



2022

Take Carpenter Economics to the Polls with You

With only weeks before the November 2022 elections, members are beginning to choose elected officials to represent them including governors, members of congress, legislators, city council members, judges, school board representatives and numerous other locally elected officials. Some members will vote by mail ballot, while others will vote early in person or on election day. In the wake of uncharted economic uncertainty, most carpenters will ultimately head to the polls to ensure their voices are heard. It is your choice on how you vote, just make sure your vote is counted. Apathy only allows others to make decisions on your behalf.

Although more Americans voted in 2020 than any other presidential election in the past 120 years, approximately one-third of eligible voters still chose not to cast a ballot. Nearly 80 million eligible voters stayed home. During a presidential midterm election, voting can drop off by as much as 15-20 percent. If this year is anything like 2018, less than half of the voting population will decide elections for those who choose not to engage in their civic duty.

A low turnout in this year's midterm election could mean that within the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, carpenter economics could be determined by those who do not understand or support our middle-class way of life.

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CARPENTER ECONOMICS

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Take Carpenter Economics to the Polls with You

The results of these elections will determine infrastructure packages, bonding bills, policies, wages, benefits and ultimately, job security. You can join hundreds of thousands of carpenters, union members and families in your county or voting district to make a difference in this year's elections.

Politicians are influenced by money and votes, so we will be working together as a large community to increase voter turnout this fall. We will ensure that our federal, state and locally elected officials listen to our needs. We will also stand up with a united voice on infrastructure, the economy, our veterans, our apprenticeships, energy, housing, economic development, and other key issues important to our members.

Please join me in this effort by contacting your state's political directors or local Political Action Committee chairs and volunteering to help turn out voters for this election. The only way to ensure we survive these difficult economic times and emerge even stronger is to back candidates and issues that support our livelihoods.

As we volunteer, never lose sight of the importance of carpenter economics. We are all responsible for ensuring that we have the best representation, funding for our communities and a better quality of life.

Election participation is just one of the key freedoms we enjoy as Americans. Don't let this opportunity pass. This November, as you head to the polls, we hope you will vote for candidates that support carpenter economics, collective bargaining rights, the Davis Bacon Act, prevailing wages, and the work that you do for others every day.

When you vote, please take carpenter economics with you.

In Solidarity,

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



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

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The only way to ensure we survive these difficult economic times and emerge even stronger is to back candidates and issues that support our livelihoods.

Union Standards Provide Broad Economic Benefits

The popularity of unions is on the rise and is approaching approval levels that have not been seen in over 50 years. A recent study released by the Joint Economic Committee (JEC) and the House Committee on Education and Labor illustrates that two-thirds of Americans said they approve of unions in 2021, which was a major year of collective bargaining activity. Last year, 951 elections were held with a 70 percent success rate. It should be noted that the percentage did not include new unions, which were voluntarily recognized by their employers.

Unions play a critical role in broadening economic benefits for both members and non-union workers alike. With higher wages, better benefits and more control over work schedules, unions set industry-wide standards that boost pay and working conditions for all employees. In order to compete, non-union employers must also recruit and retain workers by offering comparable compensation and benefits. The result is an increase in the average wages of workers regardless of union affiliation.

According to the study, union membership decreased from 23 percent in 1983 to 12 percent in 2021. That decline has now stopped, and union activity has been consistently increasing. In addition to the 951 elections last year, established unions also demonstrated their strength by engaging in eight successful strikes of at least 1,000 workers. These

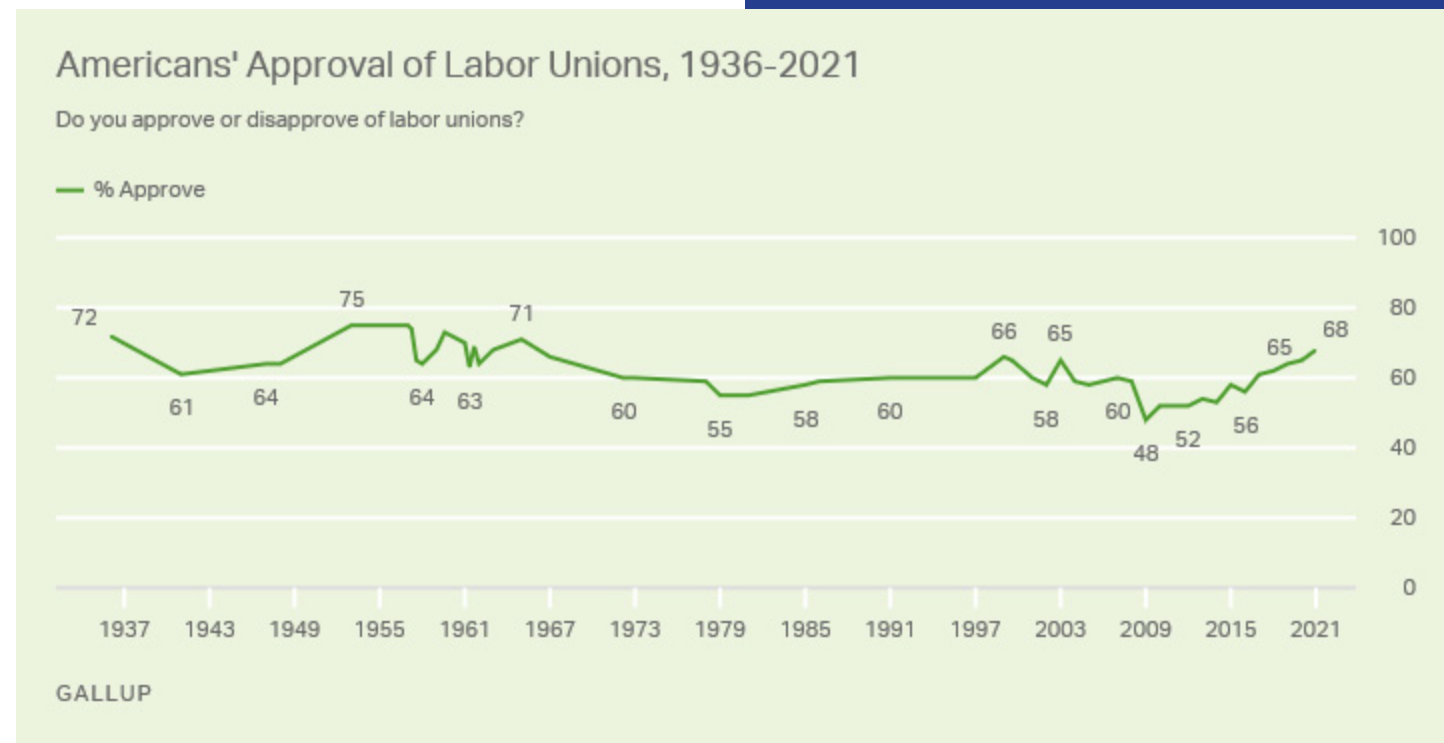
strikes directly benefited workers by increasing hourly wages and retirement benefits, maintaining full employer-covered health insurance premiums, ending forced overtime, increasing job security, and providing advantages to new employees.

Ultimately, this increased interest in unions has provided positive spillover effects in industries with high unionization rates and provided economic benefits to workers across the board. This renewed movement has been supported through bipartisan efforts to protect and support workers' rights to organize.

