

# CARPENTER

## 2023 ECONOMICS



## From the Workshop of EST Nilsen:

There are two principles that will guide our political and legislative program during my tenure as the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters: ambition and accountability. First, we must continue to have ambitious legislative agendas focused on jobs for members and better labor standards for all workers. Second, we must hold elected officials accountable whether we are supporting our allies or negatively impacting our opponents.

Having an ambitious agenda means thinking big. If we do not establish substantial goals, we will never achieve them. We will set ambitious goals around market share, organizing, bargaining, apprenticeship, recruitment, and other important activities of the regional council. Similarly, we will need to continue to initiate bold legislative agendas in all six of our states. In addition, we will be active at the local level including on school boards, city governments and elected county positions.

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*We need to be bold about legislative and policy solutions to trafficking, child labor, and issues like unemployment insurance fraud and workers compensation premium fraud.*

**Patrick Nilsen**  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters



## Two Key Principles

In Wisconsin, I have already directed our legislative team to focus on overturning right-to-work statutes and reinstating prevailing wage as soon as possible. Governor Evers has put prevailing wage in his last two budgets, and we will continue to raise this fundamental issue with our legislative candidates and elected officials. I am committed to seeing this goal achieved. We will not stop pushing for this important labor policy change.

Michigan has already provided the roadmap for change. They successfully changed their redistricting process through a ballot measure. Within ten years, they were able to overturn right-to-work and reinstate their prevailing wage laws. We know it is also possible to accomplish this in Wisconsin. With the election of a pro-labor Supreme Court, we will finally have fair district maps and elections that accurately represent working communities in Wisconsin. These legislative majorities will advocate for workers' issues.

Within the Regional Council, we also need to be ambitious about raising the issue of construction industry tax fraud and wage theft in every state. We need to be bold about legislative and policy solutions to trafficking, child labor, and issues like unemployment insurance fraud and workers compensation premium fraud. Moreover, we need to push educational institutions to promote career and technical educational programs like Career Connections, so students are exposed to opportunities that exist with a career in the skilled trades. These issues have the ability to garner broad bipartisan support from both liberals and conservatives.

Accountability is the second principle that I personally value and am committed to ensuring throughout our regional council. In the same way we hold ourselves and our brother and sister members accountable on the jobsite every day, we

need to bring that same lens of accountability to people who we help elect. We rely on these elected leaders to advocate for working people like our members, to exhibit integrity, and deliver on pledges to support our jobs, our careers, and our livelihoods.

Our political leadership scores elected officials' votes and monitors their public statements. We know which of them are our champions and which ones are our opponents who author anti-union bills. We know who votes for our jobs and who votes against them. We know who stands up for workers who need a voice and which ones are trying to make it easier for contractors to cut corners and exploit workers.

Together, we can accomplish significant outcomes for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters' members and for working families around our region. Through the execution of an ambitious legislative plan and accountability measures, we will continue to politically advocate for our members. I know how important it is for our future. I am proud to be leading this organization which is respected politically and legislatively in each one of our states.

In Solidarity,

Patrick M. Nilsen  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters



# Wisconsin's Newest Judge Provides Hope for Redistricting

Justice Janet Protasiewicz was sworn into the Wisconsin Supreme Court on August 1, 2023. With the Carpenters' endorsement and strong support, "Judge Janet" won one of the most high-profile races in the entire country. Her historic election significantly alters the balance of power on the high court for the first time in 15 years and restores a pro-worker and a pro-fair map majority.

It is widely anticipated the new court will address a variety of pivotal issues, most notably, a challenge to the state's political district maps. The current maps have been described as some of the most gerrymandered in the nation. (Gerrymandering occurs when the boundaries of political districts are manipulated to favor one political party.) Indeed, the day after Judge Janet was sworn in, a lawsuit was filed challenging Wisconsin's legislative maps based on this unconstitutional principle.

Gerrymandering results in less competitive elections, which correlates to a lack of accountability for politicians to their constituents. "There are over 10,000 union carpenters in Wisconsin. We live in every corner of the state including every Assembly district and every Senate district. When members are packed into noncompetitive districts, their votes aren't going to count. It's really important that the votes of Carpenters actually matter and can have an impact on pro-carpenter policies," stated Andrew Disch, Political Director for Wisconsin.

Carpenters in Wisconsin were instrumental in the election of Judge Janet. Her opponent was Daniel Kelly. He was appointed to the Wisconsin Supreme Court by former Governor Scott Walker, who ushered in 'right-to-work' and repealed the state's cherished Prevailing Wage Law under his reign.

After her positive appearances before members across the state in January, Judge Janet earned the Carpenters' endorsement. She answered members' questions during our annual Wisconsin Legislative Conference, and her campaign manager appeared for an exclusive briefing on the regional council's Political Action Leader call in March. Then, political volunteers took action in support of her campaign including phone banking fellow members and knocking on doors across the state. Their efforts assisted in her 55-45 percent victory in April.

After her election, Judge Janet did not forget about the Carpenters. She appeared at the June delegate meeting in Pewaukee to answer more questions and thanked us for our strong support. She clearly understands our values and concerns.

As Judge Janet embarks on her 10-year term, there is a viable opportunity for the Supreme Court to restore fair maps within the State of Wisconsin prior to the commencement of the 2024 legislative session. Then, Carpenters will have a stronger voice in their elections and the ability to hold their elected officials accountable to the fundamentals of carpenter economics.

"As Judge Janet embarks on her 10-year term, there is a viable opportunity for the Supreme Court to restore fair maps within the State of Wisconsin prior to the commencement of the 2024 legislative session," said Executive-Secretary Treasurer Patrick Nilsen. "Then, Carpenters will have a voice in their elections and the ability to hold their elected officials accountable to the fundamentals of carpenter economics including overturning right-to-work and reinstating prevailing wage across Wisconsin.



