

MAGA Membership & Woke Leadership - BLET

A Detailed Investigative Analysis of How Industrial Union Leadership has Ignored and Betrayed their MAGA Membership

Report One – Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen

March 2, 2026



MEMORANDUM

To:	Friends of the American Accountability Foundation
From:	American Accountability Foundation
Date:	March 2, 2026
Re:	Detailed Investigative Analysis of how Industrial Union Leadership Has Betrayed Their Rank-and-File Membership Through an Aggressive Personal and Organizational Hostility to the Make America Great Again Movement Generally, and President Trump Specifically. Report One - Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen

Following is the first report on seven leading industrial unions with membership who strongly support the Trump-Vance agenda, but whose leadership have abandoned the will of their membership and taken on a heavily liberal partisan lean. This report focuses on the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Union.

When President Trump secured the Republican nomination in 2016 and then subsequently defeated Hillary Clinton, he completed a fundamental re-alignment of the Republican Party's policy agenda and its electoral base. The President's re-alignment endured through the Biden election in 2021 and through the President's re-election in 2025. A crucial part of the President's re-alignment of the Republican Party was his focus on issues that were vital to blue-collar workers, particularly immigration enforcement and adjustment of the U.S. trade regime through preference for bilateral agreements and the willingness to use tariffs as a tool of trade and domestic policy. At the center of the President's base was the working-class men without college degrees, many of whom were members of industrial unions.

While the broad support for the Trump-Vance agenda by industrial union members has been widely reported on, news of this nearly decade old re-alignment has apparently yet to reach the leadership of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, whose dues-paying members repeatedly cast ballots for President Trump.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) has over 50,000 members and is the oldest union in the United States. This legacy places it in the storied history of America. Counterintuitively, BLET's leadership has become increasingly unpatriotic and aggressively opposed to President Trump and his administration. BLET leadership has institutionalized a path of partisan advocacy against President Trump, in contrast to the views of many everyday railroad workers.

BLET's leadership has spent millions of dollars they have collected from the hard-working base frivolously. For example, since 2017, they have spent over \$2 million on high-end casinos and resorts. Pair this with almost \$2 million spent on gifts and swag, and the union has wasted their members' hard-earned dollars on unnecessary items that do not benefit the working conditions of their membership.



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While their union is decidedly blue-collar, their advocacy and engagement look nearly as left-wing as the notoriously liberal government employee unions. BLET's leadership has gone to great pains to abandon their MAGA membership to pursue an agenda of left-wing advocacy, personal enrichment, and rampant waste, which should make every member question why they are paying dues to headquarters. This section of the report details their problems, but some of the most troubling highlights include:

During the 2024 election cycle, BLET publicly endorsed the Harris-Walz campaign. They praised Tim Walz, a far-left governor known for rhetoric that undermines confidence in lawful governance and who has clashed with the President on immigration enforcement. BLET leadership has also aligned itself with other leftist politicians who are ardently opposed to the President, such as Bernie Sanders, Rick Larsen, Sherrod Brown, and Bo Mitchell. These individuals have all attacked the president on numerous issues, ranging from lawful federal immigration enforcement and economic policies to personal attacks and impeachment efforts.

More broadly, during that same election cycle, BLET leadership went to great pains publicly contrasting the railroad policies of the first Trump Administration and the Biden Administration in ways that unanimously favored Joe Biden while disparaging President Trump. The union frequently praised the previous Biden Administration on issues ranging from White House access and regulatory enforcement to labor board appointments. At the same time, it has criticized the Trump Administration on nearly every parallel issue, including railroad waivers, two-person crew rules, appointments to transportation and labor boards, and broader rail policy. Finally, during the election cycle, the union attacked Project 2025, and anyone involved with it, claiming it would drive up costs and be detrimental to the American people.

The union also supported a lawsuit filed by the UAW that blocked the Trump Administration from properly staffing agencies, such as the TSA, that conduct intelligence and national security work, by impeding the administration's attempt to end collective bargaining in favor of merit-based hiring. This lawsuit was filed in response to President Trump's Executive Order 14251, which was implemented to administer stronger hiring practices to shore up the security of agencies that operate in intelligence, counterintelligence, and national security activities. BLET provided positive coverage of the litigation against the administration and championed one of their union partners who joined the lawsuit.



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The divide between membership and leadership created by their policy positions is only worsened when one examines their political donations. BLET partisan allocations are shocking: 98% of party committee spending goes to Democrats. BLET overwhelmingly and almost solely contributes to Democratic campaigns and politicians. And their giving is not confined to political campaigns, BLET has donated to the Equality State Policy Center from the union's treasury. Equality State Policy Center is a leader in opposing President Trump's efforts to require proof of citizenship to vote, a core tenant of the President's priority legislation, the SAVE Act.

All told whether it is wasteful spending that does not serve their membership base, or policy advocacy on issues from transportation to immigration. Policies such as these look more like what you'd expect from Bernie Sanders than what you'd expect from a railroad worker. With a donation profile that skews overwhelmingly left, the BLET leadership is anything but MAGA and is wholly out of step with the men and women they represent.



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Methodology

Sourcing

Spending from LM-2 forms were sourced via the Office of Labor-Management Standards payee/payor search. All entities (locals, regional councils etc.) for each union were combined into one spreadsheet to detail spending from 2017 to 2024. All spending for PACs and Independent Expenditures were gathered from the Federal Election Commission.

Political Spending

Unlike most organizations, owing to their history of corruption, many labor unions are subjected to a much more extensive public disclosure requirement regime than most not-for-profit organizations. The chief disclosure mechanism for unions is the LM-2 form that is required by the Office of Labor-Management Standards. This form requires detailed reporting of line-item expenditures from the union, detailing nearly all expenditures by the union. In the reporting below we will detail political expenditures from the union both as detailed in their LM-2, and as detailed with the Federal Elections Commission for hard dollar political donations from their PACs and Independent Expenditures. We also detail political expenditure from the union's LM-2 that are political/advocacy in nature, including advocacy and political activities that are not necessarily tied to a registered political committee, but are clearly designed to influence public debate.

Wasteful Spending

We have compiled the LM-2 forms for all seven unions from 2017-2024 (last available year for all unions). 2017 was used as it marked the beginning of President Trump's first term. The disclosure of union spending on these forms is broken down under five categories that include general overhead, union administration, representative activities, contributions/gifts/grants, and political activity. These spending categories (golf outing as general overhead) are often misleading, so we have created seven new classifications that more accurately describe union spending. New categories for spending are listed as follows, entertainment, food and beverage, hotel and conference, legal, political spending, swag, and travel.

Categories

Entertainment – Parties, amusement parks, recreational events/activities, as well as sports ventures and venues

Food and Beverage – Restaurants, drinks, fast food, and catering

Hotel and Conference – Resorts, hotels, conferences, banquets, and event venues



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Legal – lawyers, law firms, arbitration, and any legal expenses

Political Spending – Advocacy, ideological organizations, candidates, committees and all expenses the union labels as political activity

Swag – Watches, jewelry, t-shirts, gifts, printing, and any merchandise purchased by the union

Travel – Airlines, travel expenses, and travel agents



Political Spending Undermining MAGA Policies

The BLET has used both hard dollar political spending – through FEC committees – and union treasury funds to left wing advocacy groups to execute on its agenda. Detailed below is an analysis of spending both from the PAC and from the union treasury to further an anti-MAGA agenda.