Many jobs created by the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will be subject to the Davis-Bacon Act, which establishes wage and benefit rates for construction workers on federally funded projects. Additionally, all large federal construction projects will include a project labor agreement, which is a collective bargaining agreement

According to a recent Gallup poll, sixty-eight percent of Americans approve of labor unions. Though statistically similar to last year's 65 percent, the current reading is the highest Gallup has measured since 71 percent in 1965.

The current results are from Gallup's annual Work and Education poll conducted Aug. 2-17, 2021. For more results from the poll, visit: bit.ly/gallupunions.



for contractors and labor groups on certain projects. The National Labor Relations Board also continues to act in support of union efforts. The Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act that restored workers' rights to organize was also passed in the US House in 2021.

The work of members, both on the job and in their communities, has made these labor advances possible. The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners (UBC) along with the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) have been at the forefront of federal and state legislation that directly impacts carpenter economics. Members' voices and their collective strength allow the UBC and NCSRCC to successfully advocate for workplace standards that best serve our members.

Biden Signs Executive Order Requiring Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) on Federal Construction Projects

The Biden-Harris Administration demonstrated their support for construction workers and unions on February 4, 2022, when President Biden signed an executive order requiring project labor agreements (PLAs) on all large-scale federal construction projects valued at over \$35 million. Based on the fiscal year 2021 figures, this executive order is expected to impact \$262 billion in federal contracts and the jobs of 200,000 workers.

Project labor agreements (PLAs) are a collective bargaining agreement that contractors have with one or more labor union(s), which establish the terms and conditions of a specific construction project before any workers are hired. PLAs include wages, benefits, working conditions, and protocols to resolve labor disputes. Any contractor awarded a federal contract (union or non-union) must agree and abide by a PLA.

In announcing the new executive order, the administration focused upon the benefits to taxpayers, workers and contractors including:

- Saving taxpayers money by completing projects with the best trained and highly skilled workers who meet project deadlines on time and on budget, without costly disruptions
- Reducing labor-management challenges on complex projects to provide safer work sites and avoid delays
- Improving the quality standards for bidders by setting terms and conditions
- Resolving labor disputes by establishing protocols on handling disruptions that arise and guaranteeing no work stoppages such as strikes or lockouts for efficiency



- Boosting the local economy by increasing employment opportunities and career advancements.

Unfortunately, President Biden only has the authority to impact construction funded by the federal government and not state or local projects. Most construction projects under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will not be covered under this executive order. So, the North Central States Regional Carpenter's Union leadership will continue to work with elected state and local officials on ensuring good union contractors are awarded these projects to further support our members.

Long-Time Legislator and Carpenter Made a Difference

Tom Bakk, a long-standing member of the Carpenter's Union, eight-year member of the Minnesota House and 20-year member of the Senate, is retiring from politics. Senator Bakk represents Senate District 3 including Cook, Koochiching, Lake and St. Louis counties in the northeastern part of Minnesota. He has held the position of majority leader and minority leader in the Senate. His lengthy career has included over 13 years as a regional council business representative, executive committee member, local union officer, Senate Tax Committee Chair, and even a run for governor. We took the opportunity to discuss trade unions, accomplishments, and politics with Senator Bakk just prior to his retirement at the end of 2022, and here is what he had to say:

How many years have you been a union member?

I joined in June 1976, which makes me a 46-year member. I was 22 years old at the time.

My father was also a union carpenter, and there was so much work on the Iron Range at the time. I built cabins on Lake Vermilion during my early years. It was helpful that I grew up around carpentry since there was not an apprenticeship program.

What got you interested in politics?

It started when I was a business representative. I had a background in labor/management from studying that process in college. A lot of the older members took an interest in a young guy like me, and they put me on the negotiating committee to work on a statewide agreement. Back then, we worked under a statewide contract.



The area wages were a supplement to the agreement.

Participating in negotiations had a significant impact on me. It became my passion to improve the wages and working standards for members. Since it was a statewide contract, we did the negotiations in the Twin Cities. I realized then that if you really wanted to make a difference, the rules were made in St. Paul.

In 1994, my Minnesota House of Representative member retired, and there was an open seat. I went to the DFL convention, and there was not an endorsement for the position. Although eleven other candidates filed to run, I was able to get a lot of the labor endorsements including the Steelworkers who also had a member of their own running. I had the support of the building trades, the NRA, the nurses, and so many other organizations that it appeared to many in the area that I was the endorsed candidate going into the primary election.

Looking back, I would never have been the winning candidate if it was not for the building trades and the Carpenters' support.

Proudest accomplishments in the legislature?

I am fortunate to have been in Senate leadership or Chair of the Tax Committee since 2006. Based upon those roles, I have been in many rooms when decisions were made that put our members to work on large projects.

When I was Tax Committee Chair, it dawned on me that the apprenticeship training facilities around the state should be exempt from property taxes, just like the vocational schools across Minnesota. I authored a bill and worked with House members to pass the legislation. Although it was a small bill to legislators, it saves our union funds thousands of dollars each year, which we can invest in our training programs.

As Senate Majority Leader, I helped close important deals like the raising of the minimum wage and all-day kindergarten. I also authored and passed numerous jobs-related bills including big projects like the Mall of America. I have also been involved with economic development opportunities on the Iron Range and across the state.

Do you have any advice for members who are running or thinking about getting into public service?

First, I would say, we do have a lot of members and retirees who are in local office, which is great. *I would encourage members to consider running for the state legislature. You can really make a difference. That's where the most important decisions are made.*

It can be a tremendous headache and a lot of work. However, the capitol is the place to be to protect our members from bad legislation. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of having

people who understand our industry in the room to make decisions on behalf of our members when the doors are closed. When it comes to being around the capitol, a lot of people used to say, "construction jobs are not real jobs." It took people like Representative Mike Nelson and myself being in our positions to make the argument on behalf of the construction industry that these are careers. When you look at the retirements of Tim Mahoney (pipefitter), Mike Sundin (painter), and I, there are less trades people at the table when important decisions are being made.

"On behalf of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, I would like to thank Senator Bakk for his lifetime of dedicated service to the building trades, our infrastructure and our apprenticeship programs," said Executive Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Nilsen. "It is impossible to measure the lives he has impacted, the number of families he has supported through his dedication to carpenter economics. He has truly provided working families a voice where it matters most, at the capitol."

Politics Impact the NLRB and Worker Protections

written by Burt Johnson, NCSRCC General Counsel

Prior to the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), states regulated their own labor practices. Many of them allowed businesses to file lawsuits demanding courts issue orders called injunctions which prevented workers from picketing, going on strike, or forming a union. As a result, powerful business interests were able to prevent workers from forming unions to combat exploitative working conditions and low pay.

In 1935, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the NLRA into law. This legislation was created to enforce federal labor laws through the five-member National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). The NLRB's general counsel became the top labor enforcement official pursuing legal action to punish employers who violated the NLRA. Since 1935, a variety of other laws have been passed protecting the rights and economic security of workers: the Social Security Act (retirement security), the Fair Labor Standards Act (overtime, minimum wage, etc.), Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, Employee Retirement Income Security Act, Civil Rights Act (prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin), Family and Medical Leave Act, and the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

All these important laws protected the rights of workers and were based upon the employer-employee relationships. Unfortunately, powerful interests developed a way of circumventing these important laws to strip workers of their legal protections and economic security. Simply put, if the employers created business models where workers were classified as independent contractors rather than employees, the employer could save a lot of money and deny employees their right to form or join a union under the NLRA.

