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Contact:

Aaron Gallant

585-594-0753

agallant@afscmecouncil66.org

AFSCME Council 66 endorses Jen Lunsford for State Senate

City of Rochester and RCSD Workers announce support following Funke's retirement

The members of AFSCME Local 1635 (City of Rochester Employees) and BENTE/AFSCME Local 2419 (RCSD Support Staff), Council 66, announced their support for Jen Lunsford's campaign for State Senate. The Union's early endorsement comes the day after incumbent Senator Rich Funke announced his retirement.

Dan DiClemente, President of AFSCME Council 66 and BENTE/AFSCME Local 2419, said, "Rochester residents need a strong voice in the State Senate who will speak up for students and workers at the City School District. As our next State Senator, Jen Lunsford will ensure Rochester's students get their fair share of state funding. Mismanagement at the top caused the current budget shortfall. The non-teaching staff at RCSD provide crucial services to the children of Rochester and students shouldn't have to suffer the consequences of layoffs. Jen knows how to overcome these challenges by working together and she is a fierce advocate for all working families."

Lunsford is running in the 55th State Senate District to fill the seat being vacated by retiring Senator Rich Funke. She ran in 2018 and secured 48% of the vote.

"Jen Lunsford ran an impressive campaign last year against a popular incumbent and came close to winning when few people thought she had a chance," said **Bill Slocum, Vice President of AFSCME Council 66 and President of AFSCME Local 1635**. "As an accomplished local attorney, Jen supports workers' rights and she cares about union workers like us who keep our communities up and running. We're proud to back her candidacy for State Senate in 2020."

"I am honored and privileged to have the support of AFSCME Council 66," said **Jen Lunsford**. "With the cuts we are seeing in the RCSD and looming financial trouble at the state level, I am proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with the men and women of AFSCME Council 66 as we fight to protect our workers here in Rochester and the Finger Lakes. Now more than ever, we need strong unions like AFSCME Council 66 on the front lines, fighting for better job opportunities, higher wages and safer working conditions for public service employees."

AFSCME Council 66 represents over 8,000 public service workers across Upstate New York and the Hudson Valley, including 1,100 non-uniformed employees in AFSCME Local 1635 (City of Rochester) and 1,300 support workers in BENTE/AFSCME Local 2419 (Rochester City School District). The 55th State Senate District includes parts of the City of Rochester, the eastside suburbs of Monroe County and parts

of Ontario County. The primary to pick the Democratic candidate for this senate district will take place on Tuesday, June 23, 2020.

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