



Get Out And Vote — Our Safe Workplace Depends On It

As you are all aware, voting in the 2020 election cycle has begun across the nation, the results of which will have ramifications that last a lifetime, with a multitude of issues pertaining to railroaders. During the course of the current administration, railroads have been allowed to replace American workers with foreign national crews, specifically in Laredo, Texas, with little or no regulatory influence from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). Additionally, the FRA has shifted its opinion from the positive effects of two certified crew members on a train, to seeking in various ways to legitimize either one person crews, or even autonomous trains (no crew members).

As railroaders we should all take note of the threat to our personal safety in the workplace, as well as the security of our employment should the current FRA leadership be allowed to continue these actions. Now is the time for all railroaders to stop and consider how this affects us — the workers, the backbone of the industry — and additionally consider the effects if we don't take action and fight with the singular tool that we all have the privilege of using.

Railroaders can shift the influence and direction of government agencies and legislators by voting for candidates on both State and Federal levels who support the issues that protect our Nation's workforce on the rails. The right to vote has been given to us by our Constitution, however the privilege that we have to voice our opinion at the polls had been preserved by those who have sacrificed for it throughout our Nation's history and continuing today in times of war, through grassroots movements, and in legislative battles. We should honor these sacrifices by voting.

The BLET has provided you a link that will guide you through the voting process as your state laws require. For information on registration, dates for absentee ballot requests, in-person early voting and election day poll information in your state visit: <https://vote.ble-t.org/>

Now is the time to stand together and move forward as one by participating in this election!

A message from the BLET Mobilization Team