\$26,000,000 in Union Funds (LM-2) Spent on Largely Left-wing Politics

BLET has spent over \$26,000,000 in union funds to influence politics since President Trump’s first term in office.¹

SPENDING CATEGORY	AMOUNT
POLITICAL SPENDING	\$26,893,420

Support of Anti-Trump Non-Profit – SAVE Act Type Opposition

Much of the union’s political spending was focused on lobbying state legislative boards, but while most of the spending went to state based lobbying, the union contributed repeatedly to the aggressively left-wing Equality State Policy Center while failing to contribute to any conservative aligned groups.²

NAME	REPORT	AMOUNT	FILE #
EQUALITY STATE POLICY CENTER	2018 (LM2)	\$4,600.00	054-671
EQUALITY STATE POLICY CENTER	2020 (LM2)	\$4,500.00	054-671
EQUALITY STATE POLICY CENTER	2021 (LM2)	\$2,000.00	054-671
EQUALITY STATE POLICY CENTER	2022 (LM2)	\$2,000.00	054-671
TOTAL		\$13,100	

The Equality State Policy Center has vigorously opposed President Trump’s executive orders on proof of citizenship to vote and implied the requirement was unconstitutional.³

The Equality State Policy Center (ESPC) strongly opposes President Trump’s recent executive order, which strips states of their authority to administer elections. Based on misinformation about noncitizen voting, this sweeping order will disenfranchise millions of eligible voters. In Wyoming, we already have a citizenship affirmation on voter registration forms, and across the nation cases of actual noncitizen voting are virtually nonexistent.

¹ *Union Reports Search*, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor-Management Standards, https://olmsapps.dol.gov/olpdr/?_ga=2.254274315.2020607130.1658153547-131188624.1645563445#Union%20Reports/Payer/Payee%20Search/ (last visited Feb. 13, 2026).

² *Union Reports Search*, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor-Management Standards, https://olmsapps.dol.gov/olpdr/?_ga=2.254274315.2020607130.1658153547-131188624.1645563445#Union%20Reports/Payer/Payee%20Search/ (last visited Feb. 13, 2026).

³ *Equality State Policy Center Condemns President’s Executive Order and Broader Attacks on Election Integrity*, Equality State Policy Center (Mar. 27, 2025), <https://equalitystate.org/take-action/news.html/article/2025/03/27/equality-state-policy-center-condemns-president-s-executive-order-and-broader-attacks-on-election-integrity>.



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...

The right to vote is not a partisan issue; it is a fundamental American right. **ESPC remains committed to fighting any attempt, whether from Washington or Cheyenne, to make it harder for Wyomingites to participate in our democracy.** Everyone agrees that only lawful U.S. citizens residing in Wyoming should vote in our state's elections. The real divide is between those who prioritize protecting the rights of qualified voters and those who choose to engage in political theater at the expense of hard-working Wyomingites and their voting rights.

In 2025, the Equality State Policy Center filed a lawsuit against a Wyoming election integrity law, like the Save Act, which would require proof of citizenship to vote.

On May 9, 2025, Equality State Policy Center (ESPC), a coalition of labor, social justice, and conservation organizations, filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming, asserting HB 156 was unconstitutional. ESPC argued the law was an undue burden on the right to vote under the First and Fourteenth Amendment by burdening new voters with additional documentation requirements without justification and exacerbating the effects of the state's large-scale voter purges. ESPC also claimed the law was unconstitutionally vague under the First, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments by allowing county clerks to reject applicants' proof of citizenship based on "any indication" they were not a citizen.

President Trump's Department of Justice filed a statement of interest supporting the Wyoming law.⁴

The Justice Department announced today that it has filed a Statement of Interest in the lawsuit Equality State Policy Center v. Chuck Gray, defending Wyoming's legitimate interest securing its voting process from fraud by requiring documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote.

Longstanding Supreme Court precedent recognizes that states have a significant interest in preventing fraud and safeguarding voter confidence in the election process. Wyoming's documentary proof of citizenship law is a mechanism to enforce laws that prohibit non-citizen voting and ensure that only eligible voters cast ballots.

"It is a crime for non-citizens to vote in federal elections, and it is important that the American people have confidence in the integrity of our elections," said Deputy Assistant Attorney General Michael Gates of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. "Requiring documentary proof of citizenship is common sense and ensures that only citizens vote."

The Civil Rights Division's Voting Section enforces the civil provisions of federal statutes that protect the integrity of the vote, including the Voting Rights Act, National Voter Registration Act, Help America Vote Act, and the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

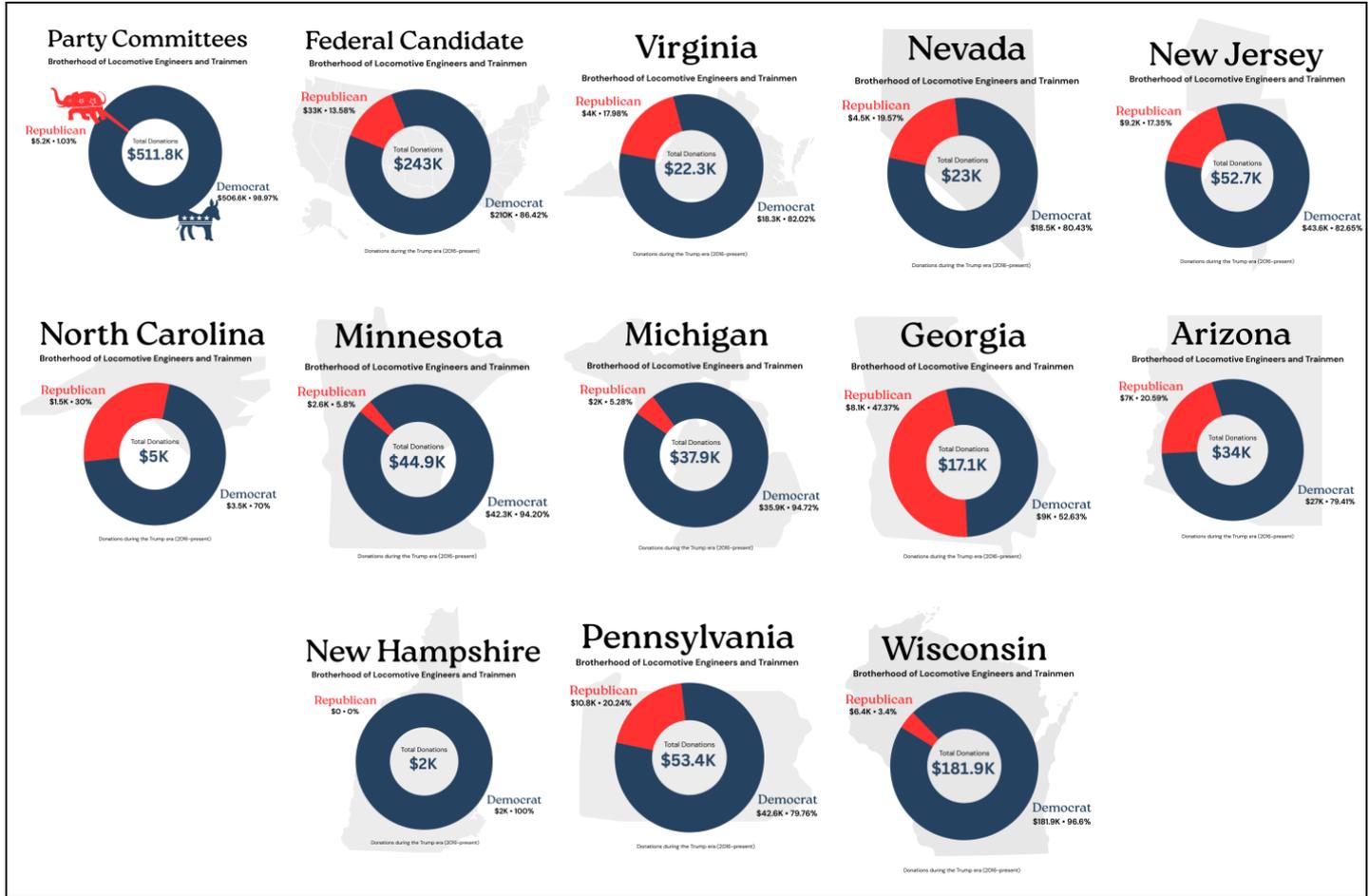
Put more clearly, BLET pumped money into a left-wing non-profit so that it could draft a lawsuit that would protect and facilitate voting by illegal aliens. Adding insult to injury, by underwriting Equality State Policy Center's operations – and by extension its lawsuit – BLET forced the Trump DOJ to deploy resources to fight another lawsuit.