The NLRA can only protect workers if the misclassification of those workers as independent contractors is a violation of the NLRA itself. Otherwise, employers can simply misclassify employees stripping workers of their right to form unions. In 2019, President Trump's appointed NLRB decided that misclassification of employees was not a violation of the NLRA. President Biden, shortly after taking office, fired the anti-union general counsel of the NLRB and restored a pro-labor majority on the board. Since then, the newly appointed general counsel has taken action to reverse the previous NLRB ruling and to ensure that the NLRA protects employees from being misclassified as independent contractors. This is a major win for workers and unions who want to grow their market share and give more workers a fair chance to become union members.

The NLRB has also announced "Joint Employer" rulemaking to make it harder for employers to avoid their obligations by subcontracting work to undercapitalized lower-tier subcontractors and labor brokers. Some construction employers utilize labor brokers and lower-tier subcontractors to act as the employer of their workforce. This practice can leave workers at the mercy of fly-by-night labor brokers who pay workers in cash and frequently do not carry workers compensation insurance. Under this illegitimate subcontracting relationship, the workers should be considered the employees of both the company paying them and the company controlling the wages and working conditions. This is critical in the construction industry in which many employers utilize subcontractors legitimately and others utilize so-called subcontractors purely to cheat their workers of wages, benefits, and better working conditions.

Work Boots on the Campaign Trail



Scott Luostari door knocking for Wisconsin's 73rd Assembly District.



Diego Morales for Coon Rapids City Council joined by members for a day of door knocking.



Brian Raines for Minnesota House 34A joined by members for a day of door knocking. *"Member volunteers make or break a campaign. I am incredibly humbled by the number of volunteers we have had on this drive. I am blown away by your support. Thank you for everything."*

Andy Lindberg (C) (Local 68, St. Paul, MN), MN Assistant Political Director Kim Nelson (L) and Director of Government Affairs Adam Duinick (R) out doorknocking for State Senator Gene Dornink (SD23).



Nichole Klonowski for Brooklyn Park City Council joined by Lisa Jacobson, Mayor of Brooklyn Park.

The most effective way to ensure that carpenters' voices are heard is to elect members to political office. Many of our members already hold positions as city council members, planning commission members, town supervisors, city board members and more (see page 23). However, we need additional members representing our interests when the polls close this November.

This year, we have three members, one former member and a spouse of a member running for office. All five have had member volunteers out door knocking, dropping literature, and making phone calls on their behalf to ensure carpenter issues are at the forefront. These candidates included:

- Gene Dornink, Minnesota State Senate 23, former member
- Nichole Klonowski, Brooklyn Park City Council, spouse of a Local 322 member
- Scott Luostari, Wisconsin's 73rd Assembly District, Carpenters Local 361
- Brian Raines, Minnesota House 34A, Carpenters Local 464
- Diego Morales, Coon Rapids City Council, Interior Systems Local 68

Nichole emerged successful in the August 9th primary and be on the November ballot along with Brian Raines and Senator Gene Dornink (running for re-election).

Member volunteers are critical to spreading the carpenter message and helping our member candidates get elected. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact your state's Political Director for more information:

- Adam Duinick, Director of Government Affairs at aduinick@ncsrcc.org
- Kim Nelson, Assistant Political Director of MN at knelson@ncsrcc.org
- Felicia Hilton, Political Director of IA/NE/SD at fhilton@ncsrcc.org
- Andrew Disch, Political Director of WI at adisch@ncsrcc.org.

"Thank you to all our member volunteers who have spent time and are committed to helping us elect candidates who strongly support carpenter economics," said Executive Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Nilsen. "Your dedication is critical to ensuring elected officials who support carpenter issues are elected in November."

Pro-Labor Policy Decisions on this November's Ballot

Organized labor will continue to be challenged by those who are unwilling to acknowledge the benefits of workers uniting for the common good. During the past two years, this Presidential Administration has been responsible for more pro-union policies than anyone may have anticipated. As midterm elections draw closer, changes may result in reversing some of the accomplishments of organized labor.

The U.S. Department of Labor, led by Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, works to promote the welfare of workers, job seekers and retirees by administering and enforcing labor laws. Walsh was appointed by President Biden in 2021 as the first union member in this position in 50 years. Under his leadership, the DOL has made more labor-friendly rulings including the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, reestablishing employee protections from being misclassified, the expansion of the Registered Apprenticeship program, and the request for additional OSHA funding to help protect workers' safety and health.



Secretary of Labor, Marty Walsh, US Department of Labor

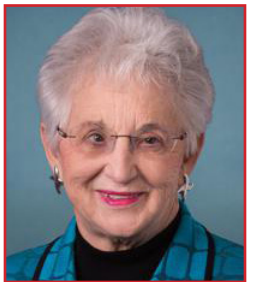
At the June 14, 2022 House Education and Labor Committee where the policies and priorities of the US Department of Labor were examined, the hearing transcript noted Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh remarking on how the DOL needs to take the construction industry model for registered apprenticeship and apply it to other industries. The building trades also have a robust pre-apprenticeship program that prepares construction workers for in-demand jobs.

Our current pro-worker culture may find stark resistance if anti-labor candidates control the U.S. House following the midterm elections. Unions will be one of the first targets if the political landscape shifts in November. The Department of Labor (DOL) and the National Labor Relations Board

(NLRB) will be under intense scrutiny, including a range of pro-labor policy decisions, the task force formed to encourage organized labor, and a wide-array of union-related regulations from the DOL.

In contrast, at the same June 14 hearing, Walsh noted that the DOL is working to expand apprenticeships and is having dialogues with employers through the Good Jobs Initiative to discuss better pathways to good paying jobs. The Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship has been working to strengthen the apprenticeship system.

At the same June 14 hearing, Ranking Member Virginia Foxx from North Carolina, and a known critic of the DOL and NLRB, started her remarks by noting that the Department of Labor is "up the creek without a paddle". Foxx blamed the DOL for the ongoing American labor shortage and noted one of the department's biggest problems is its obvious union favoritism. She said the DOL is "kowtowing" before union bosses instead of standing up for workers. Foxx cited what she called "DOL attacks on independent contractors" saying that the department is focused in this area because independent contractors are harder to "put under union bosses."



In contrast, Secretary Walsh responded on June 14 at the House Education and Labor Committee hearing that the DOL is not anti-business but instead wants to work with employers to help their workers succeed. He further stated that enforcement funding increases are necessary to make sure that when DOL puts out regulations and pursues worker protection initiatives, they are soliciting opinions from every stakeholder.

Workers' rights are on the ballot this November. With those targeting the labor accomplishments made in the last two years, it is essential that union members and labor-friendly voters alike take to the polls and elect those proven to stand behind middle-class workers.

City Leaders Against Wage Theft & Tax Fraud Launch with Educational Seminar

munities. April's educational seminar was the first outreach event hosted by the group. Workers, contractors, and legal experts presented at the event.

“Without the Carpenters’ advocacy, I would have no idea how prevalent the construction wage theft problem is,” stated City Leaders Chair and Richfield City Council Member Simon Trautmann, “As a lawyer, I have worked on cases involving the individual aspect of wage theft, but in construction, it is a systemic problem.”

Attendees heard from workers impacted by wage theft and contractors, both union and non-union, who are attempting to compete against companies not following the legal requirements of employers. Worker misclassification affects 23 percent of construction workers in Minnesota according to a study conducted by the Economic Policy Institute in 2021. This business model often involves contractors hiring labor brokers who exploit workers while avoiding paying unemployment insurance, workers compensation, and payroll taxes. This unscrupulous practice provides those contractors with an estimated 20

percent bidding advantage over honest contractors.