**JANET PROTASIEWICZ**  
WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT

**ENDORSED BY**

**NORTH CENTRAL STATES**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF  
**CARPENTERS**

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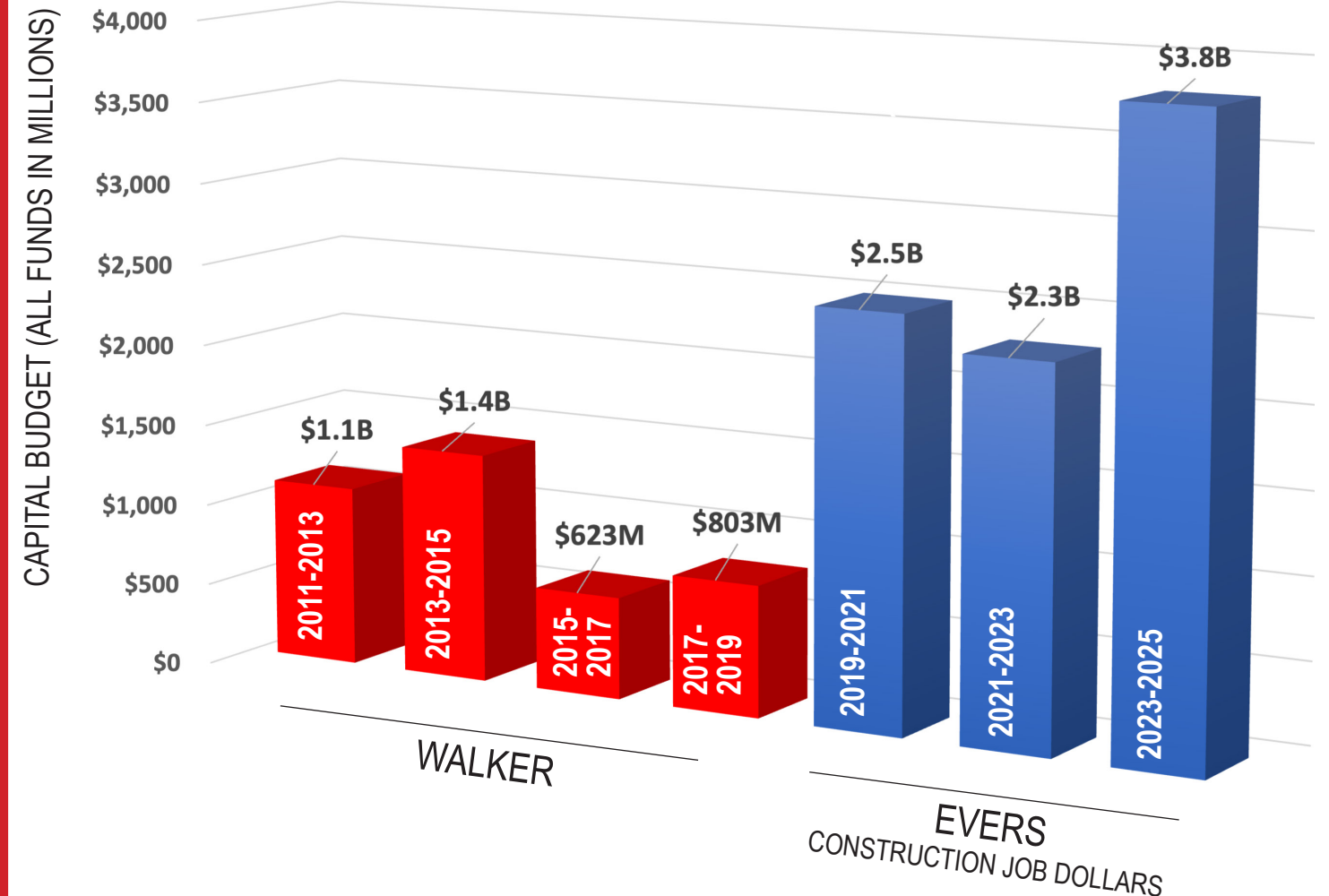


# Governor Evers' Commission Budget Delivers Again

Governor Evers' 2023-2025 recommended Building Commission budget invests a record \$3.8 billion into state funded building projects. This significant investment was made possible by Wisconsin's unprecedented \$7 billion budget surplus. With high standards for quality and reputation, the union market share for building commission projects is extremely high.

Governor Evers' investments will help grow the economy by providing family-supporting union jobs and supporting businesses throughout the state. According to Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Wisconsin, for every \$1 million of construction spending, 12 jobs are supported in the state's economy.

## EVERS' BUDGET MEANS CONSTRUCTION JOBS FOR YOU



Source: State of Wisconsin's Department of Administration Capital Budget Recommendations 2011-2025



Pictured left to right: Andrew Disch, NCSRCC Political Director of WI; Adam Duinick, NCSRCC Director of Government Affairs; Joe Nelson, Local 314, Superintendent; Tom Flynn, United Brotherhood of Carpenters General Vice President; Polo Duran, NCSRCC Business Representative; Raúl Hernández NCSRCC Lead Business Representative; Corey Bialcik, NCSRCC Senior Manager of IA/NE/WI

## Union Project will Enhance the Milwaukee Skyline

Next year, Milwaukee's downtown skyline will dramatically change with the completion of a 44-story residential skyscraper, the Couture. After years of delays and setbacks, this project's approval was assisted by a union-backed financing program through the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust (HIT). This funding ensured that the Couture would be totally constructed with union labor. The project was also championed locally by Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson and County Executive David Crowley.

At the June regional council delegate meeting held in Pewaukee, Wisconsin, carpenters were able to provide a tour of the Couture to UBC Second General Vice President

Tom Flynn. Joe Nelson (Local 314) the project's superintendent led the tour. There were 52 carpenter union members working on site along with other unionized trade members. Madison-based Findorff is the project's general contractor.

Once completed, the \$160 million Couture will feature 322 units and include public plazas and parks, pedestrian bridges, and a new stop for The Hop, Milwaukee's streetcar system. The completed project will not only enhance the Milwaukee skyline, it will also highlight the importance of collaboration with partners and the value of carpenter economics.



## SD Legislature Accomplishes Plenty in Short Time

At only 40 days long, the South Dakota legislative session is the shortest in our six-state regional council. However, during this year's legislative session, they made some major investments related to infrastructure. Under Republican leadership, this legislature:

- Added \$2.6 million to fund inflation related to construction of the National Guard readiness center in Sioux Falls. Six million in additional federal funding was also included.
- The legislature voted to spend \$29 million in federal money received to build a National Guard maintenance shop in Watertown.
- Approved nearly \$322 million for planning phases for a new state prison. While no decision has been made, the facility is expected to be within 20 miles of Sioux Falls.
- Authorized \$60 million to build a new prison facility in Rapid City.

All these infrastructure bills were signed by Governor Noem. With the inclusion of federal funding, these projects will have Davis-Bacon, prevailing wage requirements, and the Carpenters stand ready and willing to build these projects.

## Know Your House Member: Interview with Representative SuAnn Olson North Dakota House Member



The following interview was edited for publication.

### Tell our members a little about yourself.

I grew up in central Minnesota, a dairy farmer's daughter, and learned the value of hard work from a young age. I am a CPA (certified public accountant) by trade. I worked at Eide Bailly in Bismarck until I recently retired. I mostly did tax planning and estate planning. I enjoyed working with business owners and especially contractors. I have three children and twelve grandchildren. I was always telling my kids to get more involved. I realized, now that I am retired, I have the time for giving back and doing public service.

### What made you want to run for office?

I was concerned about what has happened over the last few years, moving so far from the values I grew up with. I always say, you can't complain if you're not involved, so I decided to get involved and run.

### What surprised you about the job once you got to Bismarck?

One, the quality of the people I met from other members of the legislature, executive branch and department staff as well as lobbyists. Two, I was surprised by the cronyism and how hard it was to break into the political arena. I was told a few times, "You're new, wait your turn." I was



### Any projects in your area or legislative work that our members should be aware of?

There is the Blue Flint Rainbow Energy project that I know is a big project. Minnkota is really busy and appears that they will be for a while. I imagine that we are also struggling with the challenge of attracting people to the construction industry. As a representative, I worked on trying to help with better childcare for families.

As a state, we also work to expand Career Tech Education (CTE) training in more high schools. Students may want to go to a four-year school, but that is not for everyone. We need to make sure all our students know what other careers and education opportunities are available out there.

there.

### Is there anything else you would like to add?

I appreciate the role that unions play in our state. It provides my son with a great job and great living. He would not have heard about the opportunity to become a millwright if not for his friend who talked to him about joining. The union should have an ambassador program where members can talk to others about the benefits of joining and the training available to them.

glad I got on a couple good committees where I could make a difference.

### Do you have any advice for our members when they come to a capitol or get involved in their communities?

Get involved in your home district. Meet your state representatives and your local officials too. This stuff matters! If we all get more involved, it makes our government better. The more you know someone, the more you will listen to them.



# 2023 Minnesota Legislative Summary

by Adam Duinick, NCSRCC Director of Government Affairs

A lot has been said about and written about the 2023 Minnesota Legislative Session. From national accolades about what was passed into law to claims of ‘historical’ and ‘transformational’ legislation, Minnesota’s elected officials should be recognized for their ambitious accomplishments

As you know, the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) focuses on carpenter economics, the idea that we fight for jobs and fair labor standards in our industry. We are a collective voice for pocketbook issues that impact our members and potential future members.

We want to thank the government affairs team, the communications team, the legal and organizing departments and especially all the members who stepped up and made their voices heard this spring. We owe all our accomplishments to years of educating candidates and elected officials about our issues. We are proud of all that was achieved in support of jobs for members, labor standards, and support for working families.

