



# Transportation Communications Union / IAM

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

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## **TCU ELECTION ALERT**

### ***THE STAKES HAVE NEVER BEEN HIGHER!***

This November workers, retirees and our families will face one of the clearest choices in history.

On one side stands President Obama, who has championed the rights of unions to exist and the preservation of Medicare and Social Security.

From the auto industry to Amtrak, from construction jobs to mass transit, from teachers to police, the President has championed investing in American jobs and has fought valiantly against Republican efforts to preserve tax breaks for companies that export American jobs to low wage countries.

On the other side stand Romney and Ryan, who have supported every union busting tactic from Wisconsin to Ohio, who believe that unions stand in the way of their corporate cronies' profits, and who, despite their rhetoric, would end social security and Medicare as we know it.

Romney proudly defends corporations offshoring American jobs. He made a fortune doing just that at Bain Capital.

Romney and Ryan would radically change Medicare, raising the qualifying age and replacing its guaranteed benefits with vouchers. Insurance companies would get a windfall and retirees would get the shaft. Their promise to grandfather current retirees is hollow. It is unrealistic to expect a majority of Americans to support a more costly system for current retirees when future retirees will get much inferior benefits.

Romney has been called "the presidential candidate most hostile to Social Security since 1964." In his 2010 book "No Apology", Romney labels Social Security "out-of-control," a "terrible ... burden" on future generations, and effectively a fraud. He and Ryan both support an ever-increasing rise in the retirement age, the effect of which would be to bankrupt railroad retirement.

Romney and Ryan both support privatization of Social Security. Despite two stock market crashes in a decade, they have advocated replacing all or part of the current guaranteed benefit with private accounts that would be a bonanza for Wall Street but disaster for retirees. In 2004, Ryan even sponsored a bill in Congress that was so reliant on private accounts that it was rejected by the Bush White House as too extreme.

Romney and Ryan both support deep cuts to transportation spending, which would have dire consequences for mass transit, increasing the pressure to cut jobs, wages and benefits.

With the spotlight on, Romney and Ryan have both sought to downplay many of their extreme positions. But, make no mistake, if elected there will be little to stop them from pressing full throttle for their anti-worker, anti-retiree agenda.

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That risk is especially high if the Tea Party Republicans retain control of the House and gain control over the Senate. That's why we've enclosed the state-by-state list of TCU's endorsed candidates for Congress. Our endorsements were based strictly on how the candidates compared on job and retirement issues directly affecting you.

Your vote may very well decide:

- Whether unions continues to exist. Romney supports every union busting proposal in the Republican arsenal. In his eyes, unions represent the 47% he could care less about.
- whether Medicare continues to provide adequate medical coverage for all seniors,
- whether the retirement age for all American workers, including railroaders, is raised to 69 or older.

The election is now in your hands. You, your families and friends can make the difference.

***THE CHOICE HAS NEVER BEEN CLEARER  
VOTE LIKE YOUR JOB DEPENDS ON IT -- IT DOES!!  
VOTE FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA!!!***