NCSRCC has been tracking wage theft for the past fifteen years. However, we are now involving municipal level politics into the fight. “It is extremely important that we work on this issue. It is the biggest threat to legitimate companies, both union and non-union. It threatens our jobs and our communities overall,” stated Woodrow Piner, Director for Central and Southern Minnesota.

HOLD DEVELOPERS ACCOUNTABLE

- Meet with your city council members to educate them on construction wage theft. Contact your state political director for talking points.
- Speak during “Public Comment” sections of your city council meeting to place the issue on public record with your city.
- Help elect outspoken “Champions” to city councils. Contact your state political director for a list of endorsed local candidates.
- Seek appointments to city committees or run for city council. Contact Kim Nelson at knelson@ncsrcc.org or (651)341-0490 to learn about Work Boots to Wingtips Candidate Bootcamp.

“Without the collaboration between business representatives and the political department, there is no way to obtain better results and educate the public. In the past, we fell short. Now, we educate elected officials in targeted areas and are receiving positive results.”

During the event, Edina City Council Member Carolynn Jackson, along with NCSRCC General Counsel Burt Johnson, co-facilitated an expert legal panel. The panel had representatives from county attorneys’ offices, the MN Department of Commerce’s Fraud Bureau, the MN Department of Labor and the MN Advocates for Human Rights.

“It’s one thing to identify a problem, it is another thing to know what to do about it and bring the force of the law to bare on it. One city cannot solve this, but all of us working together across jurisdictions can,” stated Council Member Jackson.



West Saint Paul City Council Member Julie Eastman (left) and Richfield City Council Member and Chair of City Leaders Against Wage Theft and Tax Fraud Simon Trautmann (right).

City Leaders Against Wage Theft and Tax Fraud will continue to build on the success of April’s educational seminar. “In the last year, we have grown involvement from six to two dozen cities in Minnesota. We have expanded beyond the Twin Cities Metro to engage more cities from other areas of the state. This year, I expect us to expand our presence within the League of Minnesota Cities, rural communities and work closely with county attorneys and city staff to create practical pathways for eliminating wage theft while raising public awareness about these crimes,” said Council Member Trautmann.

“Carpenters should care about this issue because where employers steal money from their employees, they make it harder for honest contractors to compete in the bidding process. They are not just stealing from their employees but from carpenters, employers and taxpayers everywhere. They are violating a sacred trust between employers and laborers, and they need to be held accountable.”

Roseville City Council Member Julie Strahan



“We can build something to protect our residents and the workers in our cities. Since both Minneapolis and Saint Paul have mechanisms to protect workers, we need to ensure that we do not have loopholes for bad developers.”

Saint Peter Mayor Shannon Nowell



“It was heartening to see city officials, including officials from my area, get so fired up about the issue. The event made us want to fight back and discover steps to take to prevent wage theft and tax fraud in the future. I am looking forward to reading more articles about victories for defrauded, hardworking carpenters. I didn’t know a lot about the issue and found the event to be very eye-opening at the prevalence of the problem.”

Golden Valley City Council Member Maurice Harris



“This is not just an issue where it is one side versus the other. It is multi-faceted. There are good contractors that want to do the right thing. This is hurting them too. We can work together to get good quality labor and to do what is right.”

Mayors, city council members, city employees, and law enforcement officers from Rochester to International Falls, Minnesota, gathered in Saint Paul last April to learn about construction tax fraud and wage theft. The event was hosted by City Leaders Against Wage Theft and Tax Fraud, a coalition of municipal, elected officials that are committed to educating and working with their peers to deter and enforce wage theft and tax fraud in cities throughout Minnesota. Prior to the event, the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters’ (NCSRCC) political department had formed a core committee designated as City Leaders Against Wage Theft and Tax Fraud. These members are committed to working together to find solutions to resolving wage theft in their com-



City Leaders Against Wage Theft and Tax Fraud expert legal panel with representatives from county attorneys’ offices, the MN Department of Commerce’s Fraud Bureau, the MN Department of Labor and the MN Advocate for Human Rights.

Twin Cities Housing Alliance and Rent Control Policy

Last fall, the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis put city ordinances on the ballot that imposed rent control policies for landlords. Despite North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) unsuccessfully advocating for the defeat of these ballot initiatives, our organization has stayed at the forefront of the issue by helping to form a coalition involved in lobbying behind the scenes for housing issues and other related policies.

The group is called the Twin Cities Housing Alliance, and they are preparing to do a more formal announcement soon. This alliance includes labor, business, developers, and other organizations with an interest in housing who are organizing to speak with one voice on policy issues that could slow or stop development.

Imposing rent control became a test case surrounding a policy initiative that has never been credited with keeping housing costs affordable. Many cities around the country have imposed rent stabilization measures only to realize that prices remain high and housing supply becomes greatly impacted by the rent control policy.

The St. Paul City Council strictly enacted the policy as it was written, and they have stumbled in their implementation of this ordinance. The Minneapolis ballot question gave the next council and mayor the ability to craft their own policy before implementing it.



Cecil Smith of the Minnesota Multi Housing Association announced a new coalition on October 5, 2021 opposing rent control ballot measures in St. Paul and Minneapolis at NCSRCC's Saint Paul location.

The cities' different approaches have led to different results. In St. Paul, building permits were down 80 percent over the first six months that the policy was in place. Planning commission meetings were also cancelled because projects stopped advancing through their process. Minneapolis has continued to build even though the development community had concerns about inclusionary zoning and their comprehensive plan.

Despite what happens in Minneapolis and St. Paul, other cities are hearing about these issues and will also need to grapple with affordable housing in our region. NCSRCC looks forward to meeting with cities, counties, and state officials about how we must build more housing supply with working carpenters who are paid a middle-class wage and benefit package.

The Twin Cities Housing Alliance is making inroads across the region and, like a lot of the partnerships that NCSRCC is involved in, we are leading the way in building relationships and directing the conversation around housing. This work supports our members who make a living building multi-family housing.

Governors Appoint Labor Representatives



Greater Wisconsin Training Director Rob Giese was appointed by Governor Evers in July to the Wisconsin Apprenticeship Advisory Council for a three-year term. The Council advises the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) on matters involving the Wisconsin Apprenticeship System.



NCSRCC General Counsel Burt Johnson was appointed in June to serve as the labor representative on Governor Walz's Workers' Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC). WCAC advises the Department of Labor commissioner about matters of workers' compensation and submits recommendations for proposed changes to statutes.



NCSRCC Business Representative Sam Heimlich of Carpenters Local 322 was appointed to Governor Walz's Workforce Development Board (GWDB). The GWDB has a responsibility to advise the Governor on Minnesota's workforce system. The board represents key leaders from business, education, labor, community-based organizations, and government.

Building Power with Candidate Bootcamp

A new group of candidates to the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) Work Boots to Wingtips (W2W) Candidate Bootcamp program were welcomed this past May. Members met in Saint Paul, Minnesota, for a two-day course about how to successfully run for office and win an election. Participants included members and spouses who have previously run for office, are considering running for office or want to play a supportive role such as campaign manager or field director.

James Kroening (Local 264 - Pewaukee, WI) stated, "Aaron Spencer (Local 344 - Pewaukee, WI) helped me out on my campaign for Oak Creek Alderman. I believe when people show you support, you give them twice as much support when they need it. Your support encourages them to support others in return. So, I volunteered for Aaron's campaign, and now he is assisting others."

