

## Hoffa to Face Two Challengers In Teamsters' 2011 Election

By Rip Watson  
Senior Reporter

Teamsters President James Hoffa will face two challengers in the 2011 union election, with the submission of petitions to nominate Sandy Pope and Fred Gegare.

Pope, president of Local 805 in New York City since 2004, announced on Dec. 14 that more than 50,000 signatures were submitted following a petition drive to add her to the ballot. Fred Gegare of Green Bay, Wis., said on Dec. 19 he also has garnered enough signatures to be an accredited candidate.

The election to a five-year term will be conducted by mail during October and November. The next step after filing for the president's post is formal nomination of candidates at the union's convention in June in Las Vegas.

"It's in times like these that the value of your union shows through," Hoffa and his running mate, Ken Hall, a candidate for secretary-treasurer, said in their campaign literature. "Your Teamsters union leadership is working tirelessly, at every level possible, to protect Teamster jobs and benefits and to balance the scales that have tipped so far toward Wall Street and away from Main Street."

In her literature directed at truckers, Pope said, "I started out as a Teamster in 1979, when Teamster Power meant something in trucking. Hoffa abandoned the freight industry, and now Teamsters are paying the price."

"Teamsters members are say-

ing YES to this campaign because they wanted a Teamster General President who will say NO to corporations that are coming after workers' wages and benefits," she said in a statement.

Pope worked in a warehouse and as a steel hauler before becoming a driver and dockworker at a Cleveland local. A candidate for secretary-treasurer in the 2006 election, she lost to Thomas Keegel.

Gegare, a union member since 1972 and an international vice president, said in a statement on his website that "throughout every industry, members are

demanding that their union change the way it does business. It's time for members to be the first priority and for local unions to get back their autonomy."

A member of Local 75 in his hometown of Green Bay, Gegare claimed Hoffa has run the union "like a

family fiefdom" and asserted that "the Teamsters union will not be successful as long as it is run from Washington, D.C., by unelected lawyers, consultants and personal assistants."

Hoffa won re-election in 2006 by a 2-1 margin, continuing in a post that he won in a 1998 election.

The late Ron Carey, Hoffa's predecessor, was disqualified from running for Teamsters president again and was subsequently expelled from the union for life after disclosures about illegal contributions to his successful campaign for re-election in 1996.

Teamster union members first voted for general president, as the post is called, in the 1991 election, which Carey won.