⁴ *Justice Department Files Statement of Interest in Wyoming Case to Defend Documentary Proof*, U.S. Department of Justice (July 1st, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-files-statement-interest-wyoming-case-defend-documentary-proof>.



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BLET's Hard Dollar Political Machine Overwhelmingly One-Sided



BLET has a strong hard dollar political action committee, taking in \$807,476.30 in revenue in the last full election cycle.⁵ Importantly, unlike most federal political action committees, BLET's committee, and most other industrial union political action committees, donate to both federal and state candidates out of their federal PAC. While BLET's membership looks MAGA, its political donations look anything but MAGA. In fact, in the places where it matters, federal elections and the competitive races in the eleven states we analyzed, the question is not even close – in only one state, Georgia, did their donations come close to an even split. In the other ten states, BLET's donations were overwhelmingly skewed towards Democrats. AAF analyzed the spending between when President Trump emerged on the political scene and present, and at the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen PAC, the numbers

⁵ Federal Election Commission, Committee Profile for Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen PAC Fund (Comm. ID C00099234), FEC.gov (last visited Feb. 9, 2026), <https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00099234/?cycle=2024>.



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clearly show that the union’s political leadership is still clearly hostile to President Trump and his party and are using their resources to defeat him and to boost his opponents.

Our analysis coded all federal contributions and all statewide and general assembly donations by party and analyzed the direction of the donations. Additionally, we analyzed donations to political committees at both the state and federal levels. Political committees are particularly important because a traditional strength of labor unions is their ability to drive get-out-the-vote efforts in communities across the country. These GOTV efforts are often largely coordinated through a network of political committees. For BLET, the party committee donations are shocking, with only 1.03% of all donations going to Republican committees during the Trump era.

	Democrat		Republican	
Party Committees (Federal and State)	\$506,581.00	98.97%	\$5,250.00	1.03%
Federal Candidate	\$210,000.00	86.42%	\$33,000.00	13.58%
Virginia	\$18,250.00	82.02%	\$4,000.00	17.98%
Nevada	\$18,500.00	80.43%	\$4,500.00	19.57%
New Jersey	\$43,600.00	82.65%	\$9,150.00	17.35%
North Carolina	\$3,500.00	70.00%	\$1,500.00	30.00%
Minnesota	\$42,250.00	94.20%	\$2,600.00	5.80%
Michigan	\$35,900.00	94.72%	\$2,000.00	5.28%
Georgia	\$9,000.00	52.63%	\$8,100.00	47.37%
Arizona	\$27,000.00	79.41%	\$7,000.00	20.59%
New Hampshire	\$2,000.00	100.00%	\$0.00	0.00%
Pennsylvania	\$42,550.00	79.76%	\$10,800.00	20.24%
Wisconsin	\$181,860.00	96.60%	\$6,400.00	3.40%

For example, in the 2016 cycle, BLET donated \$15,000 to the DNC when they were the nexus for GOTV for the Hillary Clinton campaign but never donated a dollar to the RNC. In 2024, long after it had become clear that industrial union membership was strongly behind President Trump, the BLET leadership still hadn’t gotten the message, making 24 different donations to Democrat party committees for a total of \$53,400 and a mere two donations to Republican committees for a spare \$2000.



Waste and Abuse Within the Union

When the union treasury is supposed to be focused on improving worker conditions and negotiating fair deals for members, when one digs into the details it becomes clear that BLET's treasury is often turned into a slush fund of waste and excess.

Millions in Spending on Swag and Benefits Like Travel

BLET spent over \$40,000,000 on political spending, legal, hotel and conference, travel, swag, food and beverage, and entertainment between 2017 and 2024.⁶

SPENDING CATEGORY	AMOUNT
POLITICAL SPENDING	\$26,893,420
LEGAL	\$5,272,204
HOTEL AND CONFERENCE	\$5,180,820
SWAG	\$1,765,797
TRAVEL	\$1,753,055
ENTERTAINMENT	\$639,785
FOOD AND BEVERAGE	\$18,129
TOTAL	\$41,523,210

Wasted Over \$2,000,000 on High-End Resorts and Casinos

While it's bad enough that BLET spent over \$5,000,000 on hotels and conferences, even more concerning is the fact that the union spent over \$2,000,000 on casinos and resorts alone.⁷ The union appears more concerned with staying at entertaining destination resorts than they do being thrifty with their members' dues.

NAME	REPORT	AMOUNT	FILE #
BALLY'S	2021 (LM2)	\$13,749.00	511-549
BALLY'S LAS VEGAS	2019 (LM2)	\$17,361.00	019-339
BALLY'S HOTEL LAS VEGAS	2022 (LM2)	\$27,381.00	000-101
CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT	2018 (LM2)	\$759,350.00	000-101
CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT	2019 (LM2)	\$20,000.00	000-101
CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT	2020 (LM2)	\$88,384.00	000-101
CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT	2022 (LM2)	\$736,328.00	000-101
CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT	2023 (LM2)	\$6,000.00	012-439
CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT	2024 (LM2)	\$20,000.00	000-101
CATAMARAN RESORT AND CONVENTION	2023 (LM2)	\$16,737.00	019-339
CATAMARAN RESORT AND CONVENTION	2024 (LM2)	\$11,106.00	019-339
CATAMARAN RESORT AND SPA	2020 (LM2)	\$27,909.00	019-339
CATAMARAN RESORT AND SPA	2021 (LM2)	\$31,155.00	019-339

⁶ *Union Reports Search*, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor-Management Standards, https://olmsapps.dol.gov/olpdr/?_ga=2.254274315.2020607130.1658153547-131188624.1645563445#Union%20Reports/Payer/Payee%20Search/ (last visited Feb. 13, 2026).

⁷ *Union Reports Search*, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor-Management Standards, https://olmsapps.dol.gov/olpdr/?_ga=2.254274315.2020607130.1658153547-131188624.1645563445#Union%20Reports/Payer/Payee%20Search/ (last visited Feb. 13, 2026).



