



# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, LOCAL 212

Milwaukee Area Technical College  
Affiliated with AFT, WFT, AFL-CIO & MCLC



Executive Officers:

Michael Rosen, Ph.D., President  
Charlie Dee, Executive Vice-President

Staff:

Frank Shansky, Director of Labor Relations  
Pamela A. Bautch, Office Manager

## MEDIA RELEASE

FEBRUARY 7, 2008  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: CHARLIE DEE  
414-559-4667  
MICHAEL ROSEN, 414-467-8908

## MATC FACULTY UNION ENDORSES OBAMA

American Federation of Teachers Local 212 broke with its parent union today to endorse Senator Barack Obama for President of the United States.

Local 212 represents the faculty, counselors and academic staff at Milwaukee Area Technical College and is regarded as one of the most politically active unions in Wisconsin.

Local 212 President and Economics Professor Dr. Michael Rosen described the decision as "a very democratic process."

"Last fall we asked our members, and there was no clear favorite," explained Rosen. "But over the past week we polled the 428 members who voluntarily contribute to our Committee on Political Education, and they voted by more than 2-1 to endorse Barack Obama over Hillary Clinton."

Rosen said that since it is now clear that Wisconsin's February 19 primary might determine the nominees for both parties, his members are very focused and excited about the election.

The endorsement carries additional significance for Obama because Local 212's parent organization, the American Federation of Teachers, was an early endorser of Senator Hillary Clinton.

"There's no animosity here, and if Senator Clinton is the nominee, we'll support her because her record is far better on support for technical education, students and working people than any of the Republican candidates," Rosen commented. He added that it was understandable that a national union with half its membership in New York state would support the New York Senator.

"However, there are clear differences between Senators Clinton and Obama on the war in Iraq, immigration reform and the role of corporate lobbyists," Rosen continued. "Our students and working people in general have suffered greatly from eight years of neglect under George Bush," Rosen explained, "so our members are incredibly excited by the prospects of Barack Obama in the White House."

The full results of the Local 212 COPE poll are available at [www.local212.org](http://www.local212.org).