## JOBS AND LABOR STANDARDS

The regional council’s top legislative priority in Minnesota was the Construction Worker Wage Protection Act. This bill made general contractors and developers responsible for wage and hour violations on their jobsites. It is an extension of our work on wage theft designed to deter general contractors from hiring unscrupulous subcontractors. (For more on this issue, please refer to the full story on page 12.)

Another important labor standard policy is prevailing wage. I am pleased to report that prevailing wage was enhanced significantly this session across several bills and funds. We viewed this session as an opportunity to close some loopholes in the law where prevailing wage should have been

applied. From Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) grants to Renewable Development Funds to new energy projects, we were able to pass these bills with bipartisan support.

The omnibus labor and jobs bill also includes: \$4.1 million for wage theft prevention, \$3.2 million for prevailing wage enforcement, \$2 million in a labor education advancement grant program for women and people of color to connect with apprenticeships, \$450,000 for Helmets to Hardhats and additional resources to the Attorney General for wage theft and consumer protection. The same bill made (Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) citations public



Representative Sandra Feist (D-New Brighton, MN); Adam Duinick, NCSRCC Director of Government Affairs; and Dan McConnell, President of the Minnesota State Building Trades testify in support of the Construction Worker Wage Theft Protection Act.

which will allow us to monitor job sites where contractors are cutting corners on safety. Another bill that passed was a policy we worked on with the Elevator Constructors that defines conveyors, dock levelers, and platform lifts.

The Labor bill was coupled with the Workforce Development Finance and Policy bill which had some significant wins for us as well. The biggest increase was the creation of the Minnesota Forward Fund. This fund was awarded \$500 million for economic competitiveness to match federal dollars and private investment. There is \$100 million for CalSpan and BioMade which are two recent projects in the works that have been awarded significant federal appropriations. There is an additional \$250 million available for Creating Helpful

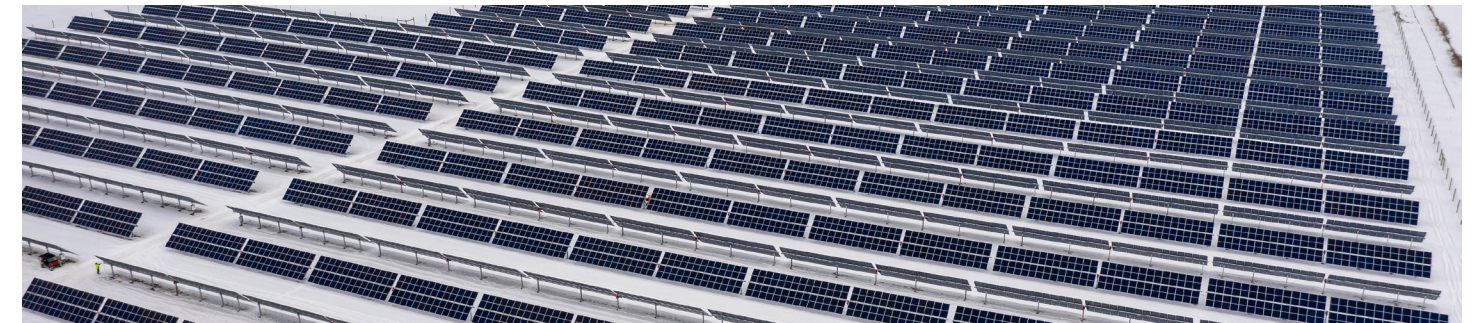
Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) projects and another \$75 million for the state’s Competitiveness Fund. These funds all are set up to have a compounding effect and provide many jobs in the coming years.

The Refinery Safety Bill that we advocated for in the last two years was passed and became law. The apprenticeship requirements mirror the state of California’s bill and have a similar phase-in timeline. We also worked on language that would protect our members who are working at refineries but did not come through our apprenticeship program. They will be required to take ongoing safety enhancement classes.

## ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

The regional council supported the bill to move Minnesota toward becoming 100 percent carbon free, which helped our utility partners and secured prevailing wage on renewable energy projects.

We supported the passage of \$15 million in funds to support the High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) modernization transmission line project for northern Minnesota and were pleased to see an agreement come together around the 20-year extension for the Xcel Energy and Prairie Island nuclear facility. We gained prevailing wage for the Renewable Development Fund and community solar.



## HOUSING

The Housing Finance bill includes \$200 million in one-time funds for Housing Infrastructure Bonds. That is the benefit of the state’s budget surplus and focus on housing at the capitol. The long-term prospects are also promising with the legislature passing a .25 percent sales tax increase in the metro area that will fund three housing accounts: the Metropolitan County Aid Account, State Rent Assistance Account, and the Metropolitan City Aid Account. These new revenues could total \$90-\$125 million annually invested in housing production. Some of the funds will be eligible for other uses, but the cities and counties will likely spend a large sum of the sales tax revenue for financing new housing construction.

## TRANSPORTATION

The transportation finance and policy bill was one of the more challenging issues this year at the capitol. The adage was truer than ever that everyone agrees we need to build new roads, bridges, transit, and infrastructure, but nobody agrees on how to pay for it. In the end, the revenue to pay for transportation ended up coming in multiple forms: a \$0.50 delivery fee on deliveries over \$100, indexing the gas tax to the cost of inflation and increasing the metro-wide sales tax by .75 percent to fund primarily transit improvements. Unlike the rest of the state budget in recent years, transportation funding has been going down despite future spending needs.

On the spending side, the bill authorized over \$8.8 billion for Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the Department of Public Safety, over \$1.4 billion more than was originally forecasted coming into the session. The transportation finance bill also authorizes \$600 million in trunk highway bonds. Of the \$600 million, \$200 million was dedicated to state road construction, \$166.15 million to named projects, and \$145 million for the Corridors of Commerce program. It will also fund the Northern Lights Express to Duluth in the amount of \$194.7 million, \$50 million for the Blue Line extension to northwestern Hennepin County as well as several other regionally significant projects. Finally, all the resources being spent on transit will mean more job creation and development in the future as these corridors have seen significant economic growth in housing and jobs.



NCSRCC member works on the Blue Line.



Photo of Blue Line job site in Saint Paul, MN.

## BONDING

The last bill that is usually passed to wrap-up session is a bonding bill. The slow pressure all session for the Senate to move on a bonding bill combined with some forceful local community voices and trades leaning on our Republican allies led to the passing of the first bonding bill since 2020. Not having a bonding bill for three years added to increased community demands for projects. (To read the full story on Minnesota's bonding bill, please refer to the story on page 16.)

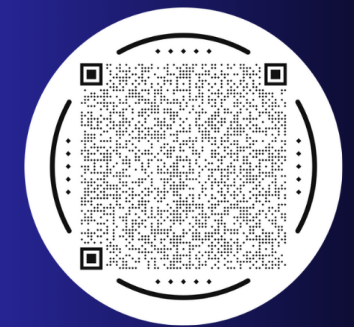


Union members at a Capitol rally urging the MN Senate to pass a bonding bill.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- MnDOT appropriated over \$300 million for roads and bridges funding in February which allowed the agency to plan more projects for this construction season. This was not met with a lot of fanfare, but if we had divided government, it would have been a heavier lift to match federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds.
- The historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit is a program that has created thousands of jobs and impacts tens of millions of dollars in development across the state. This program was not renewed last year when a tax bill failed to pass. This year's bill includes an eight-year extension which will give the market and developers the certainty they need to finalize more projects.
- A labor trafficking policy bill passed unanimously through the House and Senate with the support of the County Attorneys Association and the Advocates for Human Rights. This bill brought the definition of labor trafficking closer to sex trafficking because of a recent Hennepin County court decision.
- In reference to rent control/rent stabilization in housing policy bills, we were successful in making sure there were no changes to local policies nor the embrace of rent control by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. As we have seen rent control/rent stabilization have a detrimental effect in St. Paul, we remain aggressively opposed to these policies spread to other cities without addressing the underlying issue with housing supply.
- Paid Family Medical Leave was another huge accomplishment for working families this session. The regional council supported it and provided feedback about how it will impact construction. We will remain engaged with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development about how to structure the program around exempt independent contractors. This wage replacement benefit is good for workers, good for businesses, and good for families. We have heard from apprentices and members that this type of leave is essential for our industry.