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NAME	REPORT	AMOUNT	FILE #
CATAMARAN RESORT HOTEL	2019 (LM2)	\$9,303.00	019-339
CEASARS ENTERTAINMENT	2019 (LM2)	\$9,727.00	511-549
CEASARS ENTERTAINMENT	2021 (LM2)	\$176,768.00	000-101
CURIO DIPLOMAT RESORT	2024 (LM2)	\$10,640.00	000-101
CURIO DIPLOMAT RESORT AND SPA	2017 (LM2)	\$7,384.00	000-101
FLAMINGO HOTEL	2023 (LM2)	\$9,396.00	511-549
HARRAH'S NEW ORLEANS HOTEL	2019 (LM2)	\$14,592.00	516-972
HARRAH'S NEW ORLEANS HOTEL & CASINO	2020 (LM2)	\$11,069.00	000-101
HILTON CABANA MIAMI BEACH RESORT	2023 (LM2)	\$15,670.00	516-972
LAKE TAHOE RESORT HOTEL	2017 (LM2)	\$7,820.00	043-409
LAKE TAHOE RESORT HOTEL	2018 (LM2)	\$7,576.00	043-409
PLANET HOLLYWOOD LAS VEGAS RESORT & CASINO	2024 (LM2)	\$7,696.00	031-119
THE DIPLOMAT RESORT	2022 (LM2)	\$12,215.00	000-101
THE DIPLOMAT RESORT	2023 (LM2)	\$8,162.00	000-101
TOTAL		\$2,083,478.00	

Nearly \$2,000,000 on Swag

Adding insult to injury when it comes to waste, the BLET spent nearly \$2,000,000 on apparel, gifts, business cards, jewelry, and printing.⁸

NAME	TYPE/CLASSIFICATION	REPORT	AMOUNT	FILE #
ALMAR PRINTING	ADVERTISING APPAREL	2019 (LM2)	\$6,034.00	013-591
AMERICAN COPIER SOLUTIONS	APPAREL COMPANY	2019 (LM2)	\$22,297.00	000-101
AMERICAN COPIER SOLUTIONS, INC	APPAREL COMPANY	2017 (LM2)	\$25,152.00	000-101
AMERICAN COPIER SOLUTIONS, INC.	APPAREL COMPANY	2018 (LM2)	\$47,752.00	000-101
AMERICAN PRODCUTS INC.	APPAREL COMPANY	2019 (LM2)	\$41,616.00	000-101
AMERICAN PRODUCT	APPAREL COMPANY	2020 (LM2)	\$18,163.00	019-339
AMERICAN PRODUCTS	AWARDS & T-SHIRTS	2018 (LM2)	\$5,074.00	011-819
AMERICAN PRODUCTS INC	BUSINESS CARDS	2017 (LM2)	\$14,901.00	000-101
AMERICAN PRODUCTS INC	BUSINESS CARDS	2018 (LM2)	\$19,844.00	000-101
AMERICAN PRODUCTS INC	BUSINESS CARDS	2018 (LM2)	\$1,529.00	012-924
AMERICAN PRODUCTS INC	BUSINESS CARDS	2020 (LM2)	\$5,605.00	043-409
AMERICAN PRODUCTS INC.	CLOTHING VENDOR	2018 (LM2)	\$12,857.00	000-101
AMERICAN PRODUCTS INC.	GIFT	2020 (LM2)	\$10,320.00	011-633
AMERICAN PRODUCTS, INC.	GIFT	2020 (LM2)	\$11,227.00	035-582
AWARDS & T-SHIRTS	GIFT	2019 (LM2)	\$1,935.00	022-994
AWARDS & T-SHIRTS	GIFTS FOR GCA CONVENTION	2019 (LM2)	\$10,535.00	013-591
AWARDS AND T-SHIRT SPECIALISTS INC	JEWELRY STORE	2021 (LM2)	\$10,955.00	511-549
AWARDS AND T-SHIRTS	KNIFE MANUFACTURER	2022 (LM2)	\$6,440.00	511-549
BARKER ADVERTISING SPECIALTY	MERCHANDISE	2017 (LM2)	\$4,643.00	011-633
BLET AUXILLARY C/O JODI WALLACE	PRINTING AND COPYING SERVICES COMPANY	2023 (LM2)	\$1,000.00	541-388
BLET TWIN PORTS AUXILLARY 6388	PRINTING AND COPYING SERVICES COMPANY	2024 (LM2)	\$500.00	541-388

⁸ *Union Reports Search*, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor-Management Standards, https://olmsapps.dol.gov/olpdr/?_ga=2.254274315.2020607130.1658153547-131188624.1645563445#Union%20Reports/Payer/Payee%20Search/ (last visited Feb. 13, 2026).



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NAME	TYPE/CLASSIFICATION	REPORT	AMOUNT	FILE #
BREAKER PRESS	PRINTING AND COPYING SERVICES COMPANY	2018 (LM2)	\$80.00	008-183
BROTHERS PRINTING	PRINTING AND PUBLICATION COMPANY	2020 (LM2)	\$254.00	011-633
BROTHERS PRINTING	PRINTING AND PUBLICATION COMPANY	2021 (LM2)	\$620.00	011-633
BROTHERS PRINTING	PRINTING AND PUBLICATION COMPANY	2022 (LM2)	\$419.00	011-633
BROTHERS PRINTING CO	PRINTING AND PUBLICATION COMPANY	2024 (LM2)	\$6,041.00	000-101
BROTHERS PRINTING CO INC	PRINTING AND PUBLICATION COMPANY	2021 (LM2)	\$7,993.00	000-101
BROTHERS PRINTING CO INC.	PRINTING AND PUBLICATION COMPANY	2017 (LM2)	\$15,632.00	000-101
BROTHERS PRINTING CO INC.	PRINTING AND PUBLICATION COMPANY	2018 (LM2)	\$12,456.00	000-101
BROTHERS PRINTING CO INC.	PRINTING CO.	2019 (LM2)	\$20,542.00	000-101
BROTHERS PRINTING CO.	PRINTING COMPANY	2023 (LM2)	\$15,451.00	000-101
GOODINS JEWELRY	PRINTING COMPANY	2020 (LM2)	\$622.00	022-994
MILLCRAFT PAPER COMPANY	PRINTING COMPANY	2019 (LM2)	\$19,193.00	000-101
MOSAIC	PRINTING COMPANY	2017 (LM2)	\$115,880.00	000-101
MOSAIC	PRINTING COMPANY	2018 (LM2)	\$31,182.00	000-101
MOSAIC	PRINTING COMPANY	2019 (LM2)	\$94,852.00	000-101
MOSAIC	PRINTING COMPANY	2020 (LM2)	\$30,012.00	000-101
MOSAIC	PRINTING COMPANY	2021 (LM2)	\$119,077.00	000-101
MOSAIC	PRINTING COMPANY	2022 (LM2)	\$188,521.00	000-101
MOSAIC	PRINTING COMPANY	2023 (LM2)	\$101,024.00	000-101
MOSAIC	PRINTING COMPANY	2024 (LM2)	\$29,446.00	000-101
NEO MARKETING LLC	PRINTING COMPANY	2019 (LM2)	\$86,341.00	000-101
NEO MARKETING LLC	PRINTING COMPANY	2020 (LM2)	\$156,416.00	000-101
NEO MARKETING LLC	PRINTING COMPANY	2021 (LM2)	\$77,935.00	000-101
NEO MARKETING LLC	PRINTING COMPANY	2022 (LM2)	\$10,040.00	000-101
NEO MARKETING, LLC	PRINTING COMPANY	2017 (LM2)	\$100,434.00	000-101
NEO MARKETING, LLC	PRINTING COMPANY	2018 (LM2)	\$92,641.00	000-101
PHIL VEDDA & SONS INC	PRINTING COMPANY	2021 (LM2)	\$55,923.00	000-101
PHIL VEDDA & SONS INC	PRINTING COMPANY	2022 (LM2)	\$55,401.00	000-101
PHIL VEDDA & SONS INC	PRINTING COMPANY	2024 (LM2)	\$21,687.00	000-101
PHIL VEDDA & SONS, INC	PRINTING VENDOR	2017 (LM2)	\$5,137.00	000-101
PHIL VEDDA & SONS, INC	SHIRTS	2018 (LM2)	\$7,942.00	000-101
PHIL VEDDA & SONS, INC.	UNION PRODUCTS	2019 (LM2)	\$7,619.00	000-101
SILVER STAG KNIVES	UNION SURPLUS STORE	2020 (LM2)	\$605.00	022-994
TOTAL			\$1,765,797	

The union spending breakdown notably lists a jewelry purchase of more than \$10,000 from 2021. While the details are unclear, it is hard to imagine how working conditions on railroads are improved by a ten-thousand-dollar jewelry purchase.

