

# IMPORTANCE OF MIDTERM ELECTIONS

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL PRESIDENT JAMES P. HOFFA

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, Teamsters everywhere should vote for the candidate or candidates who are best for working families. If you haven't already, start educating yourself on who is running for office and whether your union has endorsed a candidate.

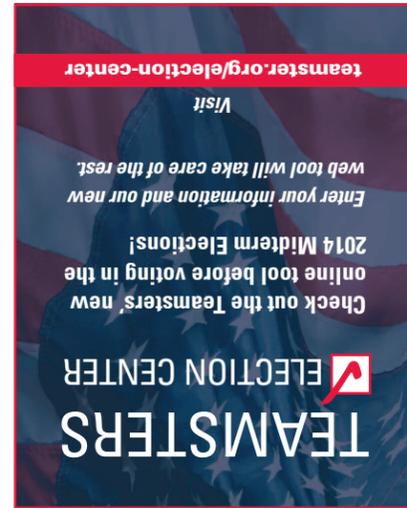
Four years ago, hardworking Americans learned first-hand the consequences of staying home instead of supporting politicians who value their contributions to our nation. Since then, we've increasingly seen the views of billionaire businessmen like the Koch brothers take priority over those of the middle class. At a time when many workers continue to struggle to support their families, we can't afford to sit this election out. So the Teamsters are ramping up our efforts to elect candidates who will listen to the rest of us.

There is no shortage of reasons for Teamsters to care about the midterm elections in November, but here are a few big ones: right-to-work legislation, the minimum wage, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)—an unfair trade deal in the vein of NAFTA.

This year, the Teamsters Union has also started an on-line Election Action Center at [www.teamster.org/election-center](http://www.teamster.org/election-center).



center. On the site, you can find out how to register in your state, as well as access the union's Congressional Voting Scorecard. As Election Day nears, we'll be putting more information and resources on the page.



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# FREIGHT News

James P. Hoffa, General President | Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer | Tyson Johnson, Division Director



YRCW Worldwide, Inc. (YRCW) announced earlier this year that it had closed on the financing of a new \$700 million term loan and a \$450 million asset-based loan facility, but the company continues to face difficulty.

"YRCW is still working out the kinks in their network and we are concerned about their needed investment in rolling stock," said Tyson Johnson, Teamsters National Freight Division Director. "The company's economic condition has improved but it is not where it needs to be."

YRCW cut its second quarter (2014) net loss to \$4.9 million, from \$15.1 million from the same time a year ago. During the time revenue increased 6 percent to \$1.32 billion from \$1.24 billion.

"The company continues to struggle, but there are some positive signs," Johnson said. "For example, the company's total tons and shipments per day were up 5 percent over last year. Without our members' tremendous sacrifices, this company would not be in business and showing these improvements at all."

Meanwhile, in July, the Teamsters National Freight Industry Negotiating Committee (TNFINC) nominated William R. "Bob" Davidson to serve on YRCW's Board of Directors to fill a seat that was vacated earlier this year. Davidson has nearly four decades of experience in various operational and labor relations capacities with ABF,

Roadway and YRCW.

ABF, meanwhile, appears to be emerging from the recession headed in the right direction. Revenues at ABF grew by more than \$46 million in the second quarter. ABF continues to lead the L-T-L industry in revenue/shipments, reporting a record level of \$388 per shipment during the first six months of 2014.

Nevertheless, the shortage of CDL drivers continues to pose a challenge for all freight companies. YRC Freight, Holland, New Penn, Reddaway and ABF are all actively seeking drivers.

## Training Veterans

The Teamsters Union is partnering with the Department of Defense on a program to train veterans to get their CDL. The union has already developed a 200-hour CDL training course for veterans, reserve and guard candidates at no cost to the participant. ABF Freight is actively supporting this program.

