



CARPENTER ECONOMICS

2025



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Political Action is Not Optional. It is Essential.

Elections have consequences, and for our members, those consequences are real, immediate, and often deeply personal. Every vote cast, every official elected, and every key piece of legislation has the power to shape the future of our jobs, determine the safety of our worksites, and directly impact the wages and benefits our families rely upon.

For union carpenters, these are not distant or abstract policy debates. They are lived experiences. When a city council approves a development agreement, it could mean hundreds, even thousands, of hours of union work. When a governor vetoes a prevailing wage bill, it can negatively ripple through our paychecks. When Congress allocates federal infrastructure funding, it determines how many boots hit the ground and how many families can count on a steady income.

This is why political engagement is not a luxury, it is a responsibility. Political action is not optional, it is essential.

It is critical to do more than simply inform our members about the political issues that matter. The real power comes when members are inspired to act. Union carpenters do not just show up on the jobsite. They show up at the ballot box and the phone banks. They knock doors, drop literature, and stand shoulder-to-shoulder at the state capitol to demand better for their fellow workers and their commu-

nities. Member voices, votes, and unwavering solidarity are the foundation of our collective strength and the key to building a future where workers are respected, fairly compensated, and safe on the jobsite.

At the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, we do not just talk about political action, we organize it. We invest in political education, provide opportunities for members to directly engage with lawmakers, and create pathways for them to become powerful advocates. Whether it is attending legislative conferences, testifying in hearings, or building relationships with carpenter-endorsed candidates, our members are equipped to turn knowledge into influence.

We make sure members understand exactly what is at stake, because when a carpenter knows how legislation affects their job, their safety, or their paycheck, they are more likely to step-up and take action.

We fight for strong labor standards, funding that keeps our trades working, and laws that hold bad contractors accountable. We stand against worker misclassification, wage theft, and any policy that seeks to erode the rights of working people.

Whether it is at the bargaining table or a state capitol, we are united in our mission, because our greatest strength has always been our



unity, on the jobsite and at the polls.

When union carpenters lead, legislators listen. When we organize, vote and act together, we do not just react to politics, we shape it. We create a future that works for working people, and we never back down from that fight.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick M. Nilsen".

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

Negotiating Against Inflation - Even During the Tough Years



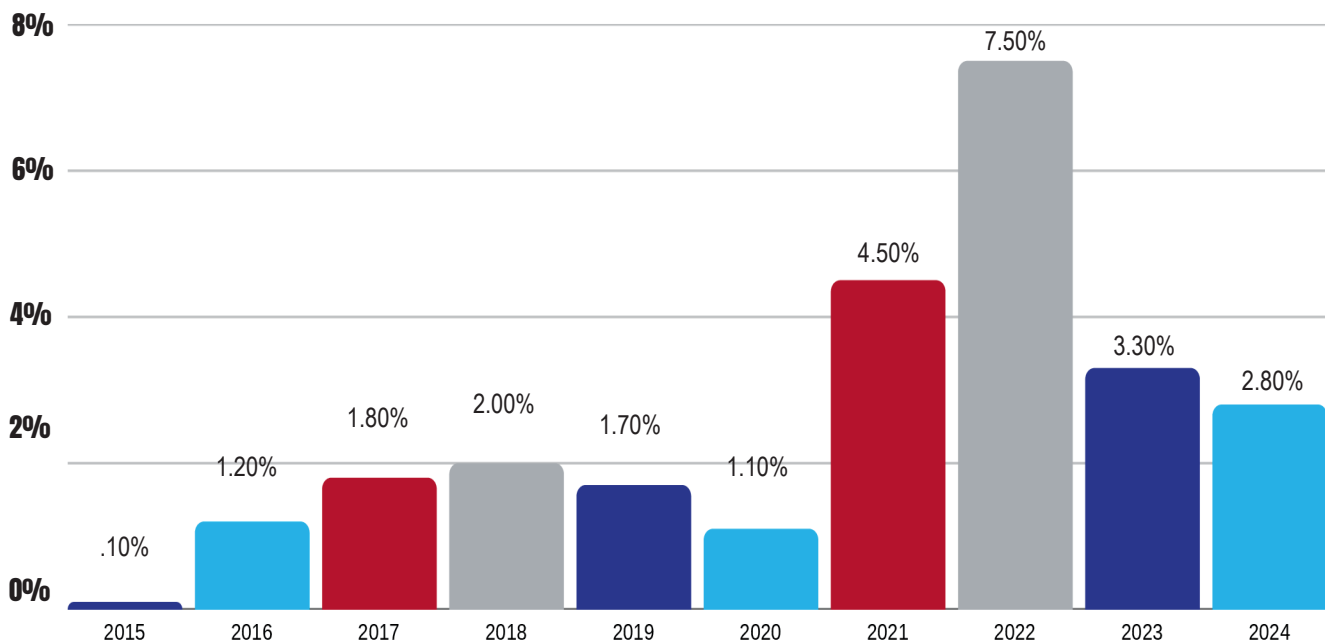
If you are working in the commercial carpentry, piledriving or millwright business, you have likely felt the pressure of rising prices at the grocery store, at the gas pump, and just about everywhere. If you look at inflation across the globe, you quickly realize most of it may be out of the control of the individual consumer. However, there is something many of you may not realize. Thanks to the hard work of your negotiating committees, the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) has consistently kept up with and beat those burdening, rising costs.

While many workers in other industries have seen their paychecks fall behind the rising cost of living, union carpenters across our region have stayed ahead. For every contract, your union sits down at the bargaining table and fights to secure meaningful increases to the total package, which includes not only wages, but also essential benefits like health care and retire-

ment. These negotiated improvements are designed to not only help you keep up with current financial pressures, but also to ensure you can plan for a stable and secure future for yourself and your family.

Even during challenging economic years, our union negotiations have consistently delivered raises that outpace the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is a number the government uses to measure how much everyday prices are rising. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics calculates CPI as a measurement of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for consumer goods and services. These indexes are available throughout the United States for various geographic areas. They are generally available for largely populated areas or regions like the Midwest. Average price data for select utility, automotive fuel, and food items are also available.

Midwest CPI in Percentage by Year



When we reference your “total package,” we are not only talking about your hourly wage. The union fights for all carpenter economics including:

- Health insurance for you and your family
- Strong pensions and retirement
- Apprenticeships and training programs
- Jobsite protections and safety standards

All these items add up to something bigger than just a paycheck. They determine your overall financial security now and into the future.

All the comparisons below are random representations of locals throughout our regional council. We used the urban CPI to demonstrate the changes in prices of all goods and services purchased for consumption by urban households.

There are rare exceptions that can slightly impact the buying power of your wages. This is why we have charted local’s total packages compared to their CPI from throughout our regional council for the past ten years.

