



## Voting Accessibility Amendment to the BTU Constitution

One of BMORE's first initiatives was a campaign to make it easier for BTU members to vote for its leadership. Throughout the 2016-2017 school year and the first month of the 2017-2018 school year, we collected signatures from BTU members with the goal of changing the union constitution to allow us to vote via a mail-in ballot/and or securely online in addition to in-person voting. Making our elections more accessible is a vital first step to addressing the needs of BTU members who feel we do not have enough say in union activities.

### Why Change How We Vote?

- The current voting process involves trekking to a limited number of locations across the city, on a single day, which is also a work day, primarily during work hours. This makes it hard for teachers and paraprofessionals to vote and excludes many members. We deserve a better chance to be included.
- In BTU elections and contract votes, **only about 10% of teachers and PSRPs actually vote. We need to include more voices.**
- Many other unions use mail-in and online voting.
- Increasing participation will lead to a more representative, responsive, and engaged union!

### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### Is online voting secure?

- Online voting would be run and verified by an outside vendor that the BTU would contract with. These vendors are approved by the National Labor Relations Board and they are required to be impartial and secure.

#### Will voting this way cost the union more money?

- Not significantly. Currently, we pay for dozens of people to drive down from PA, and spend the day manning voting machines. Instead of paying for people's salaries and their travel as well as for the use of the machines, we'd be paying for the postage and online portal maintenance of a hybrid election. We're already paying a significant amount of money for a voting method that doesn't work for many people. This petition gives you as a member the right to demand that your union dues be spent in a way that allows you to vote more conveniently.

#### If we offer two voting methods, how can we be sure that people don't vote twice?

- Union elections are run by outside vendors that are certified by the National Labor Relations Board to be impartial and reputable. The outside vendors would mail each union member a ballot with a pin number that can't be traced back to their identity. The pin number ensures that a person's vote is only tallied once. ElectionsUSA is the name of the company that currently runs our election and they offer this method of voting, which is called hybrid voting, and is used by unions and other organizations across the country.