**Curious how the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has provided projects, hours and carpenter economics in your state? Scan the QR code to the right and select the state you live in to check on the progress of these once-in-a-generation investments.**



# Passage of the Construction Worker Wage Theft Protection Act

Every day in the construction industry, too many employees show up on the jobsite wondering if they will be paid for the hours they work. Studies have confirmed what many of us already know, one in five construction workers is either misclassified as an independent contractor or paid in cash. While the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) has been at the forefront of the construction industry tax fraud and wage theft fight, there is never a shortage of work for us to do to curb this illegal practice. Our organizers and business representatives work on these issues every day by monitoring jobsites and reporting labor abuses. **Tax fraud turns jobsites into crime scenes.** So, NCSRCC is continuously working to have the laws on the books enforced.

“Construction industry tax fraud, wage theft and the social and economic distress that comes with this worker misclassification business model has occurred unchecked for too long in our region,” said Executive Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Nilsen. “We know it is happening and even when we warn developers and end users about the problem, they often choose to ignore the risk in favor of the low price of exploited labor and higher profits.”

When Minnesota’s Construction Worker Wage Theft Protection bill was introduced to make general contractors and developers responsible for wage and hour violations, it was met with fierce resistance from the Associated Builders

and Contractors (ABC), Housing First and the Associated General Contractors (AGC). These and other builders’ groups have fought these types of bills in other states by repeatedly denying that wage theft exists in our industry or by arguing that they should not be responsible for any employees they do not directly employ.

NCSRCC countered by stating that general contractors are responsible for the safety of all their subcontractors and for following Occupational Safety and Health Administration safety standards. General contractors are also responsible for providing workers compensation for all their subcontractors. It is only logical that they are also responsible for the payroll of their workers. Furthermore, another argument we presented was by incurring the payroll liability, general contractors would be more careful to select honest subcontractors. The new law would serve as a deterrent to bad contracting practices.

One of the highlights of working on this legislation came on Sunday, March 12, when the Star Tribune published a lengthy story that highlighted workers who were victims of wage theft. The timing of this news story provided important momentum at a critical time during the legislative session.

We garnered the support of several employer associations, community organizations, legal groups, and contractors



NCSRCC members and staff attend a Senate hearing to support the Construction Worker Wage Theft Protection bill and those who testified in support.

(Left) Francisco Lozano and (right) Angel Folivio Merino testify in hearings on the Construction Worker Wage Theft Protection bill.



during the session. The legislative bills (HF1859/SF 1988) were carried by Rep. Sandra Feist (New Brighton) and Sen. Judy Seeberger (Afton). They did an outstanding job moving these bills through the Labor and Judiciary Committees in both legislative bodies.

Once the bill cleared committees in the Senate, it sat idle in the Senate Finance Committee. In the Minnesota House, it passed all required committees before passing a full floor vote during a legislative day that focused primarily on worker’s safety. However, it was a deal struck between legislative leadership that would ultimately pass this language along with other important labor policy as part of the Omnibus Jobs, Economic Development, Labor and Industry Finance and Policy Bill (SF3035).

It was DFL leadership and committee chairs that delivered on this important legislation. Chairs Michael Nelson, a retired Carpenter, and Jen McEwen ensured this legislation was included in the omnibus bill during conference committee. Majority Leader Jamie Long and his staff were also strong supporters throughout the process. In addition, Senate Majority Leader Kari Dziedzic and the other Senate co-authors and conferees helped ensure the bill had all 34 Senate Democrat’s support.

Earning Governor Tim Walz’s support was an important step in the process for our regional council. NCSRCC communicated with his staff and the Department of Labor and Industry Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach for weeks about the bill. In fact, a call with regional council leadership and



Minnesota House hearing on the Construction Worker Wage Theft Protection bill in the Labor and Industry Finance and Policy Committee on March 2, 2023.

Photo of Minnesota House vote on the Omnibus Jobs, Economic Development, Labor and Industry Finance and Policy Bill.

CALENDAR FOR THE DAY				
S.F. NO. 3035				
Passage				
Yeas	69	Nays	61	
ACOMB	EDLSON	HOWARD	MEKELAND	QUAM
AGBAJE	ELKINS	HUDELLA	MOLLER	REHM
ALTENDORF	ENGIN	HUSDON	MUELLER	REYER
ANDERSON, P. E.	FEST	HUST	MURPHY	RICHARDSON
ANDERSON, P. H.	FINKE	HUSSEIN	MYERS	ROBBINS
BAKER	FISCHER	IGO	NADEAU	SCHOMACKER
BAKBERG	FRANZMAN	JACOB	NASH	SCHULTZ
BAKER	FRANSON	JORDAN	NELSON, M.	SCOTT
BECKER-FINN	FREDERICK	JOY	NELSON, N.	SENCER-MURA
BENNETT	FRESBERG	KELER	NEU BRINDLEY	SRIJASA
BERG	GAROFALO	KIEL	NEWTON	SMITH
BIERMAN	GILLMAN	KLEVORN	NOOR	STEPHENSON
BLISS	GOMEZ	KNUDSEN	NOVOTNY	SWEDZINSKI
BRAND	GREENMAN	KOEGEL	ODRISCOLL	TARKE
BURKEL	GROSSELL	KOTYZA-WITTHUN	OLSON, B.	TORKELSON
CARRIOLL	HANSEN, R.	KOZNIK	OLSON, L.	URDAHL
CHA	HARDER	KRAFT	ONEILL	WEST
CLARDY	HASSAN	KRESHA	PEREZ-VEGA	WIENER
COULTER	HEINTZEMAN	LEE, F.	PERRYMAN	WENG
CURKMAN	HEMMINGSEN-JAEG	LEE, K.	PETERSBURG	WITTE
DANIELS	HER	LEEBING	PETERSBURG	WOLGAMOTT
DAUDT	DAVIS	LISLEGARD	PINTO	XIONG
DAVIS	HILL	LONG	PRYOR	YOUNG
DEMUTH	HORNSTEIN	MCDONALD	PURSELL	ZELZNIKAR
DOTBETH				SPEAKER
				HORTMAN

Governor Walz was arranged to discuss his support of the bill. He immediately understood the issue and said he would be excited to sign this legislation.

Despite the leadership and support demonstrated by legislative leaders and Governor Walz, it was the bravery of workers like Francisco Lozano and Angel Folivio Merino who generated substantial support when they testified about their experiences of being exploited at the hands of their employers. They came forward at great risk to themselves and their families to try to help future workers forego having to endure the abuse and wage theft that they suffered.

Following his personal story of having wages stolen from him, Lozano testified at a Senate hearing through an interpreter, "There was a lot of injustices that occurred when I was working at PNC, a lot of labor abuse, a lot of financial abuse, because ultimately he wasn't paying us what he said he would. There are a lot of people out there who are afraid to speak because we feel intimidated by companies like PMC. I just know there is a lot of us out there that are going through this. This will ensure there is no more excuses and that there are no more workers exploited."

This legislation is about justice for workers. NCSRCC hopes that it leads to change and workers being paid the wages they are owed. We hope that contractors who cheat and break the law are punished, and our signatory contractors can compete on a level playing field. We hope to sign up new contractors and add members once general contractors realize that Minnesota will not tolerate misclassifying workers, paying workers in cash off the books or committing wage theft against workers. Finally, we look forward to stronger enforcement of these and other laws that protect workers.