You probably remember 2022. Inflation shot up to over eight percent at one point and everything quickly became more expensive including groceries, gas, tools, materials, and housing. A lot of people struggled to keep up. While some trades and non-union workers saw their buying power drop during this period, NCS-RCC negotiated contract increases that kept members on a pace to stay above inflation over time. That means your paycheck and benefits package still provided you the ability to afford your daily expenses and the opportunity to get ahead.

Local/Area	2015 Total Pkg.	2025 Total Pkg.	CPI	Amt. Above CPI
Twin Cities Metro A	\$52.85	\$78.40	\$71.44	\$6.96
Local 548	\$54.23	\$80.83	\$73.31	\$7.52
Local 1847	\$53.65	\$79.76	\$72.52	\$7.24
Local 606	\$43.84	\$67.70	\$59.26	\$8.44
Local 361	\$45.65	\$69.55	\$61.71	\$7.84
Local 106	\$40.05	\$56.93	\$54.14	\$2.79
Local 308 (2016-2024)	\$42.96	\$58.11	\$57.49	\$0.62
Local 427	\$36.81	\$52.08	\$49.76	\$2.32
Local 1306	\$33.25	\$48.57	\$44.95	\$3.62
Local 1463	\$41.42	\$60.72	\$55.99	\$4.73
North Dakota Carpenters	\$37.33	\$56.14	\$50.46	\$5.68
Local 1091	\$54.16	\$78.07	\$73.21	\$4.86
Local 1176	\$53.26	\$75.42	\$72.00	\$3.42
Local 587	\$28.12	\$44.97	\$38.01	\$6.96
Milwaukee Carpenters	\$56.42	\$77.27	\$76.27	\$1.00
Greater Wisconsin	\$50.26	\$71.68	\$67.94	\$3.74
Local 2337	\$56.37	\$71.68	\$76.20	\$1.03

At NCSRCC, a lot of work and preparation goes into negotiating your contracts. It is the work at the bargaining table by our staff and members, the months of preparation, member conversations in union halls and on job sites, and discussions at our statehouses that can impact our work hours significantly. Your dues help fund this fight and your participation keeps your union strong. When contractors know we are unified and paying attention, they come to the table ready to negotiate a fair deal that respects your work.

“Our economy will always have ups and downs, but NCSRCC is here to ensure that carpenter economics is the top priority for our members”, said Executive Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Nilsen. “For the past decade, and especially during the high inflation years like 2022, NCSRCC has worked hard to secure contracts that keep your total compensation above the cost of living. Our members build our communities, and we will continue to do everything we can to make certain that you get the compensation that reflects your worth.”



Developers say rent control deterred investment in major projects like Highland Bridge. Photo taken of the halted Highland Bridge project in August 2022 by David Bohlander at Finance & Commerce.

Rent Control - St. Paul's Disaster Corrected by One Vote

In early 2021, a grassroots campaign led by tenant advocates and community organizations in St. Paul, MN, launched an effort to place a rent control measure on the city ballot. The proposed ordinance aimed to regulate the maximum annual rent increases by landlords, with the goal of making housing more stable and affordable for long-term tenants.

On November 2, 2021, St. Paul voters approved a rent stabilization ordinance with 53 percent

support, passing one of the strictest rent control policies in the nation that would take effect that following May. The ordinance capped annual rent increases in St. Paul at three percent for all residential units, regardless of building age or tenant turnover. There were no exemptions for new construction or increasing rates for new tenants following a vacancy, making it one of the most comprehensive rent regulations in the country.

In short order, the St. Paul City Council recognized the unin-

tended consequences of the original ordinance. In less than a year, they added a 20-year exemption for new construction and buildings that were less than 20 years old. They also introduced provisions allowing landlords to apply for exemptions based on a "reasonable rate of return" and permitted larger rent increases following certain tenant turnovers. These changes took effect in January 2023. However, by then, much of the damage was done. St. Paul had earned national recognition amongst housing advocates for the harm this was



doing to the city. Their reputation was tarnished, and the consequences were mounting.

St. Paul's rent control process was rooted in the creation of overly strict protections, followed by rapid amendments to address economic and development concerns that never really flourished. After the three percent rent cap ordinance took effect in 2022, construction of new market-rate (priced according to current market conditions and demand, without any government subsidies or restrictions) rental property declined abruptly. The number of new units built fell from 821 in 2023 to only 112 built in 2024. Compared to the city's previous decade-long annual average of 1,014 units, that figure represented a dramatic collapse. With diminishing property values, increased budget deficits, less funding for city resources, and the shifting of tax burdens to single family homeown-

ers, the problems directly linked to rent control were becoming insurmountable for the city.

Members of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters were losing hundreds of thousands of work hours each year as developers and investors repeatedly cited rent control as the primary reason for pulling back on major projects like Highland Bridge. Behind closed doors, even city council members expressed concern over the direction construction was heading in St. Paul, especially as Minnesota continues to struggle with a worsening housing shortage. Building permit numbers had plummeted, investors were taking their capital elsewhere, and the decline was so sharp that it could no longer be explained by supply chain disruptions or broader economic trends.

Frustration reached a breaking point. Developers, advocacy groups, labor unions, elected officials, and everyday citizens came together to meet repeatedly with the mayor and city council members, all united with the goal to get St. Paul building again. Progress was slow and deliberate, with momentum building quietly behind the scenes. Then, an unexpected vacancy on the city council shifted the landscape. In April 2025, Mayor Melvin Carter appointed Matt Privatsky to fill the seat. Privatsky had experience with housing policy and did not support rent control in St. Paul. In fact, he was going to be the deciding vote to change the current ordinance.

In May 2025, the St. Paul City Council voted 4-3 to permanently

exempt all buildings built after 2004 from rent control, removing their previous 20-year exemption. For buildings built in 2004 or before, there remains a three percent annual cap on rent increase unless an exception is granted by the city council. This move is in anticipation of slowly improving economic development and investment.

Drastic improvements will not happen overnight. St. Paul has a damaged reputation to rebuild, and some developers and investors have already moved along. However, one thing is certain, without rolling back rent control, the city's economic and housing conditions were only going to deteriorate further. One vote can make all the difference in putting hundreds of thousands of work hours back on the table. Recovery may take time, but this is an essential step to getting St. Paul building again.

Minnesota Multi Housing Association, announces a campaign with labor groups to defeat rent control ballot initiatives. Photo by Max Nesterak/ Minnesota Reformer 2021.



What's New in the Area of Worker Misclassification Enforcement?

We have often said that new laws put in place to protect workers are only as good as the enforcement behind them. In Minnesota, we have experienced unmatched success in passing laws protecting workers and now, we are doing even more to enforce those laws. Paired with the 2024 legislative changes taking effect in 2025, it is clear that Minnesota's leaders recognize the urgent need to back strong laws with strong action, making our state a national leader in worker protections.

In 2025, the Minnesota Legislature allocated over \$350,000 per year just to strengthen enforcement of the expanded state's employee misclassification law, originally passed in 2024. This funding will support enforcement, education, and training related to employee misclassification and will also include additional staffing to ensure compliance.

