



Transportation Communications Union / IAM

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

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TCU ELECTION ALERT

***THE STAKES HAVE NEVER BEEN HIGHER!
AMTRAK, COMMUTER RAIL, RAILROAD RETIREMENT, MEDICARE, SOCIAL
SECURITY-- ALL HANG IN THE BALANCE!***

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

On one side stands President Obama, who has championed Amtrak, commuter rail, the expansion of high-speed rail, and the protection of Railroad Retirement, Medicare, and Social Security.

President Obama appointed a Presidential Emergency Board that recommended record wage gains for our freight railroad members. Can you imagine what a Romney Presidential Emergency Board stacked with his corporate cronies would have done, after hearing the railroads testify that rail workers were 80% overpaid?

President Obama has appointed friends of labor to every federal agency. His OSHA has leveled unprecedented fines against railroads and reinstated employees who were wrongfully dismissed for reporting injuries and unsafe working conditions. His FRA no longer turns a blind eye to rail safety concerns.

On the other side stands Romney and Ryan, who are on record attacking every regulation, law and benefit that rail workers and retirees depend on.

- Romney has vowed to end Amtrak. 20,000 union brothers and sisters would lose their jobs. The effect on railroad retirement would be catastrophic.
- Romney fully supports the Ryan Budget, which would have devastating effects on Railroad Retirement. Ryan wants to conform Railroad Retirement benefits to Social Security. That means eliminating "60/30" retirement, getting rid of occupational disability, and increasing the minimum age for spousal annuities with a reduction in benefits.
- Romney and Ryan would eliminate Medicare as we know it, 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 commuter systems, 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.

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 Amtrak continues to exist,
- whether Railroad Retirement survives as we know it,
- whether funding for commuter railroads is slashed, leading to cuts in jobs, wages and benefits,
- 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, HEALTH CARE AND PENSION DEPEND ON IT -- THEY DO!!***

VOTE FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA!!!