Participants particularly enjoyed the portion of the curriculum that gave

Candidate Bootcamp ensures that people considering a run for office understand the stress campaigning can have without support from their families. Our members have an advantage being part of the programs NCSRCC offers, but they cannot replace the support they need from family members. We encourage any decision to run for office to be a family decision," stated Kim Nelson, W2W Instructor and MN Assistant Political Director.

W2W Candidate Bootcamp is just the



Congratulations to our May 2022 graduates: Rob Busch (Local 322 & Columbus City Council Member), Edgar Cruz (Local 310), Amanda Heiser (Local 322), Nichole Klonowski (Spouse of Local 322 member), Eric Leanos (Local 106), Royce Peterson (Local 1260), John Swanson (Local 322), Laura Turman (Local 1176)

"Helping members get elected is the key to ensuring elected officials support our issues," said Patrick Nilsen, NCSRCC Executive Secretary-Treasurer. "Carpenter economics and the prosperity of our membership is directly related to funding for things such as construction projects, permitting and eliminating tax fraud. Elected officials play an integral role in that process, and the best one to represent us is one of us."

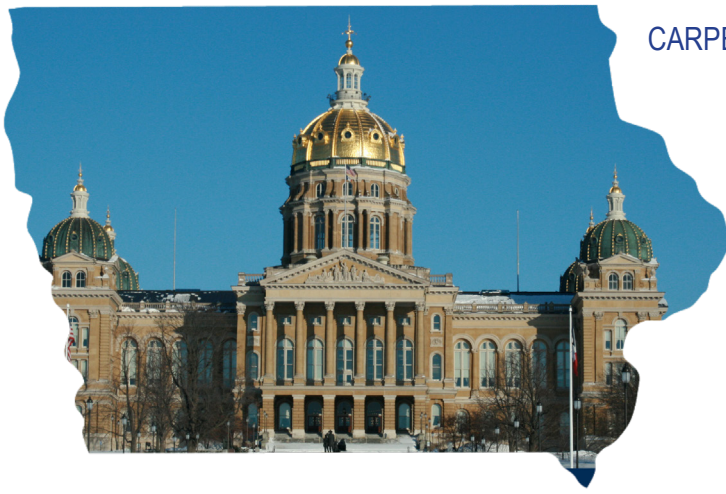
During the two-day course, members learned campaign tactics, best practices, and the fundamentals of running for office. The conversations about values and activities fostered team building which was equally useful.

them an opportunity to ask questions of current elected Minnesota officials. Participants heard from Hennepin County Commissioner Kevin Anderson, Richfield City Council Member Simon Trautmann and West Saint Paul City Council Member Robyn Gulley. These were frank discussions about campaigning and holding public office. The majority of questions focused on policy, strategy, and most importantly, family.

"It is important that our members and their spouses run for office. This curriculum prepares participants to campaign and win an election. Running for office can put a strain on the time you get to spend with family.

beginning of the graduates' learning opportunities. They receive mentorship from elected officials, assistance and support from the NCSRCC political department and the help and guidance from fellow W2W Candidate Bootcamp graduates and NCSRCC political action leaders.

Candidate Bootcamp graduates are winning. They hold elective office and key political appointments that can be helpful in job creation and the advancement of area labor standards for our membership. If you would like to join them or are thinking of running for office, contact Kim Nelson at knelson@ncsrcc.org or (651)341-0490 to learn about our next W2W Candidate Bootcamp.



IA Governor Kim Reynolds & the Republican Legislature Slash Unemployment Benefits

would be considered acceptable if the wages offered are at or above the following percentages based upon the duration of the unemployment period.

- AWW at 100 percent or above- acceptable if work is offered in the 1st week of a claim
- AWW at 90 percent or above - acceptable if work is offered during the 2nd/3rd week of a claim
- AWW at 80 percent or above- acceptable if worked is offered during the 4th/5th week of a claim
- AWW at 70 percent or above- acceptable if work is offered during the 6th through the 8th week of a claim
- AWW at 60 percent or above acceptable if work is offered after the 8th week of a claim.

As of July 2022, Iowa's unemployment rate is calculated at just 2.7 percent. According to the Iowa Workforce Development statistics, April 2022 had the lowest level of unemployment claims since 1973. These facts emphasize the inaccuracies cited to pass this punitive legislation which hurts Iowan workers, families, and communities.

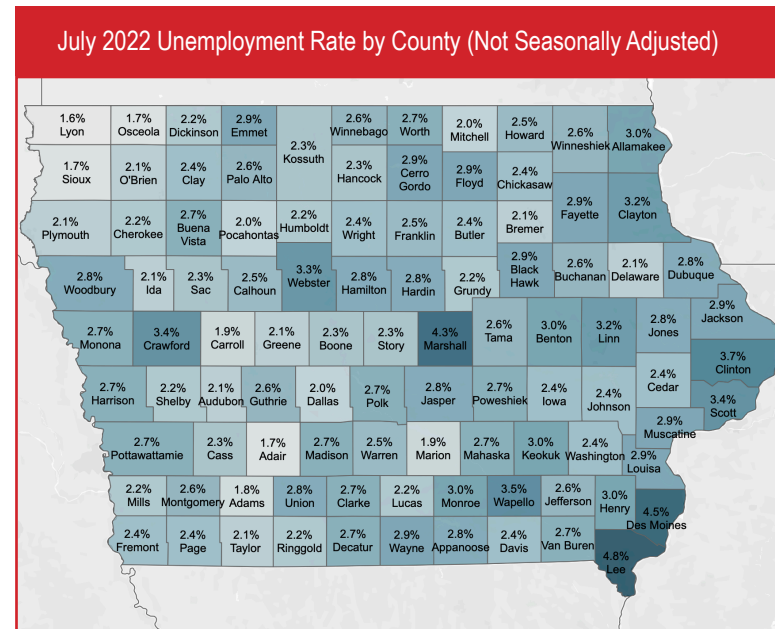
For more information, please see Iowa Unemployment Insurance Statistics: www.iowalmi.gov/uistats

The on-going coronavirus pandemic has resulted in economic hardships for many Iowan families and workers. Due to the impacts of this health care crisis, many workers have been forced to rely upon unemployment compensation to pay their monthly bills and put food on their tables. However, during the legislative session of 2022, Governor Kim Reynolds and the Republican legislature voted to reduce unemployment benefits for hardworking Iowans. They claimed there were too many people receiving unemployment compensation.

In her Condition of the State Address, Governor Reynolds also insinuated the unemployed are laying in "hammocks." The Republicans subsequently cut unemployment benefits from a 26-week period to a 16-week maximum. This ten-week reduction in payments will take \$75 million dollars each year from working Iowans and provide that amount to businesses. In addition, the new law redefines misconduct, which is a basis for denying workers from claiming this benefit. This change will result in fewer workers being deemed eligible for unemployment compensation.

Iowa's new unemployment compensation law went into effect on July 3, 2022. This legislation also contains significant changes. The new legislation reduced the length of payable benefits when a business closes from 39 weeks to 26 weeks. In addition, workers will now be required to take a job that pays less than their previous job after just two weeks of unemployment. The wage requirement to determine if a job is acceptable will also be calculated differently and utilize the wages earned in the highest quarter of the employment record. Specifically, this period is divided by 13 (the number of weeks in a quarter) to determine the average weekly wage (AWW).

