

Chad Alan Goldberg (AFT Local 223)  
Candidate Position Paper (Secretary)

I am a sociology professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a longtime member of United Faculty and Academic Staff (UFAS), AFT Local 223. I joined UFAS because it is not merely a campus organization; it is part of a broader movement of working people across the state and throughout the nation that is fundamental to democracy itself.

I have served as my union local's secretary (2007–2008), vice president (2009–2011, 2012–2013), and president (2015–2019). When a past UFAS president sought to pull our local out of AFT in 2010 over a dispute about unit clarification, I led the opposition. I took part in the historic mass protests against Scott Walker's Act 10 in 2011. And as president, I helped organize the unprecedented and nationally reported protest wave in 2016 in which faculty across the UW System voted no confidence in the UW System president and regents. I am running for the position of AFT-Wisconsin Secretary because I believe this is how I can best continue serving our union, and I believe my past experience has prepared me for this role.

Public-sector unions rest on a tripod: they *organize* workers for concerted action, empowering individuals who would otherwise be isolated and weak; they mobilize members for *political work*, including voter education and GOTV efforts; and they engage in *collective bargaining*. We must strengthen our organizing and political work today, while laying the groundwork for the full restoration of our collective bargaining rights in the future.

AFT's founding motto is, "education for democracy, and democracy in education." By means of organizing, political work, and collective bargaining, AFT and other labor unions give workers a democratic voice in their workplaces and in government. For me, that remains our ongoing task and the heart of unionism.