

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it is illegal to use public resources for political and partisan purposes; and

WHEREAS, public sector employee unions engage in and spend money on political and partisan activity, including direct campaign contributions to candidates for local, state and national office, get out the vote efforts, issue advocacy, contributions to third-party political and partisan organizations, endorsements of candidates, as well as fundraising for campaign contributions to union political action committees (PAC); and

WHEREAS, public sector employee union – and only public sector employee unions – are permitted to collectively bargain to use taxpayer-funded payroll services to automatically deduct union fees, dues and campaign contributions from employees' paychecks; and

WHEREAS, taxpayer resources are spent when union fees, dues and campaign contributions are automatically withheld from employees' paychecks, bundled together, and remitted to public sector employee unions; and

WHEREAS, the automatic deduction of union dues violates the accountability between an organization and its members by eliminating the ability of members to withhold dues; and

WHEREAS, it is not an undue burden on public sector employee unions to collect their own union fees, dues and campaign contributions directly from members without taxpayer subsidies; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Commissioners believes it is a conflict of interest for County Commissioners to use public resources to collect any monies that are used for political or partisan purposes; and

WHEREAS, eliminating the use of public resources for political and partisan purposes, without exception, promotes a consistent position of government neutrality by giving favor for no one; and

WHEREAS, ending the taxpayer-funded collection, bundling and remittance of union fees, dues and campaign contributions will not otherwise alter or hinder the relationship between public employees and their unions or the abilities and rights of unions to participate in political and partisan activities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, the County Commissioners of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, encourage the Governor and General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to prohibit the collection of public sector employee union fees, membership dues and campaign contributions by government as a matter for collective bargaining with public sector employee unions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be posted on the County's website and submitted to the elected State Senators and Representatives of the County in the General Assembly, to the Governor of Pennsylvania, and to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

ADOPTED THIS 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2014.

BOARD OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FRANK J. STAUDENMEIER, CHAIRMAN

GEORGE F. HALCOVAGE, JR., COMMISSIONER

GARY J. HESS, COMMISSIONER