



# Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen

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917 Shenandoah Shores Road  
Front Royal, VA 22630

Phone: (540) 622-6522  
Fax: (540) 622-6532

**Michael S. Baldwin**  
President

**James M. Finnegan**  
Secretary-Treasurer

August 20, 2025

To: All Members Covered by the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) Section 6 Notice Dated  
May 18, 2023

## **Re: Long Island Rail Road Strike Ballot**

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

This is to advise all members employed by the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) in negotiations regarding the current status of our wage and benefit dispute. The purpose of this letter is to seek authorization for a strike on the LIRR.

It has been well over two years since the LIRR General Committee served its Section 6 Notice for improved wages and fringe benefits. The Notice was served on the LIRR on May 18, 2023, and included the following general provisions: general wage increases; increased fringe benefits, including pension contributions; improvements to holidays and health and welfare benefits, as well as additional improvements.

Since we served our Section 6 Notice, your Negotiating Committee has met numerous times with the LIRR in order to reach an amicable agreement. From the beginning, the LIRR refused to bargain in good faith which led to the forming of the Long Island Rail Road Bargaining Coalition (LIRRBC) on September 12, 2023. The LIRRBC includes the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS), International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW), International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and the Transportation Communications Union (TCU). From the onset of the LIRRBC, the LIRR has remained steadfast in its failure to recognize the coalition and to bargain in good faith. This led to the Unions in the LIRRBC requesting mediation services from the National Mediation Board (NMB).

From the start of mediation, the LIRRBC made every effort to reach an agreement amicably which included attending every meeting the NMB scheduled, both in person and virtually, as well as engaging in good faith negotiating which included making productive counter offers. Despite our good faith attempts to bargain for well over two years, the LIRR still refuses to recognize the coalition or bargain in good faith. Clearly, the last 27 months have provided more than enough time for meaningful negotiations and a fair settlement, yet the LIRR still refuses to provide an offer that maintains real wage growth without rule concessions.

We have steadfastly refused these concessionary demands and must continue to stand united and reject these unreasonable attempts by the LIRR. We must send a loud, clear message that we intend to secure a fair and equitable agreement that does not sacrifice our work rules for the decent standard of living that is rightfully ours. The most effective and direct way for us to send that message is with an overwhelming vote to strike.

In view of the foregoing and the fact that the NMB terminated its mediation services on August 18, 2025, we must now prepare for the next step in this process by issuing a **Strike Ballot** on our May 18, 2023, Section 6 Notice. We urge each BRS member to participate in this process by promptly returning the enclosed ballot in the postage-paid envelope. Ballots must be postmarked **no later than September 10, 2025**. Per Article I, Section 80, of the BRS Constitution, “... *unreturned ballots of eligible voters shall be recorded as voting with the majority on any question.*” If a majority vote favoring a strike is received, strike plans will be formulated and a strike authority issued in accordance with the BRS Constitution and the Railway Labor Act, unless, in the interim, we have reached an Agreement on our Section 6 Notice, or a Presidential Emergency Board is appointed.

We are confident that we will stand together and succeed on this most important matter. Remember, just as in the past, Signalmen Stand United. Please contact Grand Lodge with any questions.

In Solidarity,



Michael S. Baldwin  
BRS President



Timothy M. Tarrant  
Vice President  
Commuter/Passenger



Mike Sullivan  
General Chairman  
LIRR General Committee

cc: Grand Executive Council  
Grand Lodge Representatives

## 16 Steps of Bargaining Under the Railway Labor Act

<b>Step 1</b>	Notice is served under Section 6 of the Railway Labor Act by either party.	<b>Step 9</b>	Agreement reached through accepting binding arbitration. If not go to Step 10.
<b>Step 2</b>	Reply required within 10 days sets time/date of initial conference, which must be held within 30 days.	<b>Step 10</b>	Self help strike, lockout 30 days after NMB notifies both parties that proffer of arbitration was refused.
<b>Step 3</b>	Negotiations begin. No time limit.	<b>Step 11</b>	NMB may notify President that it believes dispute will interrupt interstate commerce.
<b>Step 4</b>	Agreement reached through negotiations, if not, go to Step 5.	<b>Step 12</b>	President may appoint an emergency board if he/she agrees with Step 11.
<b>Step 5</b>	Within 10 days after conferences end, either party may request NMB mediation, or NMB may proffer mediation.	<b>Step 13</b>	Presidential Emergency Board reports to President within 30 days.
<b>Step 6</b>	If mediation not requested or proffered within 10 days, strike, lockout, or promulgation of new rules.	<b>Step 14</b>	Agreement reached based on Emergency Board report, if not, go to Step 15.
<b>Step 7</b>	Agreement reached through mediation, if not, go to Step 8. There is no time limit on mediation; the NMB has the discretion to hold the parties in mediation indefinitely.	<b>Step 15</b>	Indefinite strike or lockout permitted 30 days after report issued. Agreement may be reached.
<b>Step 8</b>	NMB proffer of binding arbitration is offered by NMB or requested.	<b>Step 16</b>	If no agreement, settlement can be legislated by Congress.