The legislature also authorized and funded a misclassification fraud impact study to better understand and address the scope of worker misclassification. Beginning on January 15, 2027, and every six years thereafter, the Department of Labor and Industry

(DLI) must submit a Misclassification Fraud Impact Report to the legislature. To complete this work, DLI anticipates hiring an economist to analyze the prevalence of misclassification, its impacts, and the full economic costs tied to this exploitative business model. This requirement is part of the broader effort to strengthen oversight and enforcement as well as to inform future policy decisions.

The study will also include an intergovernmental partnership

involving multiple state agencies including the DLI, the Department of Revenue, and others.

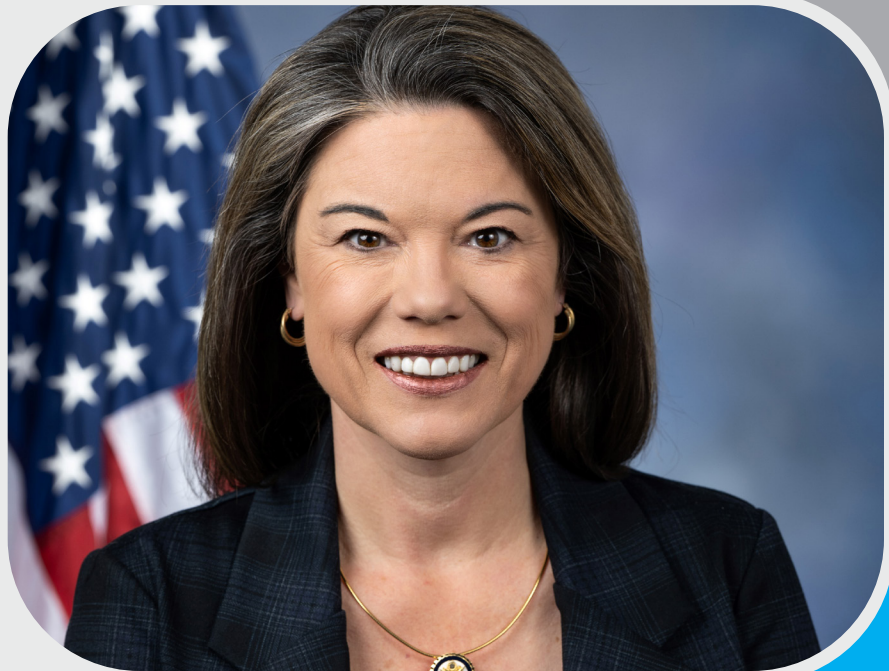
The 2024 legislative session marked a significant step forward in tackling misclassification, particularly within the construction industry. These laws expanded enforcement authority across all sectors, with key provisions taking effect in 2025. Below is a chart demonstrating the changes that have taken effect to clamp down on worker misclassification:

Provision	Effective Date	Key Details
14-factor contractor test (construction)	March 1, 2025	Harder to classify workers as independent contractors
Increased penalties	July 1, 2024	Up to \$10,000 per worker, \$1,000/day for non-cooperation
Stop work orders, successor liability	March 1, 2025	Expanded DLI enforcement powers
Insurance/compensation policy changes	2025–2026	New disclosure and record-keeping rules
Interagency partnership/reporting	Ongoing/2027	Regular analysis and reporting on misclassification



Carpenters Back Angie Craig for U.S. Senate

U.S. Representative Angie Craig



In 2016, Angie Craig ran for Congress in Minnesota's 2nd Congressional District following the retirement of Rep. John Kline (R). She positioned herself as a moderate Democrat, highlighting her working-class background growing up in a mobile home park, working her way through college, and building a career in manufacturing. Despite a strong campaign, she was defeated by conservative radio host Jason Lewis. Undeterred, Craig ran again in 2018 and won a historic victory, becoming the first openly LGBTQ mother elected to Congress.

Fast forward nearly four terms, Senator Tina Smith announced her retirement opening a U.S. Senate seat in 2026, presenting Rep. Angie Craig with a pivotal decision. Should she run for the Senate or remain in the House, where she had just secured re-election by an impressive 14-point margin? Staying in the House offered a powerful opportunity. If Democrats regain the majority, Craig would be in line to become Chairwoman of the Agriculture Committee as the highest-ranking Democrat currently serving on it.

Instead, Rep. Craig announced her candidacy for the U.S. Senate, representing working families across Minnesota. "She brings a

demonstrated record of supporting apprenticeships, job training programs, the building trades and opportunities that promote skilled labor and prevailing wages," said Chris Pierce (Local 322 – St. Paul), Political Action Leader. "She has earned a reputation for being moderate and working bipartisan with a focus on small businesses, families, infrastructure and the middle-class. Most importantly, she is known as a fighter who goes after the things that matter most to her constituents."



Chris Pierce, Local 322, St. Paul, MN

Rep. Craig has consistently proven her ability to win tough races. In

2024, she triumphed in the most evenly divided congressional district in the country, outperforming expectations and solidifying her reputation as a formidable candidate. Under her leadership, a once anti-labor district has become a pro-labor stronghold. Now, she faces perhaps her biggest test yet as she competes against the current Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan for a primary. Still, her appeal to a broad base, including union households in key districts, gives her a great chance of coming out ahead.

The Carpenters were among the first to throw their support behind Rep. Craig, recognizing her experience and steadfast commitment to carpenter economics. At her campaign kickoff, no group showed up in greater numbers or with more enthusiasm than the Carpenters, demonstrating the strong bond she's built with the trades and her deep roots in pro-labor advocacy.



Stock photo of unsafe jobsite.

Minnesota Moves to Target Workers' Compensation Fraudsters

In the construction industry, fraud remains a daily part of the conversations we have with developers, contractors, elected officials and even within our own membership. Working to change laws that will prevent unscrupulous contractors from taking an unfair advantage over honest contractors in the bidding process continues to be a never-ending fight. When one loophole is closed, dishonest contractors find another way to exploit the system. Contractors refusing to pay for worker's compensation insur-

ance can leverage an advantage that can be as high as 20 percent in a state that requires all employers to carry policies for their employees.

Recently, we discovered that Minnesota has an excessive amount of zero estimated exposure policies. These are policies that business owners hold declaring that they have zero worker's compensation exposure and zero estimated payroll. Although a dishonest contractor may meet the criteria for having a worker's compensation policy for the purpose of bidding on work, they never go

back and cover their employees once they are hired for the work to be performed. This can become difficult to track when they pay their workers cash off-the-books. Minnesota issues about 4,000 zero estimated exposure policies a year, most of those related to contractors in the construction industry. Fortunately for us, Minnesota has a Worker's Compensation Advisory Task Force. The Carpenters also have NCSRCC General Counsel Burt Johnson holding a position on that board as an appointee of the Senate Minority Leader. Having a voice with knowledge in

this area can make a difference, just as it did this legislative session. Johnson led a subcommittee that considered all concerns about these policies and looked at how to make sure they are not resulting in what appears to be worker's compensation fraud. The work of this group undoubtedly led to changes in state law that will provide greater accountability and ease of prosecution for cheating the system.

