for county clerk, and she interviewed with AFSCME for an endorsement, "I got called to a meeting in Springfield and it was AFSCME council 31. Representatives from the Decatur area were there to like recognize me or to speak on my behalf."

I told her I found Council 31 & their endorsements didn't list Will, that I emailed them & they said they didn't do any Decatur candidate endorsements this year.

She said "Okay, so then he didn't get the actual local endorsement. Because Council 31 would be the person that would be the authority over local endorsements of AFSCME specifically. But again, the central labor council, Decatur Trades and Labor does include AFSCME and we sent, youknow, postcards and stuff to AFSCME members saying 'vote for Will Wetzel' because we endorsed him."

I asked "So rather than a direct endorsement from AFSCME, it's an endorsement from Decatur Labor which includes AFSCME and delegates from AFSCME who voted 'yes' for the endorsement?"

Amy: "Yes"

I asked if she could ask the AFSCME individuals or pass my information along to see if any did individually endorse Will. She

said she thought she had email addresses for most of them.

She said she could send them an email with me on it & let them know I had some questions.

She said she could do it tomorrow morning (April 13, 2023)

I asked if she had a contact with DPACE & said that I couldn't find them anywhere.

She said she doesn't because it is their political action committee and the contacts would be the presidents of the teacher unions. She said she had contacts for the teacher leadership on her computer. She said it would be (spelling may be wrong!) Michelle Mitchell (DFTA), Chrissy Petit (DEA), and Bob Ponerum (Konerum? Idk) with SEIU.

I asked if she could send me their emails. She asked me to text her what contacts I was looking for. She said she'd connect me the next morning, of April 13th.

We concluded the call.