"I have worked as a union organizer in the past and there is nothing more rewarding than connecting people to opportunity and being involved in an organizing campaign," said EST Nilsen. "This legislative win was the result of good organizing, and it was a complete team effort. From the members who marched on jobsites, to the business reps who spent their days and nights talking to workers, to the legal, communications, and political team collaborating on this success, I am so proud of this legislation and the lives it will change."



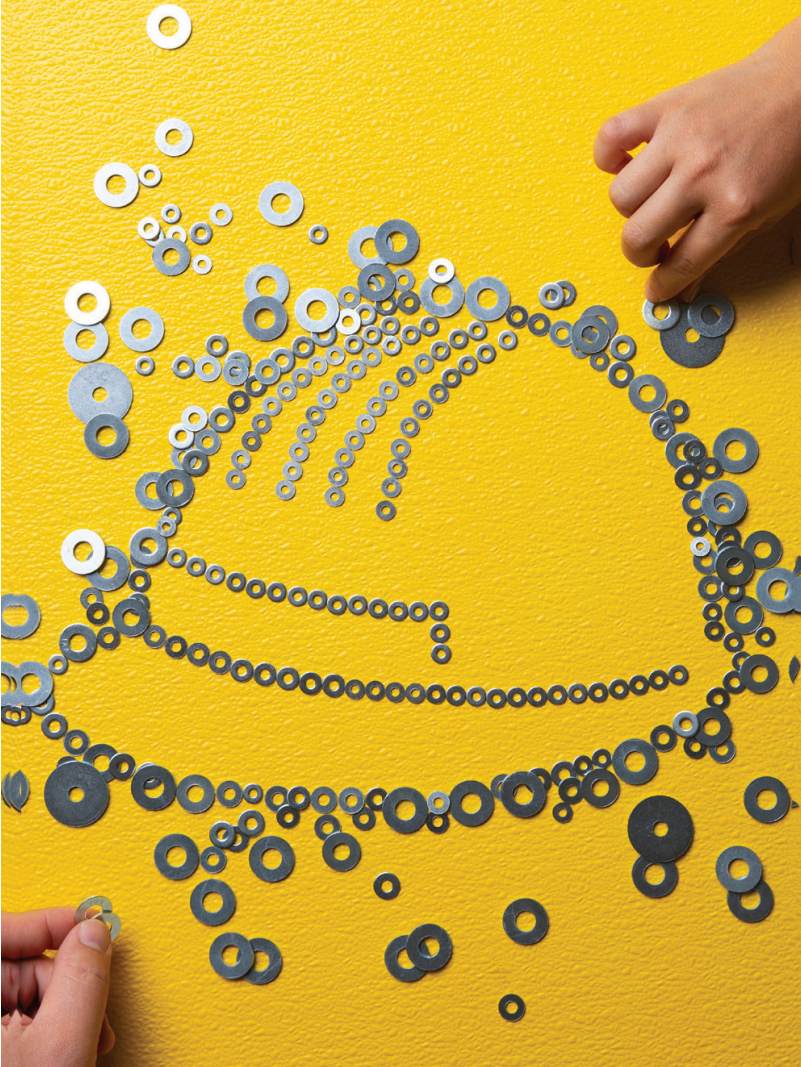
Bill signing ceremony with Governor Walz signing the Omnibus Jobs, Economic Development, Labor and Industry Finance and Policy Bill into law, containing the Construction Workers Wage Theft Protection language.

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- Nutrition Planning & Weight Management
- The Second Opinion Process
- Simplifying the Referral Process

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- Relationship Challenges
- Family and Parenting Issues
- Grief and Loss
- Stress Management
- Job-Related Difficulties

## Care Coordination Services

Call us for connection to lawyers and financial planners at discounted services, or for help finding eldercare and childcare. There are also articles, tips and links on our website.

## Locations:

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After a three-year lapse, the Minnesota legislature finally passed a massive bonding package. Bonding bills are typically the last piece of legislation to be passed during a legislative session, and this year was no exception. The bonding bill, which needs a supermajority of legislative approval, was passed in a last-minute display of bipartisan effort. The final bonding package totals almost 2.6 billion dollars.

The late passage of the bonding bills was not intentional. In March, a bill passed the House; however, it did not have the Republican support needed to pass the Senate. Many Republicans did not approve of the borrowed money associated with the bill and advocated for using part of the budget surplus to fund projects. The bonding bills were in a holding pattern.

Near the end of the session, both parties supported and passed the bonding package. Republicans and Democrats were satisfied with the result. “We took a lot of heat not passing the bill out of the Senate” said Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson (R-East Grand Forks), “but I think the end product, the resulting deal, the package that we got, is something that we can be proud of. It helps nursing homes, it takes care of infrastructure.” Senate Majority Leader Kari Dziedzic (D-Minneapolis) deserves high praise for continuing to advocate for passing the bonding bill throughout the entire legislative session.

NCSRCC lobbied allies on both sides of the aisle to help ensure that the bonding bill was passed. The regional council is grateful for Speaker Melissa Hortman, Senator Sandy

## Minnesota’s Bonding Bill Journey

Pappas, Representative Fue Lee, and Representative Dean Urdahl for their tireless work and advocacy for this historic bill.

The bonding bill is something both Republicans and Democrats should be proud to claim as a major accomplishment during this legislative session. Between the \$1.5 billion in funding for the bonding bill and the \$1.1 billion from the cash bill, the result constitutes an enormous investment in infrastructure and the good-paying, union jobs.

### Some highlights of the investment package include:

- **Over \$317 million in building upgrades at the University of Minnesota, and Minnesota State College and University Systems**
- **\$247 million for the Department of Natural Resources to use on upgrades to parks, trails, boat launches, docks, and park buildings**
- **\$402 million for the Minnesota Department of Transportation to spend on road and bridge improvements**
- **Over \$501 million for water infrastructure projects**
- **\$77.7 million investment to overhaul the Hastings Veteran’s Home**
- **\$108.6 million for transit and parks with the Met Council**

The \$2.6 billion package shattered the record for the largest capital investment package in state history by topping the \$1.87 billion package from 2020. This was, in part, made possible by Minnesota’s \$17.5 billion budget surplus. The huge surplus allowed the state to keep cash on hand while simultaneously having the ability to make capital investments across Minnesota. Additionally, numerous community projects were added due to the lack of a bonding bill in 2022.

The fact that this enormous investment package passed with bipartisan support is notable. With a one seat majority, the bipartisan effort it took to pass this bonding package was impressive. NCSRCC is hopeful that there will be sustained momentum and a similar outcome in the spring of 2024 when the legislature again convenes.

## How Did They Vote?

Senate Bonding Bill Floor Vote passed 56-11  
House Bonding Bill Floor Vote passed 97-35

### Voted Affirmative

#### Senate:

- Abeler
- Boldon
- Carlson
- Champion
- Coleman
- Cwodzinski
- Dahms
- Dibble
- Dornink
- Draheim
- Dziedzic
- Farnsworth
- Fateh
- Frentz
- Gruenhagen
- Gustafson
- Hauschild
- Hawj
- Hoffman
- Housley
- Jasinski
- Johnson
- Klein
- Koran
- Kreun
- Kunesh
- Kupec
- Lang
- Latz
- Limmer
- Mann
- Marty
- Mathews
- Maye Quade
- McEwen
- Miller
- Mitchell
- Mohamed

- Morrison
- Murphy
- Nelson
- Oumou Verbeten
- Pappas
- Pha
- Port
- Pratt
- Putnam
- Rarick
- Rest
- Seeberger
- Utke
- Weber
- Westlin
- Westrom
- Wiklund
- Xiong

