



# Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO

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***"AMERICA'S FIGHTING DEMOCRATIC UNION"***

**February 10, 2026**

**To: Presidents of Transport Workers Union Locals operating in New York State**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I'm writing to inform you that the International Transport Workers Union will not be making an endorsement in the New York State gubernatorial race. Local TWU affiliates are free to endorse, or decline to endorse, any candidate of their choosing.

Our analysis is based on Gov. Kathy Hochul's interactions with the TWU and her actions involving the broader trade union movement. And Hochul's actions surely speak louder than her words. She never misses an opportunity to call herself a champion of working men and women — but talk is super cheap, and her record tells a different story. She is not a trade-union supporting Governor, she is the Bosses' Governor. Her anti-TWU actions include:

- Vetoing legislation that would prevent the Metropolitan Transportation Authority from repeatedly attempting to remove TWU Local 100 Conductors from subway trains by enshrining into state law a requirement for two-person crews. This veto was issued in the face of overwhelming support for Conductors from NYC's subway riders.
- Vetoing the Death Gamble Bill
- Vetoing the Tier 6 Pension Reform Bill
- Instigating volatile crisis situations by attacking our members with outrageous contract demands during two rounds of contract negotiations with TWU Car Inspectors and Cleaners at the Metro-North Railroad. These demands included workers paying 150% more for healthcare and giving management the right to rescind wage increases agreed to in bargaining. They also included the elimination of seniority rights, the elimination of TWU work jurisdiction, and attacks on our pensions. Twice, we began full

scale strike preparations against Metro-North directly due to Hochul's aggressive anti-worker tactics.

- Directing the New York Department of Motor Vehicles not to renew the Commercial Drivers Licenses (CDLs) of immigrant transport workers – even if they have active visas giving them the right to live and work in the United States. The number of immigrant workers losing their CDL in the state will likely be in the thousands as this policy rolls out. Employers at just two TWU work locations have identified hundreds of drivers who will lose CDLs and employment status in the coming months, due to Hochul's directive.

As you know, the Transport Workers Union has a strong footprint in New York State. Our TWU locals in New York represent 60,000 workers in the Airline, Rail, and Transit sectors of the economy, including Subway and Bus Workers, Airline Mechanics, Fleet Service Workers, Commuter Train Car Inspectors, BikeShare Technicians, Utility & University Workers, and more. We have a long track record of supporting candidates for elected office who support working New Yorkers. And we have an equally strong record of opposing politicians who harm us.

Gov. Hochul is a straight-up enemy of the TWU and a disaster for blue-collar New York. The International TWU will not just go along to get along. We will not support her simply because she's a "Democrat."



John Samuelson

International President, Transport Workers Union