For example: A worker earned \$5200 in the highest quarter period. That amount is then divided by 13, which equates to \$400 (\$10 per hour). A job offer



Iowa's Ongoing Battle to Preserve Construction Standards and Collective Bargaining



While the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCS-RCC) has successfully defended against many legislative assaults on workers in recent sessions, unions have suffered some critical setbacks under the leadership of the Republican legislative bodies and governor.

Since 2017, the Iowa Building Trades and public sector unions have faced an onslaught of attacks. **Many Republican legislators, led by Governor Kim Reynolds, have worked to ban project labor agreements (PLAs) and preempt local governments from passing responsible bidder ordinances that provide unions and legitimate contractors the opportunity to fairly participate in the competitive bidding process.**

These same majorities continue to make decisions that negatively impact carpenter economics and impact the lives of members. **They created Davis-Bacon road funding swaps, a process which allows the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) to use dollars from the state's roads budget for local roads instead of requiring federal dollars and corresponding Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rates for those projects.**

This legislature also froze the state's minimum wage at \$7.25 per hour and preempted local governments from passing their own local increases. Iowa's collective bargaining laws for public sector union employees were also gutted. In addition, the Republican majorities implemented a controversial re-write of the workers compensation rules that harmed workers by removing work-related injuries known as "whole body" injuries from the system.

Along with these harmful legislative changes over the past two years, many Republicans have demonstrated their support for non-union contractors, especially the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC). Working with our legislative allies, we were initially successful in preventing language which would have voided our subcontractor clause in our collective bargaining agreements requiring union general contractors to use union sub-contractors on jobsites. **However, in 2022 with a Republican super majority, legislation was passed that voided our subcontractor clause. Labor unions are now left with the option of challenging this legislative action in district court.**

In order to protect our members, NCS-RCC continues to push back against

anti-union, low-bid special interests in Iowa. We oppose the lobbyists and organizations that have successfully banned design-build as part of the bid process for large vertical construction projects. We also fought against special interests that successfully cut unemployment benefits by 10 weeks.

NCSRCC defends against harmful proposed legislation by working across party lines and obtaining assistance from both Democrat and Republican legislators in Iowa. This same bipartisan support is what we rely upon to preserve our fundamental rights and expand work opportunities for our members. This key support provides protection in the legislature for our hard-working members.

We will continue to rely upon friendly legislators from both parties to maintain our industry standards.

Although many of their colleagues in the Republican party have been willing to devalue the work carpenters do, we have been supported by every Democrat. We also recognize the valuable assistance from several key Republican supporters who understand working people's issues.

Visiting Job Sites with Elected Leaders in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota

Each year, the political team and business agents invite leaders elected to city, county, state and federal office to tour job sites. The goal is to let them see firsthand how our work is performed and the working conditions on a job site.

During Tax Fraud Days of Action, we took leaders to tour job sites in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. While on these tours, leaders had the opportunity to observe the differences between union and non-union job sites where work was being performed on behalf of a labor broker. In addition, when these elected leaders were speaking with non-union workers on their sites, those workers described the number of days and hours they have worked without receiving overtime compensation. Many of the non-union workers revealed that they are still waiting to be paid for their labor, how they have been paid in cash and the amount they are getting paid. Workers also discussed their poor living accommodations. Many elected leaders are shocked to learn that these labor practices occur on public projects that they supported. Elected leaders have also been surprised to learn that it is happening to community members living in their own districts.

Business Representatives Ernie Colt (Local 948 - Sioux City, IA), Brendan Farrell and Antuan Duran (Local 587 - Sioux Falls, SD) took two elected leaders in Iowa on job site tours in July 2022. “It is clear that the Carpenters’ Union trains and protects workers while ensuring members earn good wages and have safe working conditions,” said Iowa State Senator Jackie Smith. Union Representatives care



L to R: Ernie Colt (LU 948, Sioux city, IA), Iowa State Representative Steve Hansen, Iowa State Senator Jackie Smith, Antuan Duran (LU 587, Sioux Falls, SD), Brendan Farrell (LU 587, Sioux Falls, SD)

about all workers and their safety on a jobsite. When a labor broker is brought in, they also work to uncover cases of wage theft, tax fraud and safety violations. Quality of work can ultimately be compromised and either the tenant, owner or taxpayer is left responsible for projects that fall apart and need repair due to substandard work. Senator Smith stated, “Labor brokers are notorious for providing a quick, cheap labor force that sounds appealing until it is uncovered that the workers are working for much lower wages and oftentimes without workers compensation insurance. They may also be forced into substandard living conditions. Thank you for caring about people, projects and our community.”

The tours that the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters complete with elected officials are critical to underscoring the importance of utilizing union labor on all public projects. These tours provide these leaders with direct knowledge of the value that union workers bring to their job sites every day. In addition, the elected leaders then can articulate the

significance of carpenter economics to their colleagues, constituents, families and friends. We should all strive to live in communities where an honest day’s work is rewarded in a way that supports families and public services.

“The discussion we had about the labor broker’s involvement and other inequities was disheartening to say the least,” said Iowa State Representative Steve Hansen. “Clearly, the state of Iowa can do more on the enforcement and inspection side. Not having enough money is an unacceptable excuse when the state has close to a \$2 billion surplus. We know it is a matter of priorities and another example of why elections matter. You can be assured I will share this knowledge with my fellow Iowa House members and others in our communities who should be interested.”

Lincoln Takes Steps to Stop Tax Fraud

In the last edition of Carpenter Economics, you may recall reading about an ordinance passed by the City of Omaha back in February of 2021, which incentivized contractors to utilize apprentices on city taxpayer-funded projects and document the accompanying payroll. A similar ordinance has now been passed in Lincoln.

After three public hearings and testimony from several local union carpenters, another similar ordinance was advanced and passed in the city of Lincoln in March 2022 on a 5-2 vote. Like Omaha, the Lincoln ordinance allows for a bid incentive up to \$500,000 for contractors hiring apprentices starting in calendar year 2023. However, this ordinance also includes language indicating that taxpayer-funded projects over \$500,000 will immediately require contractors to show proof of workers’ compensation on all paid wages and provide verifiable payroll records upon request. This stipulation also applies to sub-contractors. The Lincoln ordinance stipulates that all employees are to be paid via direct deposit or check with a record of payments and itemized withholdings, which will be retained.

“The North Central States Regional Council would like to thank Lincoln City Councilman James Michael Bowers and Councilwoman Tammy Ward,” said Executive Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Nilsen. “They were our champions, and we appreciated their hard work and support with passing this ordinance. They understand the importance of carpenter economics and how it benefits the workers and their communities.”

North Dakota Lobbying and Political Work

With so much expected turnover in Bismarck, our North Dakota team has been reaching out to legislative and local candidates with screening questionnaires. We have had some success in working on energy, career connections, and engaging with the Fargo Morehead diversion project, and we continue to raise awareness of tax fraud and misclassification. Our area business representatives and political team have met Governor Burgum and numerous legislators and cabinet members to discuss these critical issues with them.

With the legislature and statewide offices so strongly dominated by Republicans, a bipartisan approach to our election and lobbying work has been essential for us to make incremental progress in North Dakota.



TITLE 2 OFFICERS, DEPARTMENTS AND PERSONNEL

Chapter 2.18 PURCHASING DIVISION

2.18.034 Contractor Provisions.

The contractor rules in this Section shall apply to any contractor, as defined in this Section, which has submitted a bid or been awarded a contract in an amount exceeding \$500,000.00; all other provisions of Chapter 2.18 shall apply.

a. Definitions.