Self-Enrichment by Union Leadership

A separation exists between BLET leadership and their members. This rift is exemplified by high salaries of employees at the union's national headquarters.



MAGA Membership & Woke Leadership - BLET

27% of Leadership Make Over \$200,000 per Year

While the Department of Labor notes that the median wage for a railroad worker is \$75,680, union leadership is far outpacing the wages of the members they represent.⁹ Out of 62 named employees on the union’s 2024 LM-2, 27 made over \$100,000 (55%) and 13 made over \$200,000 (27%). The president and vice president recorded salaries over \$300,000.¹⁰

Name	Title	Gross Salary	Report
EDWARD A HALL	NATIONAL PRESIDENT	\$308,519.00	2024 (LM2)
JAMES A HOLDCRAFT	VICE PRESIDENT	\$307,004.00	2024 (LM2)
MARK L WALLACE	FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	\$252,447.00	2024 (LM2)
DAVID P ESTES	NATIONAL SECRETARY TREAS.	\$251,878.00	2024 (LM2)
GARRISON D BEST	VICE PRESIDENT	\$238,646.00	2024 (LM2)
JAMES P LOUIS	VICE PRESIDENT	\$234,887.00	2024 (LM2)
PETER M SEMENEK	VICE PRESIDENT	\$234,887.00	2024 (LM2)
RICHARD C GIBBONS	VICE PRESIDENT	\$234,887.00	2024 (LM2)
VINCENT G VERNA	VICE PRESIDENT & NLR	\$234,887.00	2024 (LM2)
WILLIAM P LYONS	VICE PRESIDENT	\$234,887.00	2024 (LM2)
LARRY R FANNON JR.	VICE PRESIDENT	\$234,886.00	2024 (LM2)
JOHN F FINK	DIR OF RSRCH ASST TO PRES	\$209,016.00	2024 (LM2)
MICHAEL G COLLIER	DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING	\$207,725.00	2024 (LM2)
ALBERT D COOK III	DIRECTOR OF BENEFITS	\$183,013.00	2024 (LM2)
BRENDAN P SULLIVAN	DIR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS	\$172,395.00	2024 (LM2)
LUKE W MYERS	DIRECTOR OF BYLAWS ADMIN	\$161,932.00	2024 (LM2)
MEGAN C MEAD	DIRECTOR OF COMPLIANCE	\$161,810.00	2024 (LM2)
MATTHEW C KRONYAK	SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE	\$160,839.00	2024 (LM2)
RICHARD C BARTELA JR.	SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE	\$160,839.00	2024 (LM2)
DOUGLAS W DAVIDSON	DIRECTOR OF ARBITRATION	\$152,187.00	2024 (LM2)
GREGORY E ROSS	DIR OF COMM. AND LEGAL	\$148,783.00	2024 (LM2)
WALT J SCHMIDT JR.	DIR OF ONLINE SERVICES	\$146,890.00	2024 (LM2)
BRIAN K TERPENING	SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE	\$145,752.00	2024 (LM2)
JORGE R GOMEZ	SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE	\$144,225.00	2024 (LM2)
CHRISTY D SMITH	DIR OF REGULATORY AFFAIRS	\$138,926.00	2024 (LM2)
MICHAEL J HAGER	DIR OF IT DEPT	\$105,328.00	2024 (LM2)
JOHN V BENTLEY JR.	DIRECTOR OF PR DEPT	\$101,782.00	2024 (LM2)

Union members are financing leadership salaries by paying up to \$159 a month of their salaries in union dues so that their leaders can make large six figure salaries.¹¹

⁹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Railroad Occupations*, Occupational Outlook Handbook, <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/transportation-and-material-moving/railroad-occupations.htm> (last visited Feb. 15, 2026).

¹⁰ *Union Reports Search*, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor-Management Standards, https://olmsapps.dol.gov/olpdr/?_ga=2.254274315.2020607130.1658153547-131188624.1645563445#Union%20Reports/Payer/Payee%20Search/ (last visited Feb. 13, 2026).

¹¹ *Dues Rates or Reduced Rates*, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Local 446, <https://www.blet446.org/dues-rates-or-reduced-rates> (last visited Feb. 12, 2026).



Anti-MAGA Advocacy by Union Leaders and Organizational Wokeness

BLET leadership has advocated for and endorsed numerous Democrat politicians. The union endorsed Harris-Walz in 2024 and has even collaborated with Bernie Sanders. BLET has also made a habit of criticizing numerous policies of the Trump-Vance agenda while praising the presidency of Joe Biden.

Alliance with Anti-Trump Democrats

Endorsement of the 2024 Harris-Walz Presidential Ticket

BLET stood with its Teamsters Rail Conference in backing Kamala Harris for President and Tim Walz for Vice President.¹²



In an article posted to the BLET website, BLET, as an affiliated union of The Teamsters Rail Conference, endorsed the Democratic Presidential ticket and provided a list of criticisms of President Trump and his previous administration.

When comparing the records of the candidates it is obvious why railroaders should favor Vice President Harris when they cast their ballots. Some facts are already known. For example, Former President Donald Trump's administration let the major railroads "self-regulate" in ways not seen for a century.

The Trump administration looked the other way when it came to the use of a business model called Precision Scheduled Railroading or PSR.

Now, Trump is on the campaign trail saying that for any one new regulation he wants to remove ten.

In clear contrast, the FRA under the Biden/Harris administration earlier this year created a two-person train rule.

Under Trump's appointment to the FRA these RSAC meetings were eliminated silencing the voice of rail labor.

They provided a litany of criticisms of President Trump's railroad policy and ardently supported a Harris Presidency.

¹² Teamsters Rail Conference Endorses Harris-Walz, September 20, 2024, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, <https://ble-t.org/news/teamsters-rail-conference-endorses-vice-president-kamala-harris-for-president/>



Praised Tim Walz During the 2024 Presidential Election

Leading up to and during the 2024 election cycle, the Union provided commentary in favor of the Biden administration and leftist politicians. For example, they made a post on X casting a favorable light on radical far-left politician Tim Walz.¹³



Advocating for Tim Walz for Vice President

In the article from BLET's official website from which the post is taken, Tim Walz is promoted as the candidate who will deliver for railroaders.¹⁴



¹³ Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), post on X, October 22, 2024, <https://x.com/BLET/status/1848830997061648403>

¹⁴ 2024 Election: Tim Walz Has a Record of Supporting Rail Labor, October 22, 2024, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, <https://ble-t.org/news/2024-election-tim-walz-has-a-record-of-supporting-rail-labor/>



MAGA Membership & Woke Leadership - BLET

During campaign season, politicians will make promises — but can they deliver? Can they be believed? In Tim Walz's case, the nominee for Vice President, he has a record of delivering on promises made to railroaders.

In 2023, long before most people outside of Minnesota knew who Tim Walz was, he was signing BLET-backed rail safety reforms as governor of Minnesota. And prior to his governorship, he has a long history of supporting rail safety legislation as a member of Congress.

