

# Newsletter

July 2025 - atu758.org



## President's Report - John Hoheusle

Dear ATU Local 758 Members,

As our first term in office comes to a close, it's an important moment for reflection—on our journey together, the trust you placed in us, the challenges we've faced, and the victories we have achieved side by side.

When we first took office, there was doubt. Some questioned our leadership. Others wondered if we could fulfill our promises. We were told it couldn't be done, that change was too hard, the system too broken, and the expectations too high.

And yet, here we are.

**We are proud to report that Local 758 has fulfilled nearly all of its campaign promises. We have done so in the face of doubt, resistance, and obstacles, together as a community.**

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### Promises Made– Promises Kept

- **Kept Pensionable Hours Down**

We committed to protecting your future by keeping pensionable hours from inflating beyond control– and we delivered. While others said it couldn't be managed.

- **Paid Union Bills on Time and in Full**

We restored fiscal responsibility. This administration prioritized paying all bills on time; rebuilding trust with vendors, professionals, and service providers– something the previous administration couldn't maintain.

- **Delivered Historic Raises– 7-8% in Year One**

We fought hard and secured a contract that brought 7-8% wage increases in the first year– a mayor win for working families, especially after being told by prior leadership that such increases were unrealistic. We proved otherwise.

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### What Else We Have Done

- **Improved Operator Safety:** We pushed for and achieved real steps toward protecting members from assaults and unsafe working conditions.
- **Fought for Fair Schedules & Overtime:** We tackled a push to change the bidding system.
- **Stood Up to Contracting Out:** We didn't back down when management tried to move work away from the Union.
- **Communicated with Members:** We made it a point to keep you informed and involved, every step of the way.

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## Looking Ahead

Have we fixed everything? No— but we have laid a solid foundation. We've proven that change is possible when leadership listens, stands firm, and puts members first.

To the members who stood by us: thank you for believing in the work.

To those who had doubts: we hope our results have earned your trust.

And to the entire membership: let's keep the momentum going. There's more to do— and we're ready.

In solidarity,

**John Hoheusle, ATU 758 President**

## Preventing Assaults Starts with Smart Choices Behind the Wheel

Every operator deserves to go home safely at the end of the day. Unfortunately, operator assaults continue to be a concern—and many of these incidents are preventable with consistent use of available tools and adherence to safety protocols.

### **Barricade Use Is Critical-**

One of the most effective tools for reducing operator assaults is the driver's safety barricade. Yet alarmingly, **almost half of the operators assaulted so far this year were not using the barricade at the time of the incident.** This protective shield is there for your safety—**please use it every time you are behind the wheel.** Whether you're on a short route or a full shift, the barricade must be fully deployed and latched to provide the maximum level of protection.

### **Fare Disputes: Don't Engage-**

A significant portion of recent assaults stem from fare disputes. Let's be clear: **Pierce Transit policy prohibits operators from enforcing fare payment.** Your role is to inform, not enforce. If a passenger refuses to pay, **do not argue or attempt to block their entry.** Engaging in a fare dispute can escalate quickly—and it is simply not worth the risk.

### **Words Matter: Don't Escalate-**

We've also seen an unfortunate trend where verbal exchanges between operators and passengers escalate into physical altercations. **Raising your voice, using sarcasm, profanity or expressing frustration can turn a tense moment into an assault situation.** Stay calm. Be professional. Walk away from confrontation by calling for support and focusing on safety over pride.

### **Close the Door—Immediately-**

Another preventable scenario involves passengers who are asked to leave the bus. Once a disruptive passenger steps off the coach, **you must immediately close the door.** Too many assaults have occurred because the door remained open, and the individual re-entered to attack the operator. If you've asked someone to leave and they comply, **shut the door and move the coach** when it's safe to do so.

### **Your Safety Is Our Priority-**

We're committed to doing everything we can to protect you, but your decisions in the moment matter most. Use your barricade. Avoid fare disputes. De-escalate verbally. And always close the door promptly when a passenger exits under conflict.

Let's work together to make every shift safer—for you, your passengers, and your fellow operators.

**Stay alert. Stay protected. Stay professional.**

***Andrew Boring, ATU 758 Financial Secretary/Treasurer***

## ATU 758 C.O.P.E. Endorsements 2025

### 2025 Primary Voting Guide

Pierce County Central Labor Council,  
AFL-CIO Endorsements

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**Bryan Yambe**

Pierce County Council, Dist. 5

**Richard “Dick” Marzano**

Port of Tacoma Commissioner, Position 2

**Cyrus Donato**

Port of Tacoma Commissioner, Position 4

**Anders Ibsen**

Mayor, City of Tacoma

**Alisa Lee**

Parks Tacoma, Position 1

**Megan Sheridan**

Mayor, Town of Milton

**Liz Grasher**

Mayor, Town of Steilacoom

**Deb Krishnadasan**

Senate, 26th Legislative District

**Emily Stone**

Gig Harbor City Council, Position 3

### 2025 Primary Voting Guide

ATU Local 758 COPE Endorsements

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**Tacoma Mayor**

Anders Ibsen

John Hines

**Tacoma City Council, Position 5**

Zev Cook

**Pierce County Council, District 5**

Brian Yambe

**Port of Tacoma, Position 1**

Randy Wilson

**Lakewood City Council, Position 1**

Ellen Talbo

### ATU 758’s Summer Picnic Volunteers & Attendees



To all our incredible **Volunteers**– thank you for helping make our Summer Picnic a truly memorable event!

And to all of our wonderful **Attendees**– thank you for coming out and bringing your energy, smiles, and summer spirit.

