

## **BUILDING ELECTORAL STRENGTH**

**WHEREAS**, the Teamsters Political and Field program endorsed and elected candidates to secure and retain a pro-labor majority in the US House of Representatives in the 2018 and 2020 Elections, a pro-labor majority in the US Senate in the 2020 General Election and the 2021 Georgia run-off elections, and a pro-worker President, Cabinet and Administration in the 2020 Elections; and

**WHEREAS**, Teamster Local Unions, Joint Councils and affiliates supported the Teamster Political and Field program by identifying and empowering rank-and-file members and retirees to act as Political Field Organizers; and

**WHEREAS**, Teamster Political Field Organizers and Local Union, Joint Council and IBT staff utilized new technologies to contact a record number of members in 2020, resulting in historic member turnout; and

**WHEREAS**, anti-worker candidates and wealthy corporations and special interest groups are committed to investing billions of dollars to combat union political activity and undermine worker power; and

**WHEREAS**, grassroots political action by workers, union members and retirees on behalf of pro-worker candidates can counter the campaign contributions made by corporations and billionaires; and

**WHEREAS**, the active participation of Teamster Joint Councils and local unions is essential to generating this grassroots activity; and

**WHEREAS**, the future of the American labor movement and a healthy middle class are at stake in every election; and

**WHEREAS**, a strong middle class is necessary for a strong country, and a strong labor movement is the link between the two; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly every federal, state and local election has implications for the Teamsters Union and Teamster members.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** at this 30<sup>th</sup> International Convention that every Joint Council and local union commit to develop a hybrid program of in-person outreach and new communication technologies to register their members to vote, educate their members about the issues at stake in upcoming elections, and ensure that their members cast their ballots for Teamster-endorsed candidates; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all local unions and Joint Councils will have candidates for federal, state and local office submit candidate questionnaires as a condition of endorsements or financial support; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Joint Councils and local unions will designate political coordinators to collaborate on political and legislative priorities with the IBT and other Local Unions and Joint Councils, manage member-to-member campaigns, build relationships with candidates and elected officials, and hold politicians accountable for their actions once in office; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Joint Councils and local unions coordinate endorsements, political and field activity, and campaign finance through regular communication with the IBT Department of Political and Legislative Action and other affiliates as appropriate; and

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED** that this commitment will give our union the political strength it needs to improve the lives of Teamster members and their families and to preserve collective bargaining rights, and all the benefits they bring, for this and future generations of American workers.