

Vote
Yes

NUAUCHT

Issue No 4 - May 2013

SPECIAL

YES vote will strengthen ASTI's hand

ASTI members rejected the Labour Relations Commission (Croke Park II) proposals. Just under 85% of members rejected the proposals. The proposals were also rejected by the INTO and TUI and by three out of every four public sector workers. Clearly there is no basis for a deal which singles out public sector workers for more pay cuts and additional work.

Vote YES in May ballot

The three teacher unions – the ASTI, INTO and TUI – have decided to ballot members on industrial action to be taken in the event of the Government acting unilaterally to cut pay or worsen working conditions, including the adoption of legislation to cut pay. Now is the time to communicate a strong message to the Government, not after they have acted against teachers.

ASTI members will receive their ballot papers in early May. The ballot will ask members to authorise ASTI Standing Committee to decide on appropriate and commensurate action in response to Government action on pay and working conditions. Any decision by Standing Committee will be made in co-operation with the other teacher unions and will occur on a phased and escalating basis. Possible action includes: withdrawal of some or all of Croke Park hours, withdrawal of out of hours meetings, work to rule, non-co-operation with specific new initiatives, and one or more days of strike action.

YES vote = power for teachers

The outcome of this ballot will determine the strength and effectiveness of the ASTI and the other teacher unions if and when the Government takes action to cut pay and/or worsen conditions. It will also strengthen the ASTI's hand in any discussions on possible alternative proposals. It will give a clear signal to the Government that Croke Park II is over; there can be no deal which is based primarily on cutting the pay of public servants.

No support for austerity deal

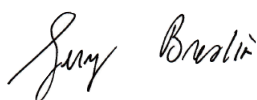
The trade union movement, representing more than 800,000 workers, has long objected to Ireland's "austerity only" policy. There is now widespread appreciation that the Government needs to change tack if it is to secure Ireland's economic recovery.

There is much at stake in this ballot – your future, the future of the teaching profession, and the future direction of Ireland's economic policy. We urge you to Vote YES.

Thank you for your support.



Pat King
ASTI General Secretary



Gerry Breslin
ASTI President

Vote
Yes

Thank you

The officers of the ASTI wish to thank all those who participated in the recent ballot on the Public Sector Proposals (Croke Park II).

The ballot turnout was 62 per cent. The result was 84.3% No, 15.7% Yes.

ASTI ballot on industrial action



Ballot on industrial action to be taken in the event that Government seeks by legislation or otherwise to impose cuts in pay or to worsen working conditions.

BALLOT

Are you willing to take industrial action (e.g. work to rule, non-cooperation, withdrawal from various initiatives) up to and including a series of strike actions as directed by ASTI Standing Committee and in cooperation with the other teacher unions?

Please mark X in the appropriate box

YES

NO

* Please read instructions on reverse of this ballot paper.

Ballot papers will arrive at members' home addresses in early May. Ballots must arrive at ASTI Head Office by 5.30pm on Monday, May 20th. Late ballots will not be counted. Post early!



Make sure you vote

The greater the turnout,
the greater our show of
strength.

A Yes Vote will authorise Standing Committee to respond appropriately to any Government move to cut pay or worsen working conditions. Standing Committee will take members' views into account when deciding on forms of action.

Vote
Yes

Why is a ballot needed?

- A Yes vote in a ballot of members will give the Government the clear message that if it moves to cut pay or worsen working conditions it will be confronted by the teaching workforce.
- All industrial action, including non-strike action, requires a ballot to ensure that individual members are protected under legislation - Industrial Relations Act.
- Industrial action refers to any collective action undertaken by a group of workers which has as its goal the disruption of normal workplace operations.
- Collective actions such as work to rule, withdrawal from Croke Park hours, or withdrawal from certain out of school meetings constitute industrial action under the law.
- A 'Yes' vote will give authority to Standing Committee to issue a directive to members to take industrial action.

Ballot details

The Ballot asks members to decide if the ASTI should take industrial action in the event that Government seeks by legislation or otherwise to impose cuts in pay or to worsen working conditions.

The Ballot paper asks:

Are you willing to take industrial action (e.g. work to rule, non-cooperation, withdrawal from various initiatives) up to and including a series of strike actions as directed by ASTI Standing Committee and in cooperation with the other teacher unions?

Possible actions

If a 'Yes' vote results from the ballot, ASTI Standing Committee would, in the event that the Government moves to alter teachers' pay or conditions, decide upon possible actions to be taken. These may include:

- withdrawal of some or all of Croke Park hours;
- withdrawal from out of hours meetings;
- work to rule;
- non-cooperation with specific new initiatives; or,
- one or more days of strike action.

In the event that industrial action is sanctioned and called for, ASTI Standing Committee will carefully and strategically consider any actions to be taken. They will take the views of members into consideration when deciding on any actions.

Ballot dates

Ballot papers will arrive at members' home addresses in early May.

Returned ballot papers must arrive at ASTI Head Office by 5.30pm on Monday, May 20th. Late ballots will not be counted

There is little doubt that unilateral action by Government could result in a bitter industrial dispute. Members should understand that Government is likely to penalise public servants who resist. All ASTI members have an important decision to make. **Vote 'Yes' so that we can respond to any Government action.**

It is vital that all ASTI members exercise their right to vote to ensure their voice is heard and to ensure a strong clear message is delivered to the Government.