



# **AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION**

## **LOCAL 998 • AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **ATU LOCAL 998 TO RALLY FOR TRANSIT FUNDING AND A FAIR CONTRACT AFTER "NO CONFIDENCE" VOTE**

MILWAUKEE – September 24, 2015 – Today, Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 998 will announce the results of an informal poll in which transit workers voted “no confidence” in the ability of county executive Chris Abele to manage the Milwaukee County Transit System. The results were nearly unanimous. Of 590 votes cast, 584 expressed “no confidence.” These numbers will be announced today at a rally at the Milwaukee county courthouse at 5:00pm, where supporters will be demanding funding for transit and a fair contract for transit workers.

James Macon, president of ATU Local 998 said, “The politician who tried to sell the transit system shouldn’t be the one managing it. Abele has got to go. And I encourage other unions to poll their members in the runup to the election, because he lied to all of us.”

Citing Abele’s veto of bus extension routes to Oak Creek and Brown deer, which would have connected central city residents with jobs; his veto of fare reduction programs; his failure to secure a dedicated source of funding for transit; and his refusal to bargain in contract negotiations with transit workers, ATU members voted “no confidence” in Chris Abele’s competence as manager of Milwaukee’s transit system.

Angela Walker of Wisconsin Jobs Now said, “Transit is the backbone of Milwaukee. It’s what makes Milwaukee move. It should be a top priority for any politician who expects to get our vote in 2016. Billionaire Abele doesn’t understand that. He’s out of touch.”

Abele is up for reelection in 2016. Amalgamated Transit Union 998 is calling on other labor unions and groups that endorsed Abele in 2011 to follow suit and publicly withdraw their endorsements.

Jihad Williamson said, "I'm a fast food worker and I depend on transit to get to work. I support the transit workers because I know how important it is to stand up for your rights on the job."

Williamson is a member of Raise Up MKE, which organizes underpaid workers in the city to fight for a \$15 minimum wage and union rights.

*Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 998, established in 1934, represents over 1,100 active members in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Kenosha and Sheboygan. Our members are the bus drivers, mechanics, station attendants, and other support personnel who make safe, efficient, and affordable public transportation possible. Learn more at [ATU998.org](http://ATU998.org).*

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