In a statement reported by The Hill, he threatened to deploy Minnesota's National Guard in response to Federal agency activities, such as those of ICE.¹⁵

Donald Trump and his administration may not care much about Minnesota — that's been pretty evident.

Help us create a database of the atrocities against Minnesotans, not just to establish a record for posterity but to bank evidence for future prosecution.

End this occupation. You've done enough.

This incident is just one of many examples that illustrate Walz's extreme rhetoric and disregard for the principles of law and order. Instead of promoting policies that prioritize public safety and stability, BLET has endorsed someone whose statements and actions repeatedly indicate tolerance for disorder and undermine confidence in lawful governance.

Collaboration with Bernie Sanders

In 2024, BLET invited self-described Democratic-Socialist Bernie Sanders to speak at their Washington, D.C Eastern Regional Meeting.¹⁶



¹⁵ *The Hill*, "Walz Puts Minnesota National Guard on Alert Amid Protests over ICE Shooting," January 7, 2026, <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/5677541-walz-minnesota-national-guard-ice-shooting/>

¹⁶ bletnational, Instagram post, July 30, 2024, https://www.instagram.com/p/C-DdWeWukEL/?img_index=1



MAGA Membership & Woke Leadership - BLET

Sanders has consistently criticized and attacked President Trump and his policies.^{17 18}

Trump's hostility toward Europe has little to do with his absurd and irrational arguments over Greenland. It has everything to do with his efforts to undermine democracy and move this country and the world toward authoritarianism. Trump does not like free elections, a free media or the right of people to dissent.

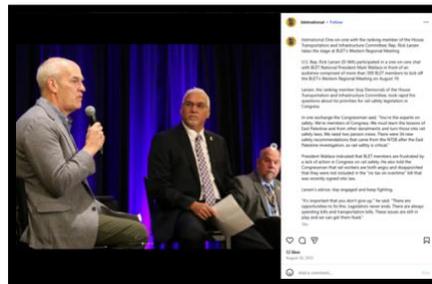
That is why he is sending ICE to invade American cities.

Donald Trump has, once again, shown his contempt for the Constitution and the rule of law. The President of the United States does NOT have the right to unilaterally take this country to war, even against a corrupt and brutal dictator like Maduro.

BLET's leadership, by joining with Sanders, makes it clear that it supports strong opposition to the President.

Endorsement of Rick Larsen – Congressman who Spent “Life Fighting Back Against Trump”

The BLET hosted Rick Larsen, a leftist Representative from Washington, to speak at a prominent BLET regional meeting.¹⁹



Larsen is ardently opposed to President Trump and makes no attempt to hide his strong feelings. Back in 2019, Larsen wrote in favor of impeaching President Trump.²⁰

I came to this decision following the president's statement that some members of Congress should go back to the countries they came from.

The president's actions are eroding the fundamentals of democracy and our country. Therefore he should not be president.

¹⁷ Fox News, "Sanders Accuses Trump Pushing US, World toward Authoritarianism," Fox News, January 22, 2026, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/sanders-accuses-trump-pushing-us-world-toward-authoritarianism>

¹⁸ Sen. Bernie Sanders, "Statement of Sen. Bernie Sanders on Venezuela," January 3, 2026, Office of Sen. Bernie Sanders press release, <https://www.sanders.senate.gov/press-releases/news-statement-of-sen-bernie-sanders-on-venezuela/>

¹⁹ bletnational, Instagram post, August 26, 2025, https://www.instagram.com/p/DN1O3BJ3EdI/?img_index=1

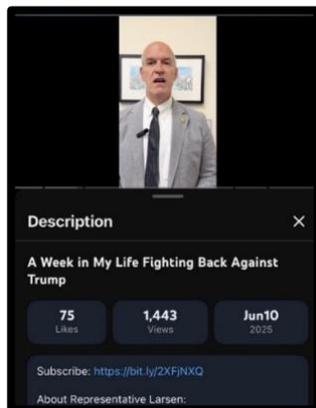
²⁰ Rick Larsen, "It Is Time to Impeach Donald Trump," July 19, 2019, *Rick Larsen for Congress*, <https://www.ricklarsen.org/2019/07/19/it-time-impeach-donald-trump/>



MAGA Membership & Woke Leadership - BLET

There is a message of resistance to the Trump administration that BLET is sending by hosting a leftist politician who makes such vile comments about our President.

Larsen has made it clear that his mission is to fight back against President Trump and his administration. [Video in footnote]²¹



Endorsement of Ohio Trump Opponent Sherrod Brown

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen supported, endorsed, and campaigned for progressive former Senator Sherrod Brown.^{22 23}



²¹ *A Week in My Life Fighting Back Against Trump*, YouTube video, June 10, 2025, posted by Representative Rick Larsen, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmpweEcn48k>

²² Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), post on X, September 24, 2024, <https://x.com/BLET/status/1838598596783955973>

²³ Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), post on X, October 29, 2024, <https://x.com/BLET/status/1851378072626274554>



MAGA Membership & Woke Leadership - BLET



Brown was a staunch anti-Trump Senator and has repeatedly publicly attacked the president. In 2020, Brown backed a Democrat led attempt to impeach President Trump.²⁴ From a teleconference with reporters, Brown said:

He cheated, then he got caught and he tried to cover it up. By any measurement, that is an impeachable offense and he should be removed from office.

Brown has also made personally disparaging comments about President Trump. In a 2019 personal attack, Brown made numerous statements about the President.²⁵

I think this presidential election is going to be Donald Trump playing to race and immigration and fear.

He is a racist,

He's not fit to be president of the United States.

Brown's comments are remarkably consistent with the long line of anti-Trump rhetoric that is spewed by the leftist politicians that BLET endorses and associates with.

Endorsement of Bo Mitchell – Candidate who Called Immigration Enforcement “Chaotic, Cruel and Inhumane”

Yet another example of BLET leadership endorsing leftist politicians is their endorsement of Bo Mitchell.²⁶



²⁴ WOSU Public Media, “Sherrod Brown Vows Vote to Remove President Trump from Office,” February 5, 2020, <https://www.wosu.org/news/2020-02-05/sherrod-brown-vows-vote-to-remove-president-trump-from-office/>

²⁵ Hannah News Service, Ohio Capitol Connection, “ODE Briefs Education Committee on Model Curriculum,” July 19, 2019, The Hannah Report, <https://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=bKBOqWt8%2Fk=&u=kWepe5KRNZs=&>

²⁶ <https://www.instagram.com/p/DN6GJq7AE3G/>



MAGA Membership & Woke Leadership - BLET

Representative Mitchell has been critical of most aspects of President Trump's social and economic policies such as the lawful enforcement of statutes against illegal immigration by ICE.²⁷

The federal government's approach to immigration endorsement has been chaotic, cruel and inhumane. This approach to immigration enforcement is not a result of too little or too much money being spent. ICE raids that target families instead of criminals, violations of due process rights, arrests of U.S. citizens and people with legal immigration status, and the practice of sending detainees into inhumane conditions like Alligator Alcatraz and prisons in foreign countries are all practices that should cease immediately.

BLET leadership again endorses individuals who would attack federal agencies enforcing the law. This shows a severe lack of connection to their base.

Critical of Trump-Vance Agenda

BLET has consistently criticized and opposed President Trump and his administration.

BLET Takes to Social Media in Tweet-Storm Attacking President Trump and Praising President Biden on Transportation Policy and Appointments

In the lead-up to the 2024 election, BLET issued 14 tweets that criticized the actions of the first Trump administration while praising the Biden administration's railroad policies. The messaging was clearly intended to skew union members toward the Democratic presidential ticket. In these tweets, they attacked nearly every major Trump-era rail policy decision while framing the Biden administration's actions positively.