#### House:

- Acomb
- Agbaje
- Anderson, P. E.
- Anderson, P. H.
- Backer
- Bahner
- Baker
- Becker-Finn
- Bennett
- Berg
- Bierman
- Brand
- Burkell
- Carroll
- Cha
- Clardy
- Coulter
- Curran
- Davids

- Dotseth
- Edelson
- Elkins
- Feist
- Finke
- Fischer
- Franson
- Frazier
- Frederick
- Freiberg
- Gomez
- Greenman
- Hansen, R.
- Hanson, J.
- Hassan
- Hemmingsen-Jaeger
- Her
- Hicks
- Hill
- Hollins
- Hornstein
- Howard
- Hudella
- Huot
- Hussein
- Igo
- Jordan
- Keeler
- Kiel
- Klevorn
- Koegel
- Kotyza-Witthuhn
- Kozlowski
- Kraft
- Kresha
- Lee, F.
- Lee, K.
- Liebling
- Lillie

- Lislegard
- Long
- Moller
- Mueller
- Nadeau
- Nash
- Nelson, M.
- Nelson, N.
- Newton
- Noor
- Norris
- Novotny
- Olson, B.
- Olson, L.
- Pelowski
- Pérez-Vega
- Petersburg
- Pinto
- Pryor
- Pursell
- Rehm
- Reyer
- Richardson
- Robbins
- Schomacker
- Sencer-Mura
- Skraba
- Smith
- Stephenson
- Tabke
- Urdahl
- Vang
- West
- Wiens
- Wolgamott
- Xiong
- Youakim
- Zeleznikar
- Spk. Hortman

### Voted Against

- #### Senate:
- Anderson
  - Bahr
  - Drazkowski
  - Duckworth
  - Eichorn
  - Green
  - Howe
  - Lieske
  - Lucero
  - Rasmusson
  - Wesenberg

- Niska
- O’Driscoll
- O’Neill
- Perryman
- Pfarr
- Quam
- Schultz
- Scott
- Swedzinski
- Torkelson
- Wiener
- Witte

#### House:

- Altendorf
- Bakeberg
- Bliss
- Daniels
- Daudt
- Davis
- Demuth
- Fogelman
- Garofalo
- Gillman
- Harder
- Heintzeman
- Hudson
- Jacob
- Johnson
- Joy
- Knudsen
- Koznick
- McDonald
- Mekeland
- Murphy
- Myers
- Neu Brindley



## Legislative Funding for Helmets to Hardhats

The Helmets to Hardhats program was the recipient of \$450,000 as part of the Omnibus Labor and Jobs bill passed during the 2023 Minnesota legislative session. This valuable program focuses on connecting military veterans to building trades apprenticeships. Since 2003, this organization has helped over 40,000 military personnel transition into civilian careers in the trades. To highlight the success of the program, members from North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters provided critical testimony during several hearings.

In the House Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy committee meeting, Alex Schow testified, “I think it’s a fantastic program. I know probably two or three dozen guys that have found long-term careers through the program, both getting out of the military and while they’re on the reserves side.” Schow is a former Marine Corps Reserve and a current millwright from Local 548 (St. Paul, MN). He learned about the Helmets to Hardhats program from his fellow servicemembers. Mariah Mudek, a carpenter with Local 68 (St. Paul, MN) also advised the committee she was out of work when her sergeant guided her in the direction of the Helmets to Hardhats program. She explained that program staff brought her to the training center and walked her through the process of becoming a union carpenter. “It really helped with the transition from the military to civilian life. The union employment provided a lot of stability, and the question of what to do with the rest of my life was no longer a looming thought in my head,” said Mudek.

In addition to these two members, the executive director of Minnesota Helmets to Hardhats, Justin Rost, provided testimony to the committee. Rost is a Marine Corps veteran and sheet metal worker by trade. He shared how a registered apprenticeship program provided a structure that felt familiar to his service time. Additionally, he emphasized how his union position provided financial stability that allowed him to care for his family and alleviate some of the mental strain that many military members face after they leave service.

During a subsequent hearing before the House Labor and Industry Finance Policy Committee, two additional members shared their stories of how Helmets to Hardhats had impacted their lives. Erich Scheele, an Air Force veteran and member of Local 68, expressed that he used Helmets to Hardhats when he was an apprentice. “I joined the military to help pay for college, and after that I wasn’t really sure where I was go-



ing to go in life. This kind of directed me towards getting into the trades, and I’m very thankful I was able to utilize this program,” said Scheele. Next, Joe Larson, a Minnesota National Guard veteran, and Local 322 (St. Paul, MN) member, advised the committee that the Helmets to Hardhats program was instrumental in his transition from the military to becoming a civilian. “I was a soldier, wearing a helmet, and going in and defending America. To come out and be a part of building America, was a great transition for me,” Larson continued. “Coming back into a community that I really hadn’t been a member of for a while, it was a tough transition for me. And then, getting into carpentry, I got a hard hat on. I got boots on the ground again. Instead of the mission of going out and defending, the mission is to join other carpenters in building.”

The legislation that was passed not only secured the funding for this budget cycle. It placed the Helmets to Hardhats funding in the base budget, which should secure the necessary funding into the future. The \$450,000 Helmets to Hardhats received will provide significant funding to help additional veterans obtain stable, high-paying careers with good benefits.

We want to sincerely thank each of our members who stepped up and contributed to the passing of this significant legislation. When elected officials hear membership testimony from people like Axel, Mariah, Erich, and Joe, lawmakers listen. Their testimony puts a face to carpenter economics and the people benefitting from a program like Helmets to Hardhats, which was key to obtaining the funding.

## U.S. Representative Bacon Visits Omaha Training Center

This past June, Nebraska Congressman Don Bacon (R - 2nd District) toured the Carpenters Training Institute in Papillion, NE. Training center tours are key to building strong relationships with elected officials, especially federal politicians that spend significant time outside their district in Washington D.C. Meeting with apprentices, instructors and business representatives helps elected officials understand who the Carpenters are, what they do and why they are engaged in politics.

Elected officials gain a better understanding of the training that the Carpenters offer, our paid apprenticeships and the progressive pay raises apprentices receive as they progress through their training. They observe demonstrations and test their own skills to try the latest technology used in the construction industry. However, the most important part of their visit is the one-on-one conversations and question-and-answer segment that takes place while having lunch with

apprentices.

Congressman Bacon has remained strong in his commitment to supporting Davis-Bacon prevailing wage on federal construction projects due to the impact his first tour of the training center had on him in 2018. Under the Davis-Bacon Act, projects funded with federal money are required to pay construction workers at least the local prevailing wage and fringe benefits. It also requires the purchase of American steel for these projects.

Congressman Bacon has a distinguished military career. He joined the U.S. Air Force and served nearly 30 years, ultimately retiring as a Brigadier General. He is also a strong supporter of Helmets to Hardhats and union apprenticeships. Helmets to Hardhats assists active-duty military service members, veterans, National Guard and Reservists with skilled training and quality career opportunities in the building trades.

We would like to thank Congressman Bacon for his leadership, advocacy and courage to support the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This is a major step forward for our country and will benefit the hard-working men and women in Nebraska. Based on formula alone, Nebraska stands to benefit over two billion dollars in the the next five years. They will receive over \$2 billion for federal -aid highway programs and \$225 million for bridge replacement. Nebraska can expect to receive \$186 million to improve public transportation, \$30 million to add electric vehicle charging upgrades, \$358 million to improve water infrastructure and tens of millions in other designated project areas.

The Carpenters are grateful for Congressman Bacon’s leadership and his commitment to putting his state before partisan positioning when he voted in support of carpenter economics and rebuilding and repairing America’s infrastructure.



Congressman Don Bacon (first step, center) with Political Director Felicia Hilton (bottom right), Lead Business Representative Juan Alvarado (top left) and apprentices.



Congressman Bacon speaks to Carpenters Training Institute Instructor, Andy Pinneo, at the Papillion, NE training center.



