Employees of the Transportation Security Administration have voted on the question of union representation, in a nationwide election conducted by the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA).

Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) at airports throughout the country have been voting by telephone and internet since March 9, 2011 and the results were released by the FLRA today. The results of the election show 8,369 votes for the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), AFL-CIO, 8,095 votes for the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), and 3,111 votes for neither union. Because none of the choices received a majority of the votes cast, a runoff election will be held in the next few weeks between AFGE and NTEU. The parties will be meeting tomorrow morning with the FLRA to work out the runoff election details.

About 43,000 TSOs were eligible to vote in the nationwide election, which was held pursuant to a decision issued by the FLRA in November 2010. Ruling on petitions filed by AFGE and NTEU, the FLRA held that the employees were entitled to vote on the question of whether or not to be represented by either union.

The FLRA administers the labor-management relations program for 1.6 million non-Postal Federal employees worldwide, approximately 1.1 million of whom are represented in 2,200 collective bargaining units. The FLRA is charged with providing leadership in establishing policies and guidance related to Federal sector labor-management relations and with resolving disputes under, and ensuring compliance with, the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute.

The FLRA’s Office of General Counsel is the independent investigative and prosecutorial component of the FLRA. The OGC, through its seven regional offices, investigates, resolves, and prosecutes unfair labor practice charges, resolves representation questions, which include the conduct of secret ballot elections to determine a collective bargaining representative, and provides training and assistance to parties on establishing productive and cooperative labor-management relations.

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