BLET criticized the Trump administration on a variety of policies. The first was the perceived lack of access to the White House during President Trump's first term compared to President Biden's. Another area of criticism was the Trump administration's elimination of the proposed bureaucratic and unnecessary two-person crew mandate. The union also attacked the Trump administration's approach to regulatory waivers. Another criticism of the Trump administration was due to their approach to Mexican train crews and C3RS. Actions regarding both the Railroad Retirement Board and the National Mediation Board were other areas where BLET opposed the Trump administration.

²⁷ Nashville Banner, "Bo Mitchell Democrat Candidate House," September 10, 2025, <https://nashvillebanner.com/2025/09/10/bo-mitchell-democrat-candidate-house/>



MAGA Membership & Woke Leadership - BLET

BLET then criticized Trump-era appointments to the Surface Transportation Board, the National Labor Relations Board, the Federal Railroad Administration, the Amtrak Board of Directors, and the Secretary of Transportation. These appointments were made to further the removal of unnecessary and redundant policies through intelligent deregulation. On the other hand, the union praised Biden administration appointees who favored increased and extravagant federal funding. These massive increases in federal funding only furthered the wasteful spending that the Trump administration has been working to eliminate.

The BLET union has done everything in its power to endorse anti-Trump Democrats and criticize the policy and policymakers that President Trump has charged with running the MAGA agenda.^{28 29 30 31 32 33}

^{34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41}

²⁸ Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), post on X, October 2, 2024, <https://x.com/BLET/status/1841571440086417879>

²⁹ Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), post on X, October 6, 2024, <https://x.com/BLET/status/1842934890180055385>

³⁰ Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), post on X, September 27, 2024, <https://x.com/BLET/status/1839680569346568490>

³¹ Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen (BLET), Post on X, September 25, 2024, <https://x.com/BLET/status/1839001893957435783>

³² Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), post on X, September 29, 2024, <https://x.com/BLET/status/1840402401884319880>

³³ Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), post on X, October 7, 2024, <https://x.com/BLET/status/1843374063470948656>

³⁴ Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), post on X, October 8, 2024, <https://x.com/BLET/status/1843732230071545878>

³⁵ Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), post on X, September 29, 2024, <https://x.com/BLET/status/1840401016384090574>

³⁶ Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), post on X, September 24, 2024, <https://x.com/BLET/status/1838649452535386199>

³⁷ Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), post on X, October 3, 2024, <https://x.com/BLET/status/1841889489696051461>

³⁸ Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen (BLET), Post on X, September 23, 2024, <https://x.com/BLET/status/1838315175767871642>

³⁹ Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), post on X, September 26, 2024, <https://x.com/BLET/status/1839329758884274444>

⁴⁰ Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), post on X, October 6, 2024, <https://x.com/BLET/status/1842931638420041986>

⁴¹ Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), post on X, October 4, 2024, <https://x.com/BLET/status/1842277324839850012>



MAGA Membership & Woke Leadership - BLET

Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration
DIFFERENCES IN U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIONS ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE BLET
Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration
CURRENT ADMINISTRATION (2020-PRESENT)
 Appointed Amit Bose as FRA Administrator who has been an ally of rail labor, including BLET.
PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION (2016-2020)
 Appointed Ron Batory as Administrator, who was from railroad management (Conrail) and was generally pro-railroad and anti-rail labor.
 3:10 PM · Oct 2, 2024 · 140 Views

Amtrak Board of Directors
DIFFERENCES IN U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIONS ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE BLET
Amtrak Board of Directors
CURRENT ADMINISTRATION (2020-PRESENT)
 Nominated people to the Amtrak Board of Directors that were supportive of Amtrak's mission, including expanding Amtrak service, which would create more jobs for BLET and would help to bolster the Railroad Retirement system.
PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION (2016-2020)
 Nominated multiple people to the Amtrak Board of Directors who voted to cut Amtrak funding or were not supportive of Amtrak's mission.
 9:28 AM · Oct 6, 2024 · 137 Views

Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C3RS)
DIFFERENCES IN U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIONS ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE BLET
Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C3RS)
CURRENT ADMINISTRATION (2020-PRESENT)
 Secretary Battigieg and Administrator Bose have repeatedly called on the Association of American Railroads (AAR) and the Class I railroads to join the C3RS program following the East Palestine derailment. BLET has entered into a one-year C3RS pilot program with NS.
PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION (2016-2020)
 Did not take any steps to encourage the Class I railroads to participate in the C3RS program.
 9:56 AM · Sep 27, 2024 · 121 Views

High Speed Rail
DIFFERENCES IN U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIONS ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE BLET
High Speed Rail
CURRENT ADMINISTRATION (2020-PRESENT)
 Provided \$6.2 billion record funding to the California High Speed Rail and Brightline West high speed rail projects.
PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION (2016-2020)
 Tried to kill the California High Speed Rail project by rescinding federal funding.
 12:59 PM · Sep 25, 2024 · 132 Views

Mexican Train Crews Operating in the United States
DIFFERENCES IN U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIONS ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE BLET
Mexican Train Crews Operating in the United States
CURRENT ADMINISTRATION (2020-PRESENT)
 Denied Union Pacific's attempt to move trains across the border into the U.S. at Laredo, Texas with Mexican train crews. BLET strongly opposed UP's request.
PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION (2016-2020)
 Granted Kansas City Southern's request to use Mexican train crews in the United States instead of American train crews.
 9:45 AM · Sep 29, 2024 · 310 Views

National Labor Relations Board
DIFFERENCES IN U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIONS ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE BLET
National Labor Relations Board
CURRENT ADMINISTRATION (2020-PRESENT)
 Fired the previous administration's anti-labor general counsel and appointed a pro-labor general counsel and board members.
PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION (2016-2020)
 Appointed the most anti-labor General Counsel for the National Labor Relations Board who took numerous steps to make it harder for unions to organize workers and win elections.
 2:33 PM · Oct 7, 2024 · 110 Views

National Mediation Board
DIFFERENCES IN U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIONS ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE BLET
National Mediation Board
CURRENT ADMINISTRATION (2020-PRESENT)
 Supports increased funding for NMB to help hire additional staff, including arbitrators, to increase the speed of arbitration which is used in the final writing of grievance liability BLET and ongoing contract disputes.
PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION (2016-2020)
 Appointed pro-labor members of the National Mediation Board who reduced BLET and other union staffs that have resulted in reduced freight negotiating opportunities and from the recent contract dispute with New Jersey Transit.
PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION (2016-2020)
 Appointed labor-friendly President Emeritus/Member for the national freight handling negotiating round in 2022 and 2023 ongoing contract disputes with One Keylog Trucks.
 2:16 PM · Oct 8, 2024 · 310 Views

Passenger Rail & Amtrak Funding
DIFFERENCES IN U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIONS ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE BLET
Passenger Rail & Amtrak Funding
CURRENT ADMINISTRATION (2020-PRESENT)
 Provided a record amount of funding for passenger rail (\$66 billion) in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), including a record amount of funding for Amtrak.
PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION (2016-2020)
 Proposed to cut Amtrak's funding in half, which would have eliminated thousands of jobs, gutted the nation's passenger rail system, and would have been a large blow to Railroad Retirement.
 9:39 AM · Sep 29, 2024 · 304 Views

Railroad Retirement Board
DIFFERENCES IN U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIONS ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE BLET
Railroad Retirement Board
CURRENT ADMINISTRATION (2020-PRESENT)
 Has been supportive of the Railroad Retirement Board mission and funding. Got rid of the problematic Inspector General who was trying to abolish the agency. Also nominated a new pro-labor chair of the RRB.
PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION (2016-2020)
 Proposed cuts to Railroad Retirement Board funding, which would have caused staffing reductions and undermined the mission of the RRB.
 1:39 PM · Sep 24, 2024 · 348 Views

