

# **BMWED/IBT ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE, BE NOMINATED OR BE ELECTED TO UNION OFFICE**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION 1:** I've heard that since we are now under the Teamster's eligibility for elections, twenty-four (24) months of Continuous Good Standing (i.e., continuous timely dues payments) are required to be nominated and elected for office, is this true?

**ANSWER 1:** Yes. For members of local lodges in existence for more than 24 months, 24 months "Continuous Good Standing" is required.

For members of newly-chartered local lodges in existence for less than 24 months, the provisions of Article II, Section 4(b) of the IBT Constitution would apply.

**QUESTION 2:** How are the twenty four (24) months of Continuous Good Standing counted?

**ANSWER 2:** Starting with the month prior to nomination and the prior twenty three (23) months, all of which must be consecutive.

**QUESTION 3:** What about a late payment during those twenty-four (24) months?

**ANSWER 3:** In the case of either a late or missing payment, the member would not be eligible for nomination and election.

**QUESTION 4:** Does the 24 month continuous good standing provision also apply to nominating or voting in the election?

**ANSWER 4:** No, you need a minimum of one month good standing; the month prior to the month of nomination (and the month prior to election if nomination and election will be held in different months). A member can restore "good standing" by paying required dues to the duly accredited Secretary-Treasurer prior to the meeting and commencement of nominations or elections.

**QUESTION 5:** What if I was on Payroll Dues Deduction and the Carrier didn't take my dues?

**ANSWER 5:** In accordance with Article X, Section 5(c) of the IBT Constitution:

"A member on dues checkoff whose employer fails to make a proper deduction during any month in which the member has earnings from work performed during the month from which the dues could have been deducted, or has earnings from which the employer normally makes a dues deduction pursuant to the contract or established practice, shall not lose good standing status for that month. In such an event, the Local Union shall notify the member of his employer's failure and payment shall be made by the member within (30) days of said notice in order to retain good standing status."

**QUESTION 6:** Would a BMWED Unemployment Card cover me for months that I was furloughed?

**ANSWER 6:** No. Under the Teamster's Constitution an Unemployment Card does not count toward the required twenty-four (24) months in calculating Continuous Good Standing.

**QUESTION 7:** What if I was called up for Active Duty for the military or National Guard, would those months count when I didn't pay dues?

**ANSWER 7:** Article II, Section 4(a) of the Teamster Constitution states:

“Members in a reserve component of the military or National Guard who are called to active service lasting more than thirty (30) days but not more than twenty-four (24) consecutive months, shall be considered to be on Union approved leave of absence without any further action by the Local Union Executive Board. During such leave, the member shall not be obligated to pay dues beginning with the month in which the member commences his active duty. The member shall notify the Local Union that he has been released from active service within thirty (30) days and will be responsible for paying his dues beginning with the month following the month of release. In the event the member remains in active service after twenty-four (24) months, the member must pay dues for the month following the expiration of the twenty-four (24) month period in order to remain in good standing.”

**QUESTION 8:** In looking at my dues payment record for the previous twenty-four (24) months, I see one month that shows “LF”, is that OK? Am I eligible to run for office?

**ANSWER 8:** No. LF means Late Full Dues. A late payment of dues (LF) breaks your Continuous Good Standing. Therefore, a LF would not count in calculating the twenty-four (24) months of Continuous Good Standing.

**QUESTION 9:** In looking at my dues record for the previous twenty-four (24) months, I see several months at the beginning that show “OF”, is that OK? Am I eligible to run for office?

**ANSWER 9:** No. OF stands for Officials Fee (Seniority Retention Fees). This fee is different than Full Dues even though it can be the same dollar amount. Persons paying seniority retention fees (OF) do not have full membership rights nor are they deemed to be “actively employed at the craft” as required under Article II, Section 4(a) (1) of the Teamster Constitution.

**QUESTION 10:** If “LF” and “OF” payments don't count toward the twenty-four (24) months, what other codes don't count?

**ANSWER 10:** Other codes that don't count are:

**F**=Fee, **RD**=Retired Dues, **LF**=Late Full Dues, **LU**=Late Unemployment Dues, **AS**=Assessment, **UC**=Unemployment Card, **AF**=Agency Fee, **LRA**=Late Retired Dues & Assessment, **WVA**=Waived Dues & Assessment, **AFA**=Agency Fee & Assessment, **LR**=Late Retired Dues, **WV**=Waived Dues, **DIS**=Dispensation, **OF**=Officials Fee, **OB**=Objector Fee, **RDA**=Retired Dues & Assessment, **EXA**=Exempt Dues & Assessment, **LFA**=Late Full Dues & Assessment, **LUA**=Late Unemployed Dues & Assessments, **OFA**=Officials Fee & Assessment, **OBA**=Objector Fee & Assessment, ----- = missing payment.

**QUESTION 11:** With all those codes not counting, maybe it would be easier if you told me what codes do count toward the twenty-four (24) month requirement?

**ANSWER 11:** The codes that would count toward eligibility are:

**FDA**=Full Dues & Assessment, **FFA**=Fee & Full Dues & Assessment, **FD**=Full Dues, **FF**=Fee & Full Dues, **UD**=Unemployed Dues, and **EX**=Exempt Dues.