Under the program, training will start this fall at Fort Sill, Okla., that will allow active soldiers, 180 days prior to their separation, to obtain their Commercial Truck Driver Training and licenses. It is the goal that all participants who complete the course will then have at least the initial qualifications to be brought into CDL driving jobs. Helping service members obtain good jobs at Teamster companies is a win-win for everyone, particularly given the shortage of CDL drivers, and is the right thing to do for our veterans.

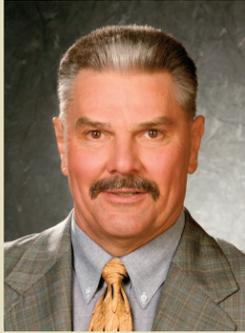
"We are very excited to be participating in this program," said Gordon Sweeton, Assistant Director of the Teamsters National Freight Division. "Our veterans serve our country with distinction, pride and courage every day, and we have an obligation to help them succeed when they leave the military. This program will help achieve that and we will help veterans land on their feet after they leave military service."

Sweeton said helping these men and women obtain employment with established Teamster companies is important because they will be brought in as employees. As employees, they will not have to lease their own trucks, buy their own fuel and go into debt just to start a job, like so many drivers have to do at nonunion companies.

## ☆ BUILDING ☆ TEAMSTER POWER

In recent years, the freight industry has experienced a severe economic crisis. Bankruptcies, over capacity, industry competition and in some cases mismanagement have wreaked havoc on good Teamster freight jobs. It has been a sad trend.

All too often we have had to come up with ways just to help our contracted companies stay in business and save jobs. Our freight members have had to make tremendous sacrifices for themselves and for their families.



Hopefully we have weathered the worst of the storm and we are on the path to improvement. We are not only seeking improvement at our contracted companies, we also need to help employees at nonunion companies in their struggles to become organized.

As you will see in the story in this newsletter, organizing campaigns are under way now at Conway and FedEx Freight as well as Reddaway's nonunion locations. The workers at these companies have also suffered in recent years and seek respect in the workplace. They have sought out our help and want to become Teamsters. Helping those workers and improving their situations helps everyone.

Organizing is very difficult, which is why the Teamsters Union and the Freight Division are working closely with the freight local unions to make this effort successful. The International and the local unions will also be seeking the help of our freight members. When it comes to organizing, there are no better organizers than our members, who know firsthand how the union has fought to improve lives, save jobs and protect a decent standard of living. There will be opportunities for our members to help now and in the future. While it has not been an easy few years, our unionized freight jobs are still the overall best in the industry.

Together, we will be successful and our hard work will benefit all our freight members now and for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support.



The Teamsters are building power in the freight industry, with active organizing campaigns under way at Reddaway, Con-way and FedEx Freight.

The first time the Teamsters secured a card-check/neutral-agreement with Reddaway, it led to several successful organizing campaigns. The Teamsters represent about 1,100 workers at Reddaway, with 350 workers becoming members in the past two years. In recent months, following a revised card-check agreement in 2012, another round of campaigns has begun.

