

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES
The Union Behind Entertainment IATSE.net

For immediate release Oct. 4, 2021

Contact: Jamie Horwitz, jhdcpr@starpower.net, 202-549-4921 or
Scott Treibitz, 703-626-1407

By a Nearly Unanimous Margin, IATSE Members in TV and Film Production Vote to Authorize a Nationwide Strike

**Results show 90 percent of eligible union voters
cast ballots, with more than 98 percent of them
in support of strike authorization.**

*Members of 36 local unions, representing 60,000 workers
from across the country, grant approval for International
Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE)
International President Matthew Loeb to call the union's
first nationwide strike over quality-of-life issues.*

LOS ANGELES —The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees announced today that 60,000 members who work in television and film production across the country have voted—by a nearly unanimous margin—to grant IATSE International President Matthew Loeb the authority to call a strike. This is the first time in IATSE's 128-year history that members of the union have authorized a nationwide strike.

“The members have spoken loud and clear,” said Loeb. “This vote is about the quality of life as well as the health and safety of those who work in the film and television industry. Our people have basic human needs like time for meal breaks, adequate sleep, and a weekend. For those at the bottom of the pay scale, they deserve nothing less than a living wage.”

Beginning Oct 1 and concluding Oct. 3, at 11:59 p.m. E.S.T., 60,000 IATSE members who work on film and television productions received ballots and voted on whether to empower the international union's president to call a strike.

In the 13 West Coast local unions, where members work under the Basic Agreement, it was required that 75 percent of members voting in each local union approve the strike vote for that local union to authorize a strike. The same conditions applied to the 23 locals across the nation located in production hubs including Georgia, Louisiana, Illinois, and New Mexico operating under the Area Standards Agreement. That threshold was exceeded in all 36 local unions with none reporting less than 96 percent voting to authorize a strike.

Overall voter turnout was 90 percent. Support for strike authorization was more than 98 percent nationwide. Online voting was conducted by election management services company Honest Ballot.

“I hope that the studios will see and understand the resolve of our members,” Loeb said. “The ball is in their court. If they want to avoid a strike, they will return to the bargaining table and make us a reasonable offer.”

Loeb informed the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) of the election results Monday morning, saying he “emphasized the need for the studios to adequately address the union's core issues.”

In an interview in last Thursday's [Los Angeles Times](#) Loeb provided further information on what is required to reach a settlement.

The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, or IATSE (full name: International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, Its Territories and Canada), is a labor union representing over 150,000 technicians, artisans and craftspersons in the entertainment industry, including live theatre, motion picture and television production, and trade shows in the United States and Canada.

###