The new law, first of its kind in the nation, requires attestation, a declaration that something exists from the applicant. This will help with holding dishonest contractors accountable going forward. Beginning on January 1, 2026, insurers who offer zero estimated exposure policies will have to require appli-

cants for such policies to sign a specific attestation that declares they do not have any current employees or any payroll. They must also agree to report the hiring of any employees to the insurer. This will require them to purchase a policy covering the employees or be in violation of the state's law and their own signed attestation. This process also applies to any renewed policies going forward.

The new law will also require workers' compensation insurance coverage data to be reported by an insurer and must include, for any zero-estimate exposure policy, the employer's total estimated exposure amount and reported construction classification codes. Going forward, business representatives visiting

construction jobsites will be able to check on the policies of contractors in real time using the Department of Labor and Industry's (DLI) online tool. If a contractor has employees and only a zero-exposure policy, they can be reported to DLI immediately.

Finally, it requires employers in the construction field with a zero estimated exposure policy to notify in writing and provide a copy of the policy to all contractors, developers and other entities they come in contact with on a construction site. It necessitates that entities who receive these notifications maintain a record of that notification and copy of the policy for three years.

Political Action Leaders:

- Engage other members in political discussion;
- Lobby elected officials at all levels of government;
- Testify before city councils or at state capitols on our issues;
- Represent our union as an elected official or board appointee; and
- Get out the vote for candidates who support our Carpenter Union Values.

Reach out to your local political team to get involved!



Become a Political Action Leader



Midwest Carpenters Lead the Fight Against Construction Industry Tax Fraud

This spring, union carpenters throughout the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) participated in the United Brotherhood of Carpenters' (UBC) national Tax Fraud Days of Action, taking to streets, job sites, and statehouses across the Midwest to shine a light on rampant tax fraud, wage theft, and worker misclassification in the construction industry.

In **South Dakota**, NCSRCC Business Representative Antuan Duran guided State Senator Sue Peterson and Marcia Hultman, Secretary of the Department of Labor, through a non-union job site. This was an opportunity for them to witness firsthand what too many workers experience every day, working without required workers' compensation coverage. The impactful visit prompted both officials to commit to follow-up conversations about establishing verification systems on public projects to ensure workers are protected and employers follow the law.

Meanwhile, in **North Dakota**, local news highlighted the devastating impact of wage theft in the state. Workers report not receiving pay, being denied overtime, and even having housing costs deducted from their paychecks without consent. Richard Kolodziejski, NCSRCC Director of Government Affairs said, "Employers bring workers in under the promise of a certain rate of pay and then fail

to pay them for all hours worked. They fail to pay overtime, and make them work extended hours through the night." It is a cycle of exploitation that leaves working families with few options and fewer protections.

Protests and job actions were organized in cities across the regional council. In **Brown Deer, WI**, and **Burnsville, MN**, union carpenters protested unscrupulous contractors Suburban Drywall and Absolute Drywall, whose track record includes wage theft, abuse, and ongoing legal issues. Workers called for accountability and for developers to stop rewarding bad actors with more work.

In **Omaha, NE**, carpenters called out Freedom Specialty Contracting for undercutting area standards and engaging in practices that harm workers and the broader community.

In **Des Moines and Cedar Rapids, IA**, union members showed appreciation for developers and businesses like Community State Bank and Cedar Crossing Casino and Entertainment Center for choosing to work with union contractors who prioritize ethical practices.

The fight against tax fraud is not just about money, rather it is about justice and safety. Royce Peterson, NCSRCC Senior Business Representative, explained, "We've

had workers from companies like Momchilovich Drywall and Paint tell us they're not getting paid properly. Nine times out of ten, they don't even realize they're being misclassified. And when that happens, there's no workers' comp, no unemployment insurance, no benefits. It's just wages—and that's not right."

National headlines echo these regional efforts. In **Minnesota**, the state secured its first-ever criminal wage theft conviction demonstrating that the tide may finally be turning. Responsible contractors like Greiner Construction stepped in to ensure workers received the pay they deserved when others failed them.

Investigations show how labor brokers and subcontractors use complex schemes to dodge taxes and shift financial risks onto workers. As covered in *The American Prospect*, these practices are not just unethical, they are a calculated attack on labor rights and fair competition.

The message from this year's Tax Fraud Days of Action is clear: cheating contractors and abusive labor practices have no place in our communities. The NCSRCC and its members remain committed to exposing fraud, protecting workers, and pushing for policy changes that restore fairness and dignity to the jobsite.



STANDING UP TO
TAX FRAUD
SPEAK OUT. TAKE ACTION.

stoptaxfraud.net

Workers' Compensation Accountability Gathers Momentum

Earlier this year, South Dakota Senator Sue Peterson introduced Senate Bill 157, a worker protection bill that aimed to bring more transparency and accountability to public construction projects. SB 157 would have required verifiable proof of workers' compensation coverage and premium payments for all contractors and subcontractors performing work on public construction projects. The intent of the legislation was a powerful crack down on the illegal and exploitative employment practices that too often go unchecked in the construction industry.

For years, unscrupulous contractors and labor brokers have skirted the law by misclassifying workers, avoiding tax and insurance obligations, and putting both workers and honest contractors at a disadvantage. SB 157 sought to level the playing field by holding all contractors accountable for providing essential worker compensation coverage for anyone performing dangerous physical labor.

The bill gained early traction. On February 20, SB 157 successfully passed out of the Senate Com-



Senator Sue Peterson, NCRCC Business Representatives, Political Director Felicia Hilton and Director of Organizing Jon Mahan quietly celebrate SB 157 successfully passing out of the Senate Commerce Committee on February 20, 2025.

merce Committee and later cleared the full Senate by a narrow 19-16 vote. This marked a significant step forward, particularly given the tough political climate and the powerful industry forces that often oppose increased regulation and enforcement.

However, just one week later, the bill was defeated in the House Commerce Committee by a single vote, 7-6. In a disappointing twist, Rep. Nicole Uhre-Balk, the committee's only Democrat, reversed her previous support and voted against the bill. Her last-minute decision cost the bill the majority it needed to move forward and brought momentum to a halt, at least temporarily.

While the legislative defeat was a setback, it did not end the push for reform. The North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) has continued to lead the charge through strategic outreach and real-world advocacy.

After seeing the consequences of inaction up close during a non-union site tour for Tax Fraud Days of Action, Senator Peterson and

Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Labor Marcia Hultman committed to ongoing dialogue with NCSRCC leaders to explore future framework for verifying workers' compensation coverage on public projects. Their willingness to re-engage and search for common ground signals hope for progress.

