

Open Letter to UAW Retirees on the IEB Runoff Election

You should receive a ballot in the mail for the run-off election for UAW International President and International Vice-President soon. The candidates in the run-off for International President are Ray Curry and Shawn Fain. The candidates in the run-off for International Vice-President are Chuck Browning and Tim Bressler. For your vote to be counted, it must be returned before February 28, 2023.

In 2021, we voted to establish direct elections for officers of the UAW International Executive Board, including International President, Secretary-Treasurer, three Vice Presidents, and nine Regional Directors. This decision was affirmed by delegates to the Constitutional Convention last July. While we demanded direct elections, less than 11% of the roughly 1 million active and retired UAW members who received ballots voted.

The question UAW members should be asking themselves right now is this: Will we take charge of our own futures – our healthcare benefits, our pensions – or will we stand on the sidelines and let others make the decisions for us?

For retirees, this runoff election is critically important because it will decide who makes future appointments to the UAW Medical Benefits Trust Board of Directors. The Trust is the largest non-governmental purchaser of retiree health care in the United States. It has billions of dollars in assets to pay for retiree healthcare, including prescriptions, dental and vision benefits.


There are 11 Trust directors. Five are appointed by the UAW. Ray Curry and Chuck Browning currently serve on the Trust's board with other UAW appointed board members. Under their leadership, the trust has delivered increased benefits and lower costs to retirees while preserving Trust assets. For 2023, the Trust negotiated lower copays, deductibles and out of pocket maximums while increasing benefits.

The union is less than nine months away from contract negotiations with the Detroit Three: Ford, General Motors and Stellantis. This round of bargaining is of critical importance to both active and retired UAW members. During the recent John Deere strike, Curry and Browning won increased benefits for current and future Deere retirees. They have pledged to fight for retirees in the upcoming auto contracts, as well.


No doubt, the UAW has come through a troubling period but, through our union, we have won the best benefits of any union in the country. Do we really want to put that at risk by allowing a tiny minority of the union to place unknown, untested leaders in charge of our future?

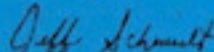
We ask you to watch the mail for your ballot. You should receive it soon. We are voting for Ray Curry and Chuck Browning. We hope you will too. **And remember, please return your ballot by February 17 so it arrives before the February 28 deadline.**


Matt Snell, Retired Int'l Servicing
Rep and Local 249 Bargaining
Chair



R.D. Snow, Retired Int'l Servicing
Rep and Local 249 Bargaining
Chair



Larry Wyse, Retired Int'l Servicing
Rep



Bruce Bittle, Retired Local 249
Bargaining Chair



Jeff Schmidt, Retired Local 249
Bargaining Chair



Mike Perry, Retired Local 249
President



Eldon "Tarzan" Kincheloe, Retired
Local 249 E.A.P. Rep



Pat Hayes, Retired Local 249
ERT Coordinator and Editor


John Lowe, Retired Local 249
Bargaining Committee and
Retiree Rep.


Todd Wyse, Retired Local 249
Bargaining Committee and JSP
Rep.


Larry Rupp, Retired Local 249
Bargaining Committee, Commit-
teeman and Retiree Rep.


John Cartwright, Retired Local
249 Committeeman


Mel Thompson, Local 249
Retiree Chairman

**It's All on the line in the UAW Run-off Election
Vote Ray Curry for UAW International President
Chuck Browning for Vice-President**