For purposes of this Section, the following terms are defined as follows:

1. The word "contractor" wherever used herein, is hereby defined as any person, partnership, corporation, association or joint venture which has been awarded a contract in an amount in excess of \$500,000.00, and includes every subcontractor on such a contract.
2. The word "subcontractor," wherever used herein, is hereby defined as any person, partnership, corporation, association or joint venture which supplies any of the work, labor services, professional services, supplies, equipment, materials or any combination of the foregoing under a contract with the contractor on a contract.
3. The word "contract," wherever used herein, is hereby defined as any contract awarded by the City whereby the City is committed to expend or does expend its funds, including funds received from other government agencies, in return for work, labor services, financial services, technical services, professional services, supplies, equipment, materials or any combination of the foregoing.
4. The word "bidder," wherever used herein, is hereby defined as any person, partnership, corporation, association or joint venture seeking to be awarded a City contract.
5. The term "construction contract," wherever used herein, means any City contract for the construction, rehabilitation, alteration, conversion, extension or repair of buildings, streets or other improvements to real property.
6. A "construction contractor" is a business concern that contracts with the City for the construction rehabilitation, alteration, conversion, extension or repair of buildings, streets or other improvements to real property and is the signatory as the builder of the prime construction contract for the project, responsible for the means and methods, material, labor, equipment to be used in the construction execution of the project in accordance with the plans, specifications and contract documents.
7. The term "other contractor" is a business concern that contracts with the City to provide supplies or services, including professional services.

b. Contract—Apprentice Utilization.

1. For purposes of this Section, only the following definitions shall apply:





Governor Evers Bolsters Union Jobs and Tourism in Green Bay, WI

With the existing budget gap combined with the rising cost of supplies and materials, the effort turned to the state capitol. The state of Wisconsin has long had an active role in investing in tourism infrastructure, an \$86 billion industry in the state. While there was general agreement that this was a worthy project, partisan gridlock at the capitol in Madison prevented legislative funding.

This effort then turned to the office of Governor Evers and his administration's ability to use federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to boost industries hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic, including tourism. However, the use of these funds is highly restricted, and construction was not a common utilized purpose. Fortunately, Governor Evers' office creatively devised the competitive Tourism Capital Investment grant to comply with ARPA. To qualify for the grant, projects must have a substantial capital construction component which could include projects like convention centers or travel centers like in the case of Green Bay. As a result, the visitor center applied and was awarded a \$2.5 million grant from this program which fully funded the project.

The promise of work opportunities for union carpenters guided the advocacy efforts of NCSRCC throughout the entire process. After the Tourism Capital Investment grant was awarded, the project began to move forward. Local carpenters joined Governor Evers and Miron Construction leadership on June 28th for the ceremonial groundbreaking.

A long-stalled construction project in Green Bay is now becoming a reality due to efforts of Governor Tony Evers, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) and community leaders in Northeastern Wisconsin. The final result will be a new Green Bay Visitor Center built by union carpenters from Miron Construction while boosting Green Bay's burgeoning tourism sector.

For this project to come to fruition, forming a state and local partnership was necessary. At the local level, several locals in NE Wisconsin joined business and community leaders in a fundraising drive to raise the funds necessary for the center. Local 955, Local 731, Local 1056, Local 1146, and the regional council generously contributed to this effort. However, even with the outpouring of support, a fundraising gap persisted.



The carpenters join Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers and visitor center representatives for the announcement of the grant award in Green Bay, WI.

"The Green Bay Visitor Center is a result of our strong partnerships with groups like the Carpenters Union. I am proud that my administration was able to allocate the ARPA funds necessary to complete this project. The center will bolster the region's tourism economy once it is built by the highly skilled union carpenters from the area."

- Governor Tony Evers

Commentary from State Rep. Tip McGuire: Worker Misclassification Costly for Workers, Taxpayers

My number one priority as a state representative will always be to stand up for the middle class and working families. That is why I am so concerned about reports of rampant worker misclassification, particularly in the construction industry, from out-of-state contractors in our region and across the state. This practice not only exploits the workers, it also results in tax evasion and fraud impacting everyone.

Misclassification occurs when employees are misclassified as 'independent contractors' or even worse, paid cash off the books. We know that many good, local, responsible tax-paying construction companies play by the rules and treat their workers fairly. Unfortunately, there is a disturbing trend that has emerged in recent years where companies who have won bids on large construction projects, are bringing in out-of-state workers and paying them low wages in under-the-table cash payments while dodging their tax responsibilities. This unfair practice has wide-reaching impacts on taxpayers, the construction industry, and the workers.

Each year, hardworking Wisconsinites pay their taxes to ensure access to the government services we need such as our first responders, good roads and highways and our public education system. Misclassification practices are a form of tax and insurance fraud. By failing to declare their workers as employees, companies avoid paying payroll taxes, unemployment insurance taxes, and the appropriate workers compensation premiums. It is estimated that the State of Wisconsin loses millions of dollars every year due to these deceptive practices which rob our communities of funding for our schools, roads, public safety, and other critical programs.

For workers in these employment arrangements, cash payments are often the initial draw to the work, but the hidden costs can be devastating. The workers often do not realize that by accepting cash payments, they are not eligible for

worker protections such as unemployment insurance and social security. This puts them in the precarious situation of being one workplace injury away from being unemployed without any safety net. When workers do not have medical insurance, taxpayers also bear the burden of emergency room costs.

You may be shocked to learn that not only is this practice rampant within the construction industry, but it also occurs on taxpayer-funded projects. What is deeply concerning is that tax cheats could be the recipients of massive multi-million-dollar tax subsidies funded by those who pay their taxes.

While every single taxpayer in the state bears the burden of covering the costs of these deceptive practices, those in the construction industry who do things the right way stand to lose the most. Cheating contractors win low-ball bids for construction projects while honest contractors who play by the rules have difficulty competing. This creates a vicious cycle of tax cheating, leaving honest contractors and taxpayers to pay the price.

While this misclassification problem continues, I am encouraged that Governor Evers and others across the state are taking this issue seriously. In 2019, the Governor announced a Joint Task Force on Tax Fraud and Worker Misclassification through the Department of Workforce Development. The task force, comprised of honest employers and workers alike, has done important work in helping to identify this problem and increase awareness. However, more must be done to stop and prosecute perpetrators. The department needs more resources dedicated to identifying unethical contractors. This should be a no-brainer. These tax cheats need to be held accountable. Any back taxes owed would pay for the extra enforcement costs many times over.

NCSRCC Infrastructure Conferences

The North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) held Infrastructure Conferences to bring attention to the legislative jobs bills and projects that are putting our brothers and sisters to work. These gatherings have been an opportunity for members to meet elected officials, learn about the work outlook in their area, and engage in the political process in their communities.

Over the years, Carpenter members and their families have attended legislative conferences where they meet with their state lawmakers. The last couple years have challenged us with COVID restrictions, virtual legislative and committee sessions and other disruptions to having our voices heard in the legislative process.

This year's Infrastructure Conferences have created opportunities to gather as one ensuring our voice is heard and we continue to stay politically engaged. Whether it is a specific project or key area of focus like housing, energy, water infrastructure, bridges, industrial building, or any other legislation that impacts our work, we will show up and be involved in the process. We invited the industry experts; we heard from leading legislators and elected officials; and we made sure they knew who we are and why our members are the lifeblood of the middle class in the North Central States.