## Iowa Rolls Back Child Labor Law Protections

Early in the 2023 legislative session, with the support of Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, the Republican legislature introduced a heinous bill to eliminate protections within current child labor laws. This bill garnered significant public attention during the session and could lead to younger workers working construction for more hours throughout Iowa. The Iowa Restaurant Association, The Iowa Home Builders Association and other business groups advocated for the bill to expand the potential pool of workers in Iowa.

The original bill that was introduced allowed Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) to grant waivers to labor regulations allowing 14-to-17-year-olds to work in hazardous occupations like mining and other restricted occupations considered inherently dangerous. The child labor bill was so extreme, it initially exempted employers from liability if the child was participating in a work-based learning program and died on the job. The initial bill stated, “A business that accepts a secondary student in a work-based learning program shall not be subject to civil liability for any claim for bodily injury to the student or sickness or death by accident of the student arising from the business’s negligent act or omission during the student’s participation in the work-based learning program at the business or worksite.”

Initially, Iowa’s proposed legislation would have allowed 14- and -15-year-old students to work six hours on a school day and up to 28 hours during a school week. The proposal would have allowed these same young workers to perform certain tasks such as non-incident work in meat freezers, industrial laundries, and light assembly work, which is prohibited by federal law.

After heated negotiations with labor unions and child advocacy groups, House Republicans finally agreed to amend the proposed bill. The new language restricts IWD’s authority to grant hazardous occupation waivers to only 16-and-17-year-olds. Thankfully, the amendment also removed the exemption from civil liability in case of injury, sickness, or death of a student on the job.

Despite the changes, the Iowa legislature passed a bill that the U.S. Department of Labor indicated is in violation of federal child labor law. For example, federal regulations stipulate that 14- and-15-year-old students can only work between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. during the school year and until 9 p.m. during the summer. The Iowa legislation allows these students to work until 9 p.m. during the school year and 11 p.m. during the summer. In addition, federal law restricts these students to working up to three hours on a school day with only 18 hours per week throughout the school year.

**Senate File 542, signed into law on May 26th, makes the following changes to Iowa’s Child Labor Laws:**

- Removes language providing for child labor permits and child migrant labor permits.
- Prohibits individuals 13 years of age or younger from working in any job.
- Removes language that allowed migrant laborers who are 14 or 15 years of age to work during summer school hours.
- Modifies the hours that 14–15-year-olds may work 6 a.m. - 9 p.m. during the school week, and 6 a.m. – 11 p.m. weekends and summer months). Students over the age of 16 have no limitations.
- Allows the Director of the Iowa Department of Workforce Development (IWD) to issue waivers of child labor restrictions in certain circumstances.
- Provides that the Director of the IWD or the Director of the Department of Education to grant exceptions from a section of Iowa Code to allow individuals 16 to 17 years of age to participate in work-based learning or a school or employer-administered, work-related program upon meeting certain conditions.
- Creates exceptions to Iowa code for students participating in approved work-based learning programs, registered apprenticeships, career and technical education programs, or student learner programs upon meeting certain conditions.
- Removes the serious misdemeanor penalty for an individual in charge of any migratory worker or a child who engages in a street occupation in violation of Iowa code.
- Grants the IWD Director the right to waive or reduce a civil penalty related to the violation of child labor laws based on the evidence the director obtains. The legislation also requires the director of the IWD to provide a 15-day grace period before imposing a civil penalty.
- Modifies employer liability for not including secondary students enrolled in a work-based learning program in workers compensation insurance.

## Growing Carpenter Economics

News experts, cable television hosts, and social media influencers have repeatedly reported that the economy is headed toward a recession under President Biden’s leadership. However, their predictions continue to miss the mark. The economy, as described recently in Fortune Magazine, is in a “richcession”, because it continues to expand for working people from the middle out and from the bottom up.

Under President Biden’s leadership, Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act in 2022, which contributes billions of federal dollars into new clean energy investment. Congress also passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which provides substantial funding for roads, bridges and other public works projects. Congress also passed the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors and Science Act investing in the construction and expansion of many semiconductor companies.

Whether you agree with him or not, President Biden’s efforts to pass jobs bills and grow the economy have been successful. Unemployment is down, and our work hours are up. Construction jobs have led a resurgence in the jobs numbers regionally and nationally. While there is still more work to do, inflation continues to improve.

There is a problem that we see across our industry when it comes to federal money flowing into states that are right-to-work. Historically, many companies benefit from tax incentives without inclusion of labor standards or benefits for workers. To fix this, much of the legislation passed includes incentives for working with union members who were trained

through labor-management apprenticeship programs or to contractors who pay the prevailing wage. Recently, there was a new ruling by the Biden Administration’s Department of Labor that will bridge the wage gap between strong union states and states without worker protections and prevailing wage laws.



On August 8, 2023, the administration announced a new rule overhauling the prevailing wage requirements for construction workers, ultimately increasing wages for many construction workers. How will the rule help?

This ruling increases wages for construction workers on many federally funded projects by restoring the Department of Labor’s (DOL) prevailing wage definition that was changed by former President Ronald Reagan over forty years ago. Prevailing wages are the hourly rate of pay and benefits paid to workers in a specific area. Before former President Reagan changed the federal rule in 1982, employers were required to pay construction workers on federal projects the equivalent of wages paid to at least thirty percent of workers from a specific trade working within that defined geographical area. President Reagan changed that rule to

define prevailing wage as the wages paid to fifty percent plus one worker in a specific area.

The new rule also allows the Wage and Hour Division (WHD) to issue multi-county project wage determinations with a single wage rate per classification. It also permits WHD to use state highway districts or similar geographic subdivisions used by states to define the area for prevailing wage on a highway project.

The DOL ruling implemented by the Biden Administration also impacts enforcement, adjusts the anti-retaliation provisions, and provides the necessary tools to hold contractors responsible for wage violations. Workers who bring forward complaints will be protected from being disciplined or having their employment terminated as a means of retaliation. Employers will be mandated to meet increased recordkeeping requirements that include maintaining payroll and other related records for at least three years after all the work on the construction contract has been completed.

As Carpenters, we may not agree with every policy position of an elected official. However, we cannot ignore the progress and support the Biden Administration has demonstrated for labor unions and the middle-class. From passing legislation to making administrative changes that will help working people, President Biden clearly understands that the rebuilding and repairing of this nation’s infrastructure is reliant upon union labor. His commitment in creating jobs for members and better labor standards for all workers is the foundation of Carpenter economics.

# Congressional Scorecard

A cornerstone of Carpenter Economics is that we lobby our issues to Democrats and Republicans. Support for Davis-Bacon is support for good-paying construction jobs. In addition to Davis-Bacon support, we also advocate on jobs bills that create work opportunities for our members. Whether that is roads, bridges, transit, aviation, ports or other transportation work, whether Congress is weighing in on energy, housing, or industrial development, or other sectors of the economy, Carpenters Economics means fighting for jobs for you and your family.

## Davis-Bacon

Davis-Bacon prevailing wage votes occur in committee and on the floor of the U.S. House and Senate. We ask every candidate running for office to support our wages and benefits by supporting the Davis-Bacon Act.

## Inflation Reduction Act

The Inflation Reduction Act delivers affordable, clean energy that is the most significant legislation to tackle the climate crisis and strengthen American energy security. It will lower energy costs for households and businesses, create manufacturing jobs, and deliver a clean, secure, and healthy future for our children and grandchildren. Early estimates show billions of dollars in investments in clean power and storage that will result in thousands of jobs and real savings to families.

## Infrastructure

The infrastructure bill was put together by a bipartisan panel of House and Senate members. These dollars will build out our highways, bridges, transit, airports, ports, and clean water projects around the country and create jobs for members.