The fight is not over. Misclassification continues to rob workers of fair compensation, benefits, and protections they have earned on the job. This systemic issue does not just hurt construction workers, it undermines responsible contractors and cheats taxpayers.

As NCSRCC continues building support for reform, efforts like SB 157 remain a critical step toward establishing fair labor standards and enforcing protections on publicly funded projects in South Dakota. The momentum generated this year lays the foundation for future progress. With continued advocacy, partnership, and public pressure, the push for worker compensation coverage accountability will carry on into the next legislative session and beyond.

The Moxy Hotel: A Win for Workers, a Win for Milwaukee

The Moxy Hotel in Milwaukee, WI is a proposed boutique hotel by the North Central Group (NCG), the same developer behind The Trade Hotel and the Moxy in Madison, both of which were built with union labor. With an estimated construction cost of \$50–\$70 million, this project represents a significant investment in Milwaukee's Deer District.

We were proud to play a key role in helping NCG move this project through the Milwaukee Common Council. From the outset, we recognized that this development would bring substantial value, not only by providing good-paying, union jobs during construction but also by contributing to the long-term economic growth of the city. This is why, when the project became controversial, we knew we had to step-in and do everything we could to affect the outcome.

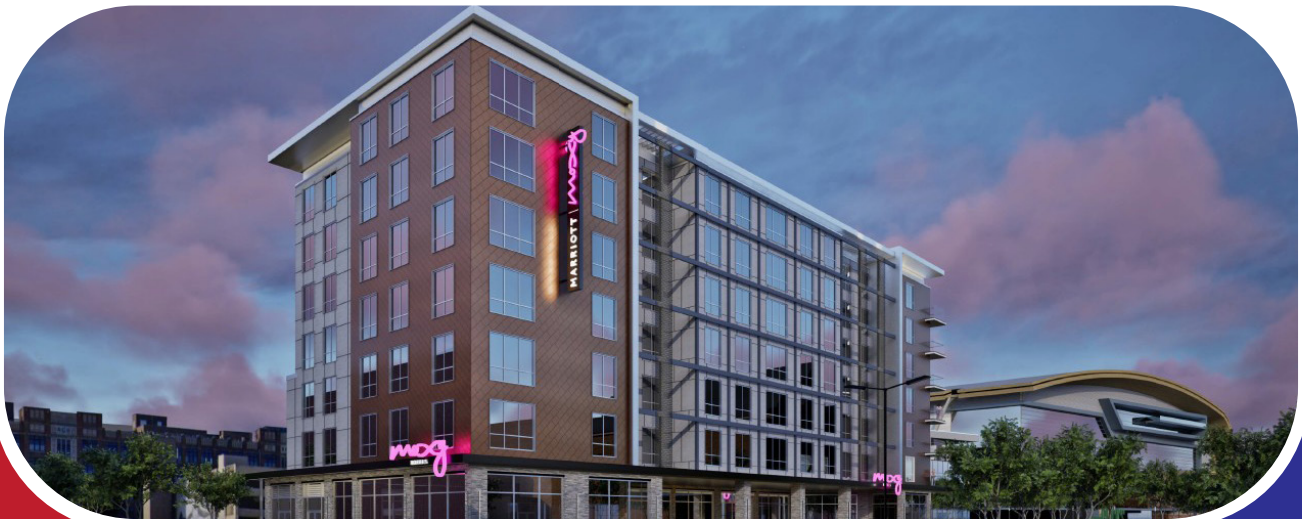
When the Moxy Hotel came before the Common Council, we made sure the voice of the labor movement was heard loud and clear. We met directly with alders to discuss what this project means for working people in our city and the quality union jobs it would create.

NCSRCC Business Representative Abel Segura (Local 2337 - Pewaukee, WI) delivered powerful testimony at a public hearing, emphasizing the value of union labor and the positive impact this development would have on local workers. We followed up with formal communications to Council members, reinforcing our support and ensuring that every alder who would cast a vote heard directly from the Carpenters Union.

Through these efforts, we helped build trust that this project would be done the right way with union labor, community benefit, and a long-term vision for Milwaukee.

Thanks to our advocacy and partnership with NCG, the Moxy Hotel received final approval from the Milwaukee Common Council on June 3, 2025. The Council voted 12–1 in favor of the project. Construction is expected to begin in early 2026, and we are proud to say it will be built with union carpenters.

This project is a powerful example of how labor organizations like ours can shape the future of development when we work hand-in-hand with responsible partners. With the economy facing uncertainty under the new administration in Washington, D.C., it is more important than ever to fight for strong local projects that create real, lasting jobs in our communities. By staying engaged at the local level, we can continue to protect working families regardless of what is happening at our nation's capitol.



Rendering of the Moxy Hotel in Deer District.



Susan Crawford stops in La Crosse, WI during her campaign for Wisconsin Supreme Court. Pictured left to right: NCSRCC Business Representative Kevin Hennessey, Local 1143 - La Crosse WI; Judge Susan Crawford; NCSRCC Business Representative Danny Andersen, Local 1143 - La Crosse, WI.

While Wisconsin law prohibits judicial candidates from expressing views on policy issues, each candidate's background spoke volumes. Judge Crawford is a county judge and a former prosecutor. Her opponent, Brad Schimel, served as Attorney General under former union-busting Governor Scott Walker and proudly defended the Right-to-Work law in Wisconsin Courts during his term in office.

Schimel was actively backed by Elon Musk who spent millions to get him elected. Musk's involvement catapulted the election into national view and made it the most expensive judicial race in American history. The spending from Musk's groups alone accounted for \$25 million of the total \$100 million spent in the race by both campaigns. However, Musk's investment did come at a cost. The amount of spending itself became a campaign issue in the race and turned off

A State Election with National Impact

Judge Susan Crawford's decisive election to the Wisconsin Supreme Court assures a pro-labor majority on the state's highest court. The race quickly became nationalized with the high-profile intervention of Elon Musk on behalf of Crawford's opponent. Traditional issues fell aside, and the race turned into a referendum on the public's early opinion of the Trump Administration.

The North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) endorsed Judge Crawford for her longstanding commitment to workers' rights and union labor. Recognizing both the state and national implications of the race, NCSRCC with the help from other regional councils, went to work with carpenter-focused, pro-Crawford messaging. Through phone banking, opportunities to meet Judge Crawford, mailers, social media and texting, union carpenters from the midwest to the east coast were determined to see Judge Crawford take her Supreme Court seat.

EST Patrick Nilsen, Judge Susan Crawford, and Midwestern District Vice President Mike Kwiatkowski at the 2024 Wisconsin Legislative Conference.



Wisconsin voters who viewed the excessive spending as an attempt to buy an election. Musk even appeared on a stage in Wisconsin wearing a foam cheesehead hat while giving away checks to voters.

“Judge Susan Crawford has dedicated her career to defending working people and protecting their rights. She understands the values and struggles of our union. Even as millions of dollars poured into our state from the world’s richest individual, Judge Crawford stood firm for justice and she prevailed.” said Executive Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Nilsen.