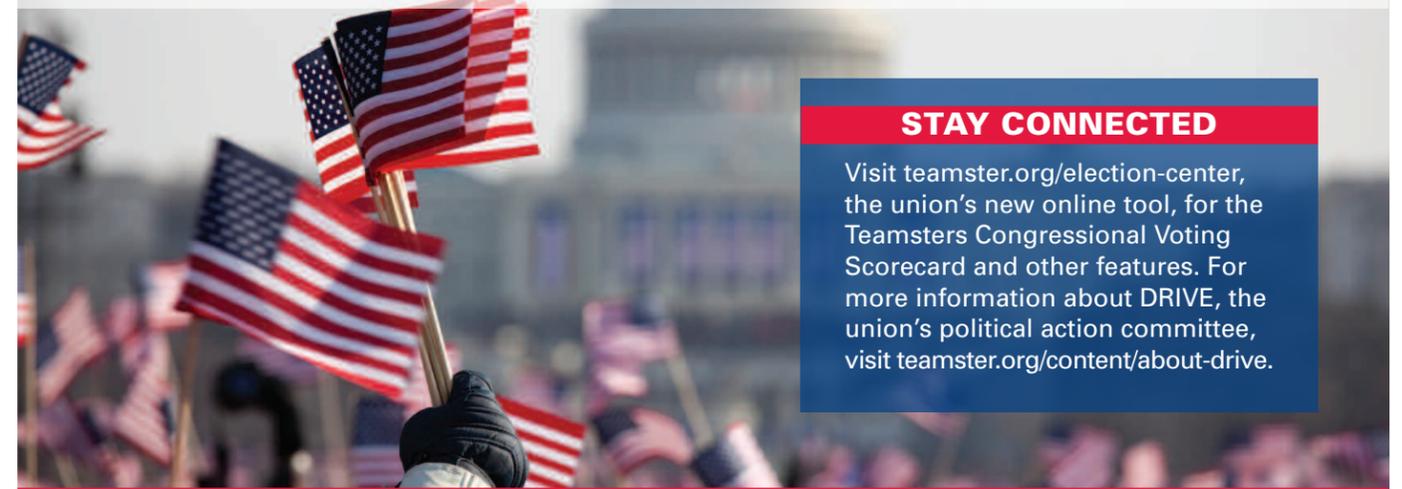
"We want the Reddaway workers at these locations to enjoy the same strong voice and working conditions that our Teamsters enjoy," said Tyson Johnson, Director of the Teamsters National Freight Division.

FedEx Freight election petitions have been filed at numerous locations, with the first election to occur in New Jersey at Local 107.

At Con-way, Local 657 in San Antonio won its election on September 12. There are 113 workers in the bargaining unit. Petitions for elections have also been filed for three additional locations in Southern California.

"These campaigns show that the Teamsters Union is 100 percent committed to growing Teamster power in the freight industry," Johnson said. "By building Teamster density in this industry, all our members benefit. We benefit by boosting our ability to represent our members and we increase our bargaining power. The Teamsters Union will continue to support all the local unions that are involved in these campaigns."

## ELECTION DAY MOTIVATES TEAMSTERS



### STAY CONNECTED

Visit [teamster.org/election-center](http://teamster.org/election-center), the union's new online tool, for the Teamsters Congressional Voting Scorecard and other features. For more information about DRIVE, the union's political action committee, visit [teamster.org/content/about-drive](http://teamster.org/content/about-drive).

### GETTING OUT THE VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4

The November mid-term elections are right around the corner, and the Teamsters are gearing up to help elect candidates to Congress and in state capitals that put workers' interests ahead of those of big business.

Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa and Secretary-Treasurer Ken Hall are visiting states across the country in an effort to get members out to vote. And they will use the 2010 election cycle as an example of what can happen to workers when they don't show up at the polls.

"Four years ago, hardworking Americans learned firsthand the consequences of staying home instead of supporting politicians who value their contributions to our nation," Hoffa said. "Since then, we've increasingly seen the views of billionaire businessmen like the Koch brothers take priority over those of the middle class. At a time when many workers continue to struggle to support their families, we can't afford to sit this election out. So the Teamsters are ramping up our efforts to elect candidates who will listen to the rest of us."

Teamster leaders and members across the country are already preparing to make sure every Teamster knows the issues, who stands with them and what is at stake in this election. And the level of activity will continue to escalate right up until the election.

Hundreds of Teamster members will be visiting their fellow members at their worksites to discuss the election and the issues. The Teamsters Union has the most aggressive worksite communication programs in organized labor, with voter registration taking on a more important role.

There are many reasons for Teamsters to be motivated to vote this November. They may not be the issues that get highlighted on the evening news, but they are matters

that could affect workers' wallets when it comes to pay and job security. Issues like right to work, the minimum wage, worker misclassification and the Trans-Pacific Partnership will all come before the next Congress.

On Election Day, 36 states will hold gubernatorial elections. In the United States Senate, 33 seats are being contested. Wherever there is an important election for working families, the Teamsters Union will be there.

## Weekly News for Working Families



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