## CHIPS and Science ACT

The Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors and Science Act was signed into law on August 9, 2022. It provides nearly \$280 billion in new funding to boost research and manufacturing of semiconductors in the United States. Subsidies of \$39 billion are included for chip manufacturing along with 25 percent investment tax credits for costs of manufacturing equipment. This spending is designed to create middle-class jobs, spur manufacturing and accelerate industry. The building of new manufacturing facilities is continuing to grow rapidly as a result of this legislation.

	Davis-Bacon	Infrastructure 2021	Inflation Reduction Act	CHIPS and Science Act
Rep. Bryan Steil	WI	✓	✗	✗
Rep. Mark Pocan	WI	✓	✓	✓
Rep. Derrick Van Orden	WI	✓		
Rep. Gwen Moore	WI	✓	✓	✓
Rep. Scott Fitzgerald	WI	✗	✗	✗
Rep. Glenn Grothman	WI	✗	✗	✗
Rep. Thomas Tiffany	WI	✗	✗	✗

	Davis-Bacon	Infrastructure 2021	Inflation Reduction Act	CHIPS and Science Act
Rep. Mike Gallagher	WI	✓	✗	✗
Rep. Brad Finstad	MN	✓		
Rep. Angie Craig	MN	✓	✓	✓
Rep. Dean Phillips	MN	✓	✓	✓
Rep. Betty McCollum	MN	✓	✓	✓
Rep. Ilhan Omar	MN	✓	✗	✓
Rep. Tom Emmer	MN	✓	✗	✗

	Davis-Bacon	Infrastructure 2021	Inflation Reduction Act	CHIPS and Science Act
Rep. Michelle Fischbach	MN	✗	✗	✗
Rep. Pete Stauber	MN	✓	✗	✗
Rep. Ashley Hinson	IA	✗	✗	✗
Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks	IA	✗	✗	✗
Rep. Zach Nunn	IA	✓		
Rep. Randy Feenstra	IA	✓	✗	✗
Rep. Mike Flood	NE	✗		✗
Rep. Don Bacon	NE	✓	✓	✗
Rep. Adrian Smith	NE	✗	✗	✗
Rep. Dusty Johnson	SD	✗	✗	✗
Rep. Kelly Armstrong	ND	✗	✗	✗

	Davis-Bacon	Infrastructure 2021	Inflation Reduction Act	CHIPS and Science Act
Sen. Tammy Baldwin	WI	✓	✓	✓
Sen. Ron Johnson	WI	✗	✗	✗
Sen. Amy Klobuchar	MN	✓	✓	✓
Sen. Tina Smith	MN	✓	✓	✓
Sen. Chuck Grassley	IA	✗	✓	✗
Sen. Joni Ernst	IA	✗	✗	✗
Sen. Deb Fischer	NE	✓	✓	✗
Sen. Ben Sasse	NE	✗	✗	✓
Sen. John Thune	SD	✗	✗	✗
Rep. Mike Rounds	SD	✗	✗	✗
Sen. John Hoeven	ND	✗	✓	✗
Sen. Kevin Cramer	ND	✗	✓	✗

# Carpenters in Public Service

County and school boards, city councils and other public offices regularly make decisions that directly impact our members. Whether it is deciding which contractors will be hired or determining city budgets and priorities, it is important for carpenters to participate in local politics to ensure union values and voices are heard. Listed below is a current list of members serving their communities in a public position.



**Ryan Austin, Local 310 - Rothschild, WI**  
Wisconsin Rapids Common Council



**Matt Bieser, Local 344 - Pewaukee, WI**  
Delavan City Council Member



**Mark Bruner, Local 314 - Madison, WI**  
Brooklyn Village President



**Rob Busch, Local 322 - Saint Paul, MN**  
Columbus City Council Member



**Dennis Cashman, Local 1146 - Green Bay, WI**  
Town of Rockland Chair



**Dennis Clegg, Local 1056 - Kaukauna, WI**  
Outagamie County Supervisor



**Ernie Colt, Local 948 - Sioux City, IA**  
Sioux City United Way Board



**James Cox, Local 427 - Papillion, NE**  
Mayor of Modale, IA



**Gene Dornink, Local 1382 - Rochester, MN**  
Minnesota State Senate, District 27 (former member)



**Derek Duehr, Local 678 - Dubuque, IA**  
Stonehill Benevolent Foundation Board  
Greater Dubuque Development Corp  
NICC Carpentry Advisory Board



**Bob Doubek, Local 308 - Cedar Rapids, IA**  
Linn County, IA Planning Zoning Commission



**Carl Genz, Local 344 - Pewaukee, WI**  
Village of Greendale Trustee



**Richard Glomski, Local 731 - Sheboygan, WI**  
Town of Schleswig Chairman



**Jesse Gregerson, Local 427 - Papillion, NE**  
Downtown Omaha INC Board Member  
Sarpy County, NE - Grow Sarpy Board



**Kevin Hennessey, Local 1143 - La Crosse, WI**  
West Salem Village Board



**Mike Higgins, Local 314 - Madison, WI**  
Watertown Unified School Board



**Sam Heimlich, Local 322 - Saint Paul, MN**  
Governor's Workforce Development Board



**Gary Huc, Local 1146 - Green Bay, WI**  
Crivitz School Board



**Burt Johnson, Local 322 - Saint Paul, MN**  
Workers Compensation Advisory Council



**Dave Jacoby, Local 1260 - Iowa City, IA**  
Iowa Legislator, House District 74 Johnson County



**Jayson Karas, Local 930 - Saint Augusta, MN**  
Milaca Township Board, MN



**Tom Klika, Local 1146 - Green Bay, WI**  
Town of Glenmore Supervisor



**William Krueger, Local 1146 - Green Bay, WI**  
Town of New Denmark Chair



**Rick Lautenschlager, Local 1056 - Kaukauna, WI**  
Outagamie County Supervisor



**Pat Loeffler, Local 308 - Cedar Rapids, IA**  
Cedar Rapids City Council Member



**Scott Luostari, Local 361 - Hermantown, MN**  
Douglas County Supervisor



**Jon Mahan, Local 587 - Sioux Falls, SD**  
South Dakota Workforce Development Council



**Diego Morales, Local 68 - Saint Paul, MN**  
Metropolitan Council, MN



**Kim Nelson, Local 464 - Mankato, MN**  
City of Superior Human Trafficking Commission, WI



**Michael Nelson, Local 322 - Saint Paul, MN**  
Minnesota State House, House District 40A



**Royce Peterson, Local 1260 - Iowa City, IA**  
Hawkeye on Safety Committee Member  
Hawkeye Area Labor Council Trustee  
Coralville Citizens Police Review Board



**Steve Nienhaus, Local 1260 - Iowa City, IA**  
Muscatine, IA Planning Zoning Commission



**Jeff Peterson, Local 322 - Saint Paul, MN**  
Forest Lake Area Schools, Board President



**Rhea Pierce, Local 2060 - Altoona, IA**  
Northeast Workforce Development Board



**Ruben Piepenburg, Local 1056 - Kaukauna, WI**  
Brillion Common Council



**Matt Scott, Local 427 - Papillion, NE**  
Sarpy County Economic Development Committee  
Greater Lincoln Work Force Development Committee



**Carson Starkey, Local 2055 - Saint Paul, MN**  
Labor Standards Advisory Commission  
Human Rights Equal Economic Opportunity Commission



**Tom Warosh, Local 731 - Sheboygan, WI**  
Cleveland Village Trustee



**John Wiener, Local 310 - Rothschild, WI**  
Ashland County Supervisor



**Justin Weninger, Local 2283 - Pewaukee, WI**  
Kewaskum Village Board



**Chuck Yohaneck, Local 731 - Sheboygan, WI**  
Reedsville School Board



**Zachariah Zebell, Local 1143 - La Crosse, WI**  
Monroe County Board