The state Supreme Court will weigh in on cases involving everything from redistricting to voting rights to labor law. These issues are important to Wisconsin carpenters. Wisconsin voters sent a message about how they feel about the policies currently coming out of Washington DC.



Members phone bank with pro-Crawford messaging in Madison, WI.

CARPENTER ECONOMICS



The North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters' political support is directed in ways that support prevailing wage, member work hours, and market share. From supporting pro-carpenter candidates to working on passing carpenter-focused legislation, your livelihoods are at the forefront of every political action.

To stay updated on what is happening politically in your state, visit the state pages via the QR codes below.

IOWA



MINNESOTA



NEBRASKA



N. DAKOTA



S. DAKOTA



WISCONSIN



Carpenters Stand United at 2025 Legislative Conferences Across the Midwest

Carpenters across the regional council gathered at state capitols to participate in a series of legislative conferences where they made their voices heard on issues critical to the construction industry, workforce protections, and worker rights.

South Dakota: The 2025 South Dakota Legislative Conference brought together labor leaders, union members, and policymakers for two days of discussion, advocacy, and action. The agenda featured key speakers including Jay Smith, attorney for the AFL-CIO in South Dakota who provided legal insights relevant to the labor movement. Chris Nelson, a member of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, spoke about regulatory matters affecting labor and infrastructure. A session titled “United Today, Stronger Tomorrow” concluded the program, emphasizing solidarity and future organizing efforts.

Iowa: In Des Moines, the Iowa Legislative Conference brought together carpenters statewide to advocate for stronger unemployment protections. A key topic was House Study Bill 114, which proposes a fairer approach to unemployment benefits. Attendees heard from speakers including, Stuart Anderson from the Iowa Department of Transportation who shared insights on upcoming infrastructure projects and their impact on the construction workforce. Kim Vang, Vice President of Development for Peninsula Pacific Entertainment highlighted the economic and labor benefits of the Cedar Crossing Casino project highlighting the significant number of union work hours created through its development. Representative Sammie Sheets also provided an update on his ongoing efforts to oppose the rollback of Iowa’s child labor protections.

Wisconsin: Union strength was on full display in Madison, where the Wisconsin Legislative Conference saw an impressive turnout, especially among apprentices. Members met with legislators, discussed upcoming construction priorities, and built relationships to advance carpenter’s economic interests.

Attendees were encouraged to share their personal stories, job experiences, and community involvement,

bringing the human side of the trades into legislative conversations. Custom Wisconsin Brewers co-branded hats added a local touch to the union’s presence.

North Dakota: North Dakota’s Legislative Conference was held March 19th in conjunction with Tax Fraud Days of Action. Members gathered for several high-profile meetings to educate elected officials and others about construction tax fraud, wage theft and workers compensation fraud. Interviews were held with KXNET news for a lengthy segment. Meetings were held with Governor Kelly Armstrong, Secretary of State Michael Howe, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the ND Insurance Fraud Investigation Division.

Nebraska: At the Nebraska State Capitol, members highlighted legislation that prioritizes both worker safety and youth protections, including Childhood Safety Bill 517, championed by Senator Margo Juarez. The event also featured Omaha Mayor John Ewing Jr. during his campaign and representatives from Nebraska Appleseed, an organization that takes a systemic approach to child welfare, immigration, affordable healthcare and poverty, underscoring the union’s growing political influence.

Minnesota: The Minnesota Legislative Conference’s agenda was packed with political speakers and updates on bonding bills, energy work forecasts, and advocacy strategies. Attendees heard from Katie Sieben, Chair of the Public Utilities Commission with an outlook on the future of energy work. Representative Mary Fran-son (R-District 12B), Chair of Capital Investment, gave an update on the state bonding bill and its impact on construction jobs. Chris Pierce (Local 322 - St. Paul, MN), Political Action Leader, encouraged members to stay politically active year-round.

These 2025 Legislative Conferences reaffirmed a central truth. When union carpenters come together, they make a difference, not just for their industry but for every community they help build.



Carpenters Help Elect New Omaha Mayor

The Carpenters were proud to be the only union to endorse John Ewing Jr. for Mayor of Omaha during the primary election. A proven public servant, Ewing brought decades of leadership and integrity to the race. He previously served as Douglas County Treasurer, where he earned a strong reputation for fiscal responsibility, and as Deputy Chief of the Omaha Police Department, demonstrating a lifelong commitment to public safety and service.

Thanks in part to the grassroots support of working families and the Carpenters' endorsement, Ewing advanced to the general election, where he faced incumbent Mayor Jean Stothert. On election day, May 13, 2025, he secured a decisive victory, winning by a margin of 14 percentage points. His strong message of unity, accountability, and investment in Omaha's future clearly resonated with voters across the city. On June 9, 2025, Mayor-Elect John Ewing Jr. was officially sworn in as the new mayor of Omaha, marking a new chapter of leadership for the city.

Union Carpenters continue to stay involved and help shape the future of Omaha. Under Mayor Ewing's leadership, NCSRCC Business Representative Jesse Gregerson (Local 427 – Omaha, NE) was

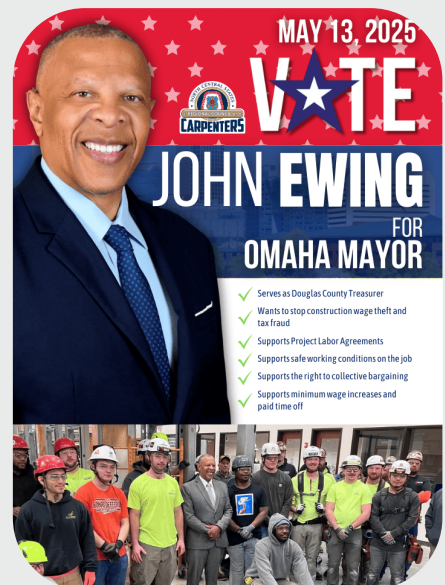
Mayor John Ewing Jr. on election day, May 13, 2025.



appointed to the Omaha Administrative Board of Appeals where he will bring the voice of skilled labor to important city decisions. Joseph Kielion (Local 1306 – Omaha, NE) is also stepping up, applying to serve on the Omaha Building Board of Review, ensuring that quality construction and safety remain a top priority in city projects.

Congratulations to Mayor Ewing. The Carpenters look forward to working together to build a stronger and more prosperous Omaha.

Election mailer for John Ewing Jr.



John Ewing Jr. meets apprentices at the Omaha Training Center.



Congressman Don Bacon Leaves a Legacy

After years of dedicated service to his country and his constituents, Republican Congressman Don Bacon, a retired Air Force Brigadier General, has officially announced his retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives. A respected and pragmatic leader, Rep. Bacon leaves behind a strong legislative legacy including the passage of 38 bills and his critical support of the \$1 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

As a result of this landmark legislation, union carpenters and apprentices have been working hard across Nebraska, modernizing airports, repairing bridges, rebuilding roads, and improving water infrastructure. The investments made possible by supporters like Rep. Bacon's vote have created good-paying jobs and strengthened the backbone of our communities.

