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American Airlines



2026

Welcome to the



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Fly-in Agenda

Tuesday, September 22

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Welcome Reception

YOTEL's Art and Soul

415 New Jersey Ave NW

Start the Fly-In with colleagues and industry allies at an informal opening reception. Make new connections, catch up with familiar faces, and get ready for a week of advocacy and collaboration in Washington.

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10:30 AM - 11:15 AM

FAA Policy Briefing

A strong technician workforce is essential to supporting a growing aviation industry. Hear how organizational changes and policy initiatives are creating efficiencies in air agency and airman certification while advancing the workforce development needed to prepare the maintenance community for what comes next.

Leisha Bell, Acting Deputy Director,
Office of Safety Standards, FAA

Wednesday, September 23

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Networking Breakfast and Introductions

50 F St. NW Suite

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9:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Keynote Address: Modernizing Safety for the Future of Aviation

New aircraft and technologies are reshaping the future of aviation. Hear how safety oversight, aircraft certification, and the National Airspace System are evolving—and what the safe integration of powered-lift and other advanced aircraft will mean for technician knowledge, training, and industry-education partnerships.

Yvette A. Rose, Chief of Staff, Aviation Safety, FAA

Scott Chance, Acting Deputy Executive
Director, Flight Standards Service, FAA

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Coffee Break

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11:15 AM - 12:00 PM

Education Policy Briefing

Aviation maintenance depends on education and workforce policies that connect students with high-skill technical careers. Hear how federal priorities involving STEM and career and technical education can expand access to training and strengthen aviation workforce pathways.

James Brown, Executive Director, STEM Education Coalition

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Lunch

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1:30 PM - 2:15 PM

Labor Policy Briefing

Registered Apprenticeship is gaining momentum as an employer-driven pathway into skilled careers. Hear how new incentives, state funding, streamlined registration, and closer alignment with career and technical education and Workforce Pell can help educators, intermediaries, and employers launch or expand aviation maintenance apprenticeships.

Marek Laco, Acting Assistant Secretary, Employment
and Training Administration, Department of Labor

2:15 PM - 2:45 PM

Coffee Break

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AVIATION PROGRAMS

Wednesday, September 23 cont'd

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

Industry Priorities Briefing

ATEC's legislative priorities provide a shared foundation for advancing the aviation technical workforce. Following an overview of those priorities, hear how industry trade associations are supporting common goals while pursuing additional legislative and regulatory issues affecting their respective sectors.

Paul Feldman, Vice President of Government Affairs,
General Aviation Manufacturers Association

Brett Levanto, Vice President of Operations,
Aeronautical Repair Station Association

Justin W. Madden, Vice President, Operations
& Safety, Airlines for America

Moderator: Crystal Maguire, Executive Director, ATEC

3:45 PM - 4:15 PM

Coffee Break

4:15 PM - 5:00 PM

Congressional Meeting Prep

Effective congressional meetings begin with a clear message, coordinated team, and practical plan. Review ATEC's leave-behind materials and receive a briefing from Advocacy Associates on meeting logistics, navigating the schedule, and using the event app. Then work with your delegations to assemble meeting packets, designate meeting leads, prioritize key issues, and prepare a coordinated approach for each congressional office.

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Rooftop Reception

Wrap up the day with colleagues on the rooftop overlooking the U.S. Capitol. Continue the conversation, make new connections, and enjoy the views from above the meeting space.

Thursday, September 24

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Press Brief Breakfast: Pipeline Report Release U.S. Capitol LBJ Room S-211

The 2026 Pipeline Report offers a timely look at the health of the aviation technician workforce pipeline. Hear what the latest data reveal about technician supply and demand—and what policymakers, educators, and employers can do to close skills gaps and strengthen the maintenance workforce.

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Congressional Meetings on Capitol Hill

Bring the aviation maintenance community's priorities directly to members of Congress and their staff. Share local stories, highlight successful programs, and explain the policy changes needed to strengthen education and workforce development.

Meetings will be prescheduled and organized by delegation. Participants will receive personalized itineraries, talking points, and support materials in advance.

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Reception

Bullfeathers
410 1st St SE

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Friday, September 25

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Board Meeting & Breakfast (open to all)

YOTEL
415 New Jersey Ave NW

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Legislative Priorities

Aviation faces a widening gap between demand for qualified technicians and the supply of workforce-ready candidates. ATEC's priorities target bottlenecks in education, testing, certification, and employment pathways so more individuals can enter and advance through the aviation maintenance workforce efficiently.

Support aviation workforce development by fully funding the FAA workforce grant.

The 2026 Pipeline Report identifies growing enrollment alongside persistent instructor shortages and barriers to training, testing, certification, and employment pathways. Congress authorized \$20 million annually through fiscal year 2028 but has funded only two years below authorized levels, while a \$13 million fourth-round award remains pending. ATEC urges full annual appropriations, prompt distribution, and a predictable grant cycle.

Expand access to FAA mechanic testing.

Thirty-six percent of AMTSs cite insufficient DME access as a certification barrier. Although active DMEs increased from 254 to 275, they administered a record 14,838 original-issue mechanic tests, increasing the average workload per examiner by 18%. ATEC urges Congress to direct the FAA to expand and geographically target DME appointments, especially in DME deserts where A&P school graduates exceed available testing capacity.

Support and fund modernization of the airman certification system for aviation mechanics.

Unlike other airmen, mechanic applicants rely on paper forms, duplicate submissions, pen-and-ink entries, physical mail, and manual reviews, causing preventable errors and delays. ATEC urges Congress to direct and fund the FAA to incorporate mechanic certification into IACRA or a comparable secure platform, enabling electronic processing of applications, approvals, test results, temporary certificates, and certification files.

Advance early aviation maintenance certification pathways.

Pre-certification programs—including Choose Aerospace and part 147 partnerships offering dual enrollment, articulated credit, and FAA-aligned instruction—connect students to training and careers. Sections 405 and 414 of the 2024 FAA Reauthorization Act call for earlier engagement and fewer pathway barriers. ATEC urges Congress to support petition FAA-2026-9274, enabling qualified ATEC Credential holders to take the FAA mechanic General knowledge test early, and promote school-district, community, and part 147 partnerships nationwide.

Reappoint industry partners to advance airman certification and regulatory reforms.

Section 406 of the 2024 FAA Reauthorization Act directs the FAA to collaborate with industry to maintain and improve airman certification standards. Terminated committee appointments have stalled this work and mandates addressing mechanic testing barriers (Sec. 405) and military transition pathways (Sec. 426). ATEC urges Congress to press DOT to promptly restore industry participation and keep these safety and workforce initiatives on schedule.



Capitol Map

Legend

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Accessible Entrance |  Parking |
|  Accessible Route |  Bus Pick-Up and Drop-Off |
|  Accessible Pick-Up and Drop-Off |  Metro Station |
|  Capitol Visitor Center Shuttle Route |  Elevators |

YOTEL – 415 New Jersey Ave NW



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