

# ***BMWED DIRECT ELECTIONS FAQ***

Resolutions on the right to vote in BMWED elections will be put forward in upcoming system conventions and the next national convention. Here are answers to some common questions about direct elections.

## **① How do elections currently work in the BMWED?**

- Right now a tiny fraction of the union decides who makes decisions for all of us. Delegates from local lodges vote for leadership at conventions. Votes happen through backroom deals without member involvement.

## **② How would direct elections work?**

- Every member would get the chance to vote for their officers in a secret ballot at home. Any member who is nominated by another member has the opportunity to make their case and earn your vote to be their representative.

## **③ Why should we have direct elections?**

- Elections will allow us to hold our officers accountable and make sure we are electing leadership that stands up to the carriers and fights for strong contracts.
- Elections will help us build a stronger union by encouraging more members to participate instead of letting others make decisions for them.

## **④ What is the cost of direct elections?**

- According to a 2022 estimate by the American Arbitration Association, direct member elections at the national level would cost just 9 cents per month per member.

## **⑤ Do other union members have the right to vote in elections?**

- Every member of the Teamsters vote for their local and national officers—including BLET members. BMWED members are the only Teamsters without a say in who represents us.
- UAW members recently gained the right to vote for national officers. With new elected leadership they won their strongest contracts in decades.