Beyond infrastructure, Rep. Bacon was a champion for national security, working to defend the country against cyber-attacks on critical infrastructure and prepare for the challenges of unpredictable weather disasters. His deep understanding of defense and preparedness

stemmed from his military background and was further applied during his service on the House Armed Services Committee. He played a key role in supporting military construction projects including the Strategic Command (STRATCOM) at Offutt Air Force Base. There, he stood firmly in support of Davis-Bacon prevailing wage protections, ensuring fair pay and quality standards on federally funded construction.

His commitment to working families extended beyond national defense. As a member of both the House Homeland Security Committee and the House Agricultural Committee, Rep. Bacon also supported efforts to end the Cadillac Tax on self-funded union health plans and maintain union apprenticeship standards by opposing Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAPs) that could have undermined established, high-quality training.

Rep. Bacon's relationship with union carpenters was built on direct engagement and mutual respect. He first visited the Omaha Carpenters Training Center in the

fall of 2017, and has made several visits since.

"On several occasions he has toured our facility and our apprenticeship program, and he has been very supportive of apprenticeships," said Jesse Gregerson (Local 427 - Papillion, NE), NCSRCC Business Representative. "He understands the great opportunity programs like ours provide to those seeking to learn the trade, as well as the role apprenticeships play in workforce development."

A key reason the Carpenters endorsed Rep. Bacon was his consistent support for Davis-Bacon on federal construction projects. This prevailing wage law not only ensures construction workers receive fair pay, but also requires the use of American-made steel, reinforcing both job quality and national industry.

We thank Congressman Bacon for his years of service in Congress and in uniform. His thoughtful, measured approach to governance and his advocacy for infrastructure, fair wages, and union training will leave a lasting impact on the communities he served.



Rep. Bacon visits the Omaha Training Center in 2021, speaking with apprentices and instructors, including Andy Pinneo, Local 427 - Papillion, NE.



Iowa Legislative Session Recap

With a Republican-controlled Legislature, this year's session was dominated by expected and high-profile issues, culminating in Governor Reynolds signing several impactful bills into law. However, the session may be remembered just as much for what did not get done. Despite both House and Senate Republicans naming property tax reform as a top priority, no legislation passed. While they introduced similar versions of basic reform concepts, the two chambers failed to reach an agreement. Additionally, Governor Reynolds introduced a major piece of legislation to reform the state's energy laws, but the bill languished and died with an uncertain future.

Eminent Domain for Carbon Capture Pipelines

One of the most notable failed bills would have banned the use of eminent domain for carbon capture pipeline projects. In a rare bipartisan move, 12 Republican Senators joined Democrats to force a vote on this legislation that Senate GOP leadership had previously blocked. The bill passed the Senate and advanced to the governor, but she vetoed it on June 11, 2025. Overriding a veto requires two-thirds support in both chambers, which was not possible. While the House secured enough backing to call a special session, the Senate did not and now the issue will have to wait until 2026 for reconsideration.

Cuts to State General Fund Revenue

The Iowa Legislature has significantly reduced income taxes in recent years which has lowered the state's general fund revenue. For fiscal year 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026), the Legislature authorized a \$9.424 billion general fund budget, which is a 5.33 percent increase from the current year.

However, projected tax revenues will not be enough to fully cover that amount. This shortfall, estimated at around \$900 million, was expected when the tax cuts were passed. To fill the gap, lawmakers are tapping into surplus funds accumulated from previous years. Looking ahead, the hope is that state revenues will rise and reduce future deficits. In the meantime, Iowa still has more than \$6 billion in various reserve accounts to draw from if needed.

Unemployment Reductions

The North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) opposed Iowa SF 607, which makes significant changes to Iowa's unemployment insurance tax laws. The bill redefines taxable wages and alters how employer contribution rates are calculated, specifically lowering the percentage of the average weekly wage used to determine taxable wages from 66.66 per-

cent to 33.33 percent, and reduces the number of benefit ratio ranks from 21 to 9. These changes essentially cut the maximum annual unemployment benefit in half from about \$38,000 to \$19,000 resulting in lower weekly unemployment payments for workers.

While the bill encourages employers to reinvest their tax savings into higher employee compensation or seasonal employment alternatives, it does not require or incentivize them to do so. Combined with the 2022 law, that reduced the number of weeks Iowans can receive unemployment benefits from 26 to 16, this legislation will allow Iowa employers to retain approximately \$1 billion from the state's unemployment trust fund.

New Pharmacy Regulations

NCSRCC also opposed SF 383, a bill that imposes new regulations

on pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). The legislation defines terms like “pass-through pricing” and “specialty drug” and requires PBMs to adopt pass-through pricing in contracts and report their reimbursement practices. It prohibits PBMs from discriminating in pharmacy participation or reimbursement and gives pharmacies the right to appeal reimbursement decisions, requiring PBMs to respond within a specified timeframe.

One of the most impactful changes is the addition of a \$10.68 dispensing fee to every prescription, which will significantly increase costs for our health and welfare funds. While the bill mandates that all PBM rebates be passed on to health carriers or plan sponsors, the financial burden of the new dispensing fee remains a major concern. The legislation also calls for a report on pharmacy services administrative

organizations and drug distribution by January 1, 2026. Several businesses have already filed lawsuits against the law, arguing it will cost them millions to comply with the new dispensing fee requirements.

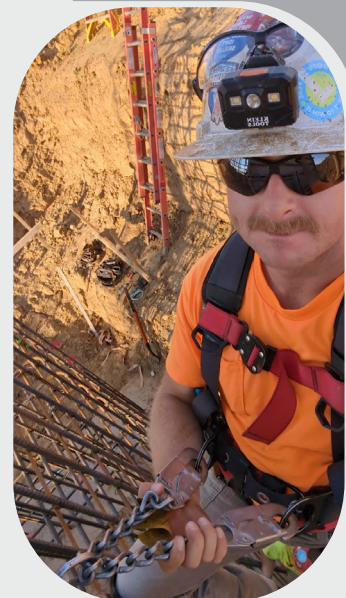
This legislative session will be remembered not just for the harmful bills that passed, but also for the important ones that did not. From cuts to unemployment benefits to new costs imposed on our health and welfare funds, lawmakers pushed through measures that benefit corporations at the expense of working Iowans. At the same time, efforts to address property tax reform, protect landowners from eminent domain abuse, and rein in corporate influence stalled or were vetoed. The result is a Legislature that chose to advance the interests of a few while leaving many of Iowa's working families behind.

Build a Better Iowa

Matt Robinson, a proud member of Local 678 - Dubuque, IA, has officially launched his campaign for Iowa House District 72. A life-long Dubuque resident, union carpenter, and graduate of our Candidate Boot Camp, Matt also previously served as Chair of the Dubuque County Democrats.