**See you next year.** For pictures go to our website [atu758.org](http://atu758.org)

**Also, a huge thank you to our Sponsors: Sunrise Dental & Optavise Insurance.**

## **Elections for Local 758**

2025 is an election year for our Local. Starting in September we will begin the process of electing officers to serve from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2028. This important process is how we as body choose our leaders.

The Nominations will occur at the First meeting of the Local during the month of September.

### **Nomination Criteria**

In order to be nominated to a position in the local you must meet the following criteria.

- 1) Be a member of the local in good standing
- 2) Must be a member for 2 years as of September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- 3) You may self-nominate or be nominated by any member in good standing or at the nomination meeting in September.
- 4) You may submit an absent member nomination and acceptance letter to the office of this Local by close of business (4:00pm) on Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### **Nomination Letters**

Nomination letters may be mailed or hand delivered to the local by the date listed above. They must include the Specific position that you are running for and your full legal name. All letters must be addressed to the Recording Secretary of the Union, William Dehnel. Letters that do not meet these criteria will not be accepted for nomination per the rules laid out by the International ATU and this locals specific By-Laws. Email nomination and acceptance letters will not be accepted.

For questions or assistance contact:

William Dehnel

Recording Secretary ATU 758

Phone or Text: (253)754-4584

Email: [758recordingsec@atu758.org](mailto:758recordingsec@atu758.org)

### **Nominations Meeting will take place on September 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm at:**

ATU 758

6923 Lakewood Dr W, B-1

Lakewood WA 98467

Office: (253)474-3123

# **Elections for Local 758**

**Nominations Meeting will take place on September 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm**

**at:**

**ATU 758 Union Office, 6923 Lakewood Dr W, B-1 Lakewood WA 98467**

**Office: (253)474-3123**

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The following positions are going to be open for nominations;

## **ATU Local 758 Officers**

- President
- Vice President
- Financial Secretary
- Recording Secretary

## **Executive Board Officers**

### **Pierce Transit**

- Operations Position 1
- Operations Position 2
- Operations Position 3
- Maintenance Position 1
- Maintenance Position 2
- Facilities Maintenance
- Administration Services & CSR Marketing
- CSR Fixed Route
- CSR Shuttle
- Service Supervisors

### **Longview – River Cities Transit**

- Fixed Route
- Paratransit

### **Sound Transit**

- Rail Operators
- Mechanics



Donations accepted: July 28 – August 11, 2025

# Stuff the bus.



Help ATU Local 758 & Pierce Transit

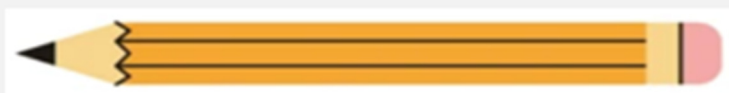
Stuff the Bus with school supplies for all children returning to school.

***Drop-off locations:***

***ATU Members: Building 4 in the Shuttle Vehicle***

***--Please make sure you deposit your items in the  
correct bin!***

***Join the friendly competition between PT and ATU and let's supply all  
our school children with needed materials this school year!***



**ATU LOCAL 758**  
**Annual Ron Thornton Memorial Golf Tournament**  
**August 9, 2025 – 9am sharp!**  
**Eagle's Pride Golf Course** 1529 Mounts Rd SW, DuPont, WA

FULL NAME	ENTRY FEE (\$100)	Union Office received on:

TEAM TOTAL:

Registrant Information: (This is a pre-paid Event! All registrations and payments must be received by 7/31/2025)

**VERY IMPORTANT**

Team of 4-\$100.00 per person or Single-\$100.00

-All Fees are Non-Refundable

-Incomplete entry forms will not be accepted.

-Sign-ups are now until July 31, 2025.

-All team entries are subject to space availability

MAIL or DROP OFF- COMPLETED FORMS WITH PAYMENT TO UNION OFFICE:

ATU Local 758  
 6923 LAKEWOOD DR W, B-1  
 TACOMA, WA 98467

-Cash/Checks only

*Please ensure that the dress code is followed to ensure a pleasant visit at Eagle's Pride Golf Course.*





**Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 758**

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**6923 Lakewood DR W B1 Tacoma, WA 98467-3221**

**(253)474-3123 atu758.org**

**Weingarten rights**

*This statement could save your job! "If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated I respectfully request that my shop steward be present at the meeting. Without Union representation present, I choose not to respond to any questions or statements."*

**UNION MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE**

**Executive Board meeting -Thursday, August 7th, at 3:30pm (EB only)**

(ATU Local 758: 6923 Lakewood Dr. B-1, Lakewood, WA)

**Charter Meetings**

**Thursday, August 14th at 6:30 PM & Friday, August 15th at 10 AM**

(ATU Local 758: 6923 Lakewood Dr. B-1, Lakewood, WA)

**Wednesday, August 20th at 7:15 PM in Longview,**

(upstairs lunchroom: 254 Oregon Way, Longview WA)

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**EMAIL ADDRESSES AND CONTACT NUMBERS**

**John Hoheusle**, President/Business Agent: 758president@atu758.org (253)533-0003

**Gerald Hardeman**, Vice President/Asst. BA: 758vpresident@atu758.org (253)533-0476

**Andrew Boring**, Financial Secretary/Treasurer: 758financialsec@atu758.org (253)222-9016

**William Dehnel**, Recording Secretary: 758recordingsec@atu758.org (253)754-4584

**Pattie Clark**, Office/Web Admin: unionoffice@atu758.org (253)474-3123