



**ON THE
HILL**
A Weekly Advocacy Update from TIA



The Latest News and Updates from TIA's Government Affairs Department



IN THIS ISSUE

BIG RAIL UNION DELAYS STRIKE DEADLINE

Rail Union Delays Strike Deadline

On Wednesday, the Brotherhood Maintenance of Way Employees Division (BMWED) announced it will extend its cooling-off period to December in hopes of working with other labor entities and dissuade congressional involvement.

FAA GUARANTEES MINIMUM REST FOR FA'S

Serving as the rail industry's third largest union, BMWED made a significant move in voting against the ratification of the tentative agreement (Oct. 10th) with freight carriers. That move brought negotiators back together in hopes of reaching another compromise before the mid-November deadline. If the two largest unions – SMART Transportation Division and Brotherhood Locomotive Engineers and

ELECTION OUTLOOK

and Trainmen - vote to ratify their agreements, BMWED will move its cooling-off deadline to December 4th. If the two biggest unions vote not to ratify, BMWED will have a December 9th deadline.

To this point 7/12 of the unions have voted to ratify their agreements. If one fails to do so, or votes no, a strike will ensue, and the American supply chain would suffer. If a strike does occur, Congress reserves the right to act by extending the cooling-off period or implementing the employer- endorsed recommendations via a presidentially appointed emergency board.

Unions are telling Congress to hold off on intervening for now as they try to work something out among themselves. However, they are using the opportunity as a chance to educate Members of Congress about their wishes for better pay, working conditions, and especially extending the paid time off. Only time will tell what the unions ultimately decide on. TIA will keep you updated as this develops.

Flight Attendants Guaranteed 10 Hours Rest

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced on Tuesday that it has confirmed a rule to ensure flight attendants get a minimum of 10 hours rest between workdays.

In the 2018 FAA bill, Congress mandated increased rest breaks between shifts. The rule was officially published a year ago. In this newly confirmed proposal, flight attendants will be entitled to at least 10 hours of rest when scheduled to work for 14 hours or less. There are no exceptions to the 10 hour minimum rest period.

Pilots are largely in favor of the extra time as they say they cannot comfortably fly a plane without the help of flight attendants managing passenger needs. Pilots were already subject to 10-hour rest periods. Before this latest bill, flight attendants were often prone to only 8-hour rest periods. Retiring Rep, Peter DeFazio (D-OR) made this a priority to get through Congress before he left the hill. This mandatory rest period was proposed in 1994 by his predecessor, the Honorable Norm Minetta.

Election Outlook

Tuesday was an election day to remember. With all the build up and campaign promises made over the last year(s), supporters and candidates alike came together to see the fruits of their labor, or lack thereof for some.

Republicans thought this was their chance to win big given all the struggles of the Biden administration. Inflation, rising crime, border security was all on the ticket and Republicans made sure we all knew about it. Democrats focused on abortion, and democracy. Both made their cases to the public, and leading up to the final hours, republicans were calling for a red wave. Turns out it was more of a red splash.

Republicans are expected to take the House back – although numbers not being nearly as significant as previously thought – but the Senate is a toss up as Sen. Raphael Warnock and Herschel Walker will duke it out to see which party controls the upper chamber on a December 6th runoff.

Other than the runoff in Georgia, some of the highest profile results came in via Pennsylvania (Fetterman beating out Oz) and Ohio (Vance beating out Ryan). Where we go from here remains to be seen. One thing is certain, the balance of the Senate will come down to Georgia. Stay tuned.