Matt is running because, in his words, “It’s time the middle-class has real representation in Des Moines at the Legislature.” His campaign is focused on lowering property taxes and stabilizing mortgage payments to make homeownership more accessible, especially for younger Iowans who are increasingly priced out of the housing market. He believes in creating affordable, attainable pathways to homeownership for working families.

NCSRCC is proud to endorse Matt Robinson and is excited about what his candidacy means for working people in Iowa. The general election will be held on November 3, 2026. For more information on Matt and his campaign, visit www.buildabetteriowa.com.



Matt Robinson on the job.

Congressional Scorecard

Union carpenters advocate for jobs and economic opportunity regardless of political party. We take our issues directly to Democrats and Republicans alike because our focus is putting union carpenters to work. Whether it is rebuilding roads and bridges, expanding transit systems, modernizing airports and ports, or strengthening our energy grid, we push for investments that lead to good-paying jobs across every corner of the economy.

However, carpenter economics goes beyond just transportation and infrastructure. We fight for smart policies in housing, industrial development, clean energy, and more because we know those sectors are essential to building strong communities and stable careers. Every time Congress or state legislatures consider a major economic policy, we are present to make sure that union carpenters have a seat at the table.

Carpenter economics means advocating, not just for work, but for dignity, safety, and fairness on the job. It means making sure the men and women who build this country can also build a future for their families.

● **Davis-Bacon**

Davis-Bacon prevailing wage votes occur in committee and on the floor of the U.S. House and Senate. We personally 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 incentivizes affordable, clean energy and is the most significant legislation to tackle the climate crisis and strengthen American energy security. It may lower energy costs for households and businesses, create manufacturing jobs, and deliver a clean, secure, and healthy future for our children and grandchildren.

● **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**

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 and create jobs for members.

● **CHIPS and Science Act**

The Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors and Science Act provides nearly \$280 billion in new funding to boost research and manufacturing of semiconductors in the United States. This spending is designed to create middle-class jobs, spur manufacturing and accelerate industry.

● **ACCESS Act (H.R. 7887)**

This bill would prohibited federal agencies from requiring minimum experience or educational requirements for proposed contractor personnel except in specified circumstances. This is a direct attack on our apprenticeship program. We all know that the best way to meet agency requirements is through the current process which considers the needs and benefits of apprenticeship programs. On a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R.7887 as amended, the motion failed on a 178-234 vote. Only 35 Republicans voted against the amendment.

● **Secretary of Labor**

The U.S. Senate confirmed Lori Chavez-DeRemer as Secretary of Labor with a strong bipartisan vote of 67-32. This outcome is especially significant because she was the only pro-labor candidate and has a history of supporting the PRO Act, advocating for strengthening labor protections, expanding collective bargaining, and ensuring safe working conditions.

● **One Big Beautiful Bill Act**

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 is estimated to result in a loss of up to 1.75 million construction jobs and \$148 billion in annual wages and benefits. This is largely due to the bill's deep cuts to clean energy tax credits, which threatens continued investments and job creation in renewable energy sectors that have recently provided significant employment opportunities for Carpenters. The bill undermines labor protections by shifting federal policy away from supporting domestic manufacturing and union labor, which are heavily represented by trade unions.

U.S. House

Rep. Bryan Steil		✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Rep. Mark Pocan		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rep. Derrick Van Orden		✓				✗	✗
Rep. Gwen Moore		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rep. Scott Fitzgerald		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Rep. Glenn Grothman		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Rep. Thomas Tiffany		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Rep. Tony Wied							✗
Rep. Brad Finstad		✓				✓	✗
Rep. Angie Craig		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rep. Kelly Morrison							✓
Rep. Betty McCollum		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rep. Ilhan Omar		✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓

Rep. Tom Emmer		✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Rep. Michelle Fischbach		✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Rep. Pete Stauber		✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Rep. Ashley Hinson		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Rep. Zach Nunn		✓				✗	✗
Rep. Randy Feenstra		✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Rep. Mike Flood		✗			✗	✗	✗
Rep. Don Bacon		✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Rep. Adrian Smith		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Rep. Dusty Johnson		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Rep. Julie Fedorchak							✗

U.S. Senate

Sen. Tammy Baldwin		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Sen. Ron Johnson		✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Sen. Amy Klobuchar		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sen. Tina Smith		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Sen. Chuck Grassley		✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Sen. Joni Ernst		✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗

Sen. Deb Fischer		✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
Sen. Pete Ricketts		✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Sen. John Thune		✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Sen. Mike Rounds		✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Sen. John Hoeven		✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Sen. Kevin Cramer		✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗

Union Carpenters Serving Their Communities

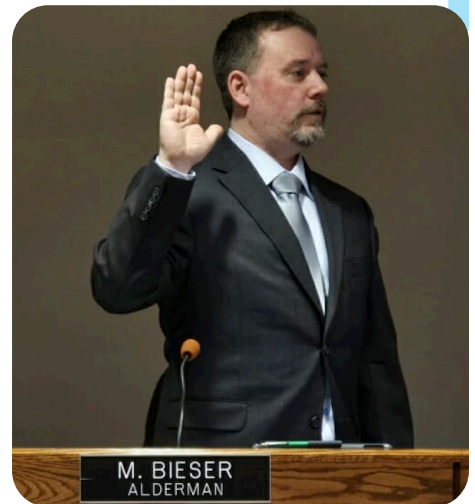
County and school boards, city councils, and other public offices regularly make decisions that directly affect the lives and livelihoods of our members. These bodies have the authority to shape the very framework in which we work by determining how public funds are allocated, which contractors are hired for municipal and school construction projects, how infrastructure is developed and maintained, and what labor standards are upheld on public job-sites. Whether they are approving project budgets, enforcing local hiring requirements, or establishing building codes and inspection procedures, these local governing bodies have a significant and often immediate impact on our day-to-day work.

For union carpenters, local politics is not something that happens in the background. It is where decisions are made that determine whether jobs are created with fair wages, safe working conditions, and benefits that support our families. It is where policy is set that either supports strong apprenticeship programs and skilled labor, or opens the door to unqualified contractors cutting corners. From city halls to county courthouses, the outcomes of these decisions can shape job opportunities for years to come.

It is essential for union members to not only be aware of local politics but to actively engage in it. When carpenters run for office, serve on boards, commissions or advisory councils, they bring valuable insight and lived experience from the jobsite. Our members offer a critical skilled tradesperson perspective that is too often missing from policy discussions. Their presence helps ensure that working people have a voice in the conversation, and that quality craftsmanship, fair labor practices, and worker safety are prioritized.

We are proud to highlight and honor the members listed here who have answered the call to serve their communities in public roles. Whether elected or appointed, they are advocates for working families and champions for responsible development. Their commitment to civic service not only strengthens our communities, it strengthens