



NEWS RELEASE

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Largest state employees' union endorses FitzGerald, other statewide candidates

Westerville – The statewide Board of Directors for the largest state employees' union, the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association, today announced its unanimous endorsement of Ed FitzGerald for Governor. OCSEA elected leaders carefully screened the candidates in November and then made recommendations to its statewide Board of Directors.

The vote also included endorsements for a slate of statewide officeholders. Also endorsed by the union that represents the majority of state employees are: Connie Pillich for Ohio Treasurer; Nina Turner for Secretary of State; John Patrick Carney for State Auditor; and David Pepper for Attorney General.

“We made our determinations based on candidates’ responses to questions about our collective bargaining rights; privatization and outsourcing; job growth and economic recovery; and the role public services should play, among other issues,” said Rocky Jolly, the chair of OCSEA’s Governmental Affairs Committee and an employee at the Ohio State School for the Blind. “Our endorsed candidates support public services and the work we do as public employees,” said Jolly.

“Ed FitzGerald has already proven himself to be a champion of the middle class. He’s a family man with humble roots and believes in the same basic principles of fairness, equality and democracy that are at the core of our union,” said OCSEA President Chris Mabe.

“We believe the state is going in the wrong direction: not only has the economy not recovered under current leadership, but government services have been decimated,” said Mabe. From the wholesale selling off of state assets; to the privatization of prisons, schools and job development; to the elimination of programs for the needy. We need a governor who understands the value of public services, particularly in the face of a struggling economy,” said Mabe.

“FitzGerald has the leadership, the experience and the vision to bring Ohio back to greatness,” said Mabe.

OCSEA represents approximately 30,000 public employees who work in a wide range of security, regulatory, administrative, direct care, maintenance, customer service and other positions. For more information, contact Sally Meckling, 614-865-2602 or 614-404-3881 (cell).