The theme that unites our approach to politics and legislative advocacy is a focus on carpenter economics. We are speaking to elected officials about our members' jobs and their livelihoods whether we are in Bismarck, Des Moines, Lincoln, Madison, Pierre, Saint Paul, Washington DC, or any city hall or county board meeting around the region.



(L to R): Gilbert Brown, WI Gov. Tony Evers, NCSRCC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Nilsen

Mark Bruner (LU 314), Brooklyn President; Zach Zebell (LU 1143), Monroe County Board; Scott Luostari (LU 361), Douglas County; Matt Bieser (LU 344), Delavan Council; Kevin Hennessey (LU 1143), West Salem Village Board



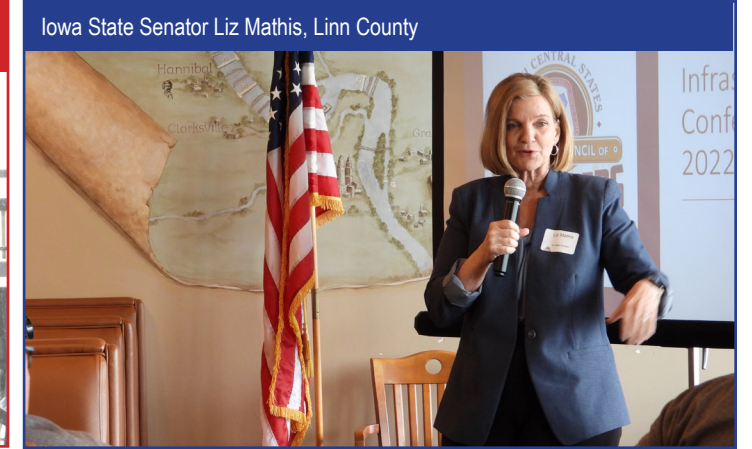
Wisconsin Campaign Kickoff participants began their conference day in the Chula Vista grand ballroom.

The 2022 Wisconsin Campaign Kickoff was held on June 16-17 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI.

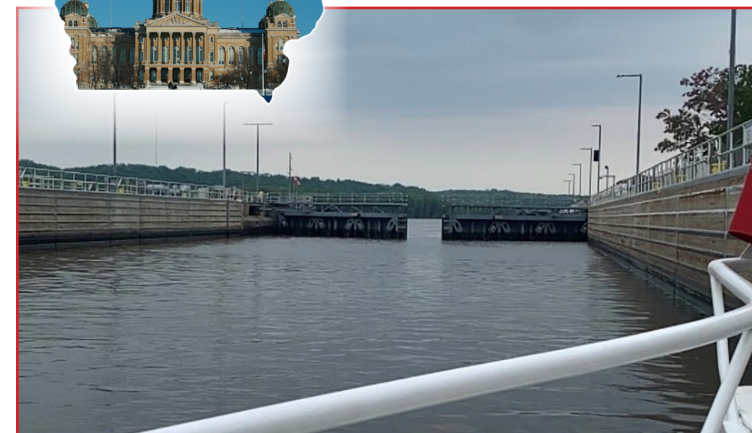
The Conference began with a member reception on June 16 followed by a formal conference on June 17. Opened by NCSRCC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Nilsen, other speakers included Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers, former Green Bay Packer Gilbert Brown, Sr. Public and Community Affairs Manager Zack Hill from Alliant Energy, NCSRCC energy consultant Bob Bartlett and a panel of elected members.



Aaron Dunlop, Operations Project Manager for the US Army Corps of Engineers



Iowa State Senator Liz Mathis, Linn County



Lock 14 taken from the boat cruise discussing upcoming diving work.

In Dubuque, Iowa, the Infrastructure Conference was held on May 24 and included a boat cruise of Lock 14 on the Mississippi River to learn about the upcoming work in the diving industry

NCSRCC's Political Director Felicia Hilton, opened the Conference and was followed by a line-up of speakers including US Army Corps of Engineers Operations Project Manager Aaron Dunlop and Deputy Project Manager Brunson Gothus. Other speakers included Representative Christina Bohannon, JF Brennan representative Jeff Steiber and Senator Liz Mathis.

In partnership with other state trade unions, the Minnesota Infrastructure Conference was held on May 18 at the Minnesota State Capitol.

Members began their day meeting with their local legislators and joined a Minnesota Trades Rally for Jobs in the Capitol Rotunda later in the morning. The Rally called for state leaders to invest in local infrastructure, make workers safer on the job, and expand union construction career opportunities for women, veterans and people of color.



Minnesota trade unions rally at the MN State Capitol Rotunda.



Members gather in front of the MN State Capitol following the trade unions rally.

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. Any attempt to eliminate or water down Davis-Bacon is an attempt to pay us and our other construction industry brothers and sisters less. It's an attack on our livelihood and we must make sure we have support from Democrats and Republicans in Washington and locally.

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.

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.

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.

	Davis-Bacon 2022	Infrastructure 2021	Inflation Reduction Act
Rep. Bryan Steil	WI ✓	✗	✗
Rep. Mark Pocan	WI ✓	✓	✓
Rep. Ron Kind	WI ✓	✓	✓
Rep. Gwen Moore	WI ✓	✓	✓
Rep. Scott Fitzgerald	WI ✗	✗	✗
Rep. Glenn Grothman	WI ✗	✗	✗
Rep. Thomas Tiffany	WI ✗	✗	✗

	Davis-Bacon 2022	Infrastructure 2021	Inflation Reduction Act
Rep. Mike Gallagher	WI ✓	✗	✗
Rep. Jim Hagedorn	MN ✗		
Rep. Angie Craig	MN ✓	✓	✓
Rep. Dean Phillips	MN ✓	✓	✓
Rep. Betty McCollum	MN ✓	✓	✓
Rep. Ilhan Omar	MN ✓	✗	✓
Rep. Tom Emmer	MN ✓	✗	✗

	Davis-Bacon 2022	Infrastructure 2021	Inflation Reduction Act
Rep. Michelle Fischbach	MN ✗	✗	✗
Rep. Pete Stauber	MN ✓	✗	✗
Rep. Ashley Hinson	IA ✗	✗	✗
Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks	IA ✗	✗	✗
Rep. Cindy Axne	IA ✓	✓	✓
Rep. Randy Feenstra	IA ✓	✗	✗
Rep. Jeff Fortenberry	NE ✓	✗	
Rep. Don Bacon	NE ✓	✓	✗
Rep. Adrian Smith	NE ✗	✗	✗
Rep. Dusty Johnson	SD ✗	✗	✗
Rep. Kelly Armstrong	ND ✗	✗	✗

	Davis-Bacon 2021	Infrastructure 2021	Inflation Reduction 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



Tom Bakk, Local 606 - Virginia, MN
Minnesota State Senate, District 03



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
Western Iowa Workforce Development 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



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



Richard Glomski, Local 731 - Sheboygan, WI
Town of Schleswig Supervisor



Jesse Gregerson, Local 427 - Papillion, NE
Downtown Omaha INC Board Member



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



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



Bill Murphy, Local 1143 - La Crosse, WI
Village of Necedah Trustee



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



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



Jeff Peterson, Local 322 - Saint Paul, MN
Forrest Lake School Board Member



Royce Peterson, Local 1260 - Iowa City, IA
Citizen's Community Policing Advisory Board



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



John Weiner, Local 310 - Rothschild, WI
Ashland County Supervisor



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



Chuck Yohanek, Local 731 - Sheboygan, WI
Reedsville School Board



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