Secretary of Transportation
DIFFERENCES IN U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIONS ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE BLET
Secretary of Transportation
CURRENT ADMINISTRATION (2020-PRESENT)
 Appointed Pete Buttigieg who has been strongly pro-labor and prioritized improving rail safety following the East Palestine, Ohio train derailment, including finalizing the two-person crew rule and taking the Class I railroads to participate in the C3RS program. Secretary Buttigieg also has been vocal in his support for railroads providing BLET members and other rail labor workers paid sick leave.
PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION (2016-2020)
 Elaine Chao, the appointed Secretary of Transportation, had a historical anti-labor track record. She was also investigated for ethics violations. When Secretary Chao was Secretary of Labor under President George W. Bush, she was widely considered an anti-labor and insulted the Teamsters and then President Hefetz.
 12:14 PM · Oct 3, 2024 · 110 Views

Surface Transportation Board (STB)
DIFFERENCES IN U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIONS ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE BLET
Surface Transportation Board (STB)
CURRENT ADMINISTRATION (2020-PRESENT)
 Nominated and got confirmed pro-labor board majority. Nominated Martin O'Meara as chair who took on the Class I railroads' President/Chairman/Boarding and Paid More goods that have damaged the freight rail industry and led to thousands of BLET members losing their jobs.
PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION (2016-2020)
 Nominated Robert Priddy to replace Marty O'Meara as Chair after BLET had reported for Board Member Priddy to be STB chair.
 Took input from BLET, BMEWED and other rail union who questioned if Robert O'Meara's loyalty on the STB nomination and STB.
CURRENT ADMINISTRATION (2020-PRESENT)
 Would likely work to appoint a pro-railroad, anti-rail labor person to the current STB members, which could mean an STB Board that will not take steps to address the current crisis in the Class I freight rail industry.
PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION (2016-2020)
 Current STB Chair Robert Priddy would likely be replaced as STB Chair by other Board Member Patrick Schulte, which would be significant for BLET given Chair Priddy's unqualified support for BLET and rail labor in general.
 3:31 PM · Sep 23, 2024 · 93 Views

Two-Person Crew
DIFFERENCES IN U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIONS ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE BLET
Two-Person Crew
CURRENT ADMINISTRATION (2020-PRESENT)
 Finalized two-person crew rule requiring a certified locomotive engineer, a long-time priority of BLET. Leadership from BLET was invited and spoke at the USDOT ceremony announcing the finalization of the rule. Has called on businesses to provide paid sick leave to their workers and has been supportive of BLET's push to get the Class I railroads to provide paid sick leave to BLET (and BMEWED) members without any concessions.
PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION (2016-2020)
 Nixed the proposed Obama Administration two-person crew rule and proposed to overturn state crew size laws.
 10:42 AM · Sep 26, 2024 · 399 Views



MAGA Membership & Woke Leadership - BLET



BLET Criticized President Trump for Proposed Project 2025 Policies

They have been critical of Project 2025, the groundwork for many of President Trump’s policies and agendas in the lead-up to the election.^{42 43} Many of the individuals who crafted Project 2025 now serve in senior positions in the Administration.



From the BLET website post detailing their criticisms of Project 2025:

While candidate Trump has denied knowledge of the document, it was written by at least 140 Trump advisers and former (and likely future) leaders in the Trump administration.

⁴² Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), post on X, October 20, 2024, <https://x.com/BLET/status/1848012139836887519>

⁴³ Project 2025 Would Eliminate Two-Person Train Crew Regulation, Cut Rail Safety Inspections, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, October 20, 2024, <https://ble-t.org/news/project-2025-would-eliminate-two-person-train-crew-regulation-cut-rail-safety-inspections/>



MAGA Membership & Woke Leadership - BLET

The AFL-CIO has analyzed how this agenda would affect union members and working families. In short, AFL-CIO says: “We are deeply concerned about pro-corporate policies that would drive up costs, put people out of work, endanger people’s lives and make it harder for working people to get ahead. For unions, this agenda would make it tougher for members to win gains in our next contracts and stack the deck in favor of CEOs.”

BLET was outspoken in its opposition to the Trump administration, its advisors’ policies, right up until election day, posting the criticism above on October 20, 2024, while people were voting and two weeks before polls closed.

Critical of the Trump Administration’s Reductions of Wasteful Federal Spending / DOGE

BLET released a statement critical of the Trump administration’s reductions at federal agencies aimed at improving efficiency.⁴⁴

Among the cuts, it appears that nine Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) field offices may soon be closed by actions initiated by Trump advisor, billionaire Elon Musk, and the so-called Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE.

Adding to its challenges, RRB now faces a Trump-imposed hiring freeze combined with the loss of roughly 200 employees linked to the Trump/Musk “fork in the road” resignation offer.

This criticism aligns with Democrat-led cries and opposition to creating a more efficient federal government by cutting wasteful spending.

Questioning the DOT Regulatory Agenda

Another break with the Trump administration in the arena of efficiency is its obstruction of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s regulatory effort to eliminate redundant, burdensome, and unnecessary regulations.⁴⁵

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has launched a “regulatory sprint,” a term that describes eliminating or changing nearly 200 safety regulations that provide safeguards for the rail industry, its workers, and the communities they serve.

Under direction from the White House, the DOT has eliminated regulations it considers to be obsolete, and is seeking to weaken others to “reduce the regulatory burden” on the rail industry.

The union’s consistent stance is to oppose or hesitate in response to the Trump administration’s efforts to create efficiency and eliminate unnecessary spending and time spent on regulations.

⁴⁴ The Trump Administration Is Slashing Federal Employment and Government Services: RRB Field Offices Are Now in the Crosshairs, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, March 18, 2025, <https://ble-t.org/news/the-trump-administration-is-slashing-federal-employment-and-government-services-rrb-field-offices-are-now-in-the-crosshairs/>

⁴⁵ DOT Launches “Regulatory Sprint,” but What’s at the Finish Line?, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, July 25, 2025, <https://ble-t.org/news/dot-launches-regulatory-sprint-but-whats-at-the-finish-line/>



Allies of AFGE's Lawsuit Against DHS

A BLET article covered the lawsuit by AFGE against the Trump administration for ending collective bargaining for the TSA in favor of merit-based hiring and firing policies. President Trump signed Executive Order 14251 due to security concerns regarding work with agencies that conduct intelligence, counterintelligence, and national security activities. This was done with national security requirements and considerations in mind to ensure that the most qualified individuals are hired for these roles. AFGE purposefully disrupted President Trump's agenda to strengthen national security by blocking the administration's attempts. ⁴⁶

The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) filed a lawsuit on March 13 to block the Trump administration from ending collective bargaining for 47,000 Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers across the country.

Sara Nelson, President of the AFA, said: "Eliminating collective bargaining rights for tens of thousands of TSA officers is an egregious attack on workers' rights that puts us all at risk." BLET members may remember that Nelson spoke at the union's Eastern Regional Meeting in Washington, D.C. last summer.

BLET has provided positive coverage of its allies, such as AFA President Nelson, in the lawsuit aimed at obstructing the President's agenda and that of his administration.

⁴⁶ Labor: Trump Administration Sued for Ending Union Bargaining for TSA Officers, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, March 28, 2025, <https://ble-t.org/news/labor-trump-administration-sued-for-ending-union-bargaining-for-tsa-officers/>

