



A statement from PEF President Wayne Spence

PEF members make their voices heard in contract vote

Nearly one out of every two PEF members participated

I was present at the American Arbitration Association (AAA) on Aug. 18, 2026 in New York City, to witness the counting of the ratification ballots for the PS&T unit's 2026–2031 collective bargaining agreement.

This vote did not come without challenges. After members reported receiving incomplete ballot mailings, we took immediate action and extended the voting period. This gave AAA time to correct the problem and allowed members additional time to receive and return their ballots through the Postal Service. Ensuring every eligible member had a fair opportunity to vote mattered more than sticking to the original counting date.

In the end, 26,067 ballots were validated by AAA and counted. That means nearly 46 percent of the 56,782 eligible voters — or almost 1 out of every 2 eligible members — voted. Of those who voted, 88% supported the agreement.

I want to thank every member who took the time to review the contract and cast a ballot. Whether you voted yes or no, you made your voice heard. That level of participation matters.

Given the mailing and delivery problems experienced during this vote, PEF will explore the feasibility of electronic voting for future contract ratification votes. Any new process must be secure, accessible, transparent, and protect the integrity and confidentiality of every members' vote.

An informed and engaged membership makes PEF stronger and gives us the power to keep fighting in the workplace, in the Legislature, and across New York State.

In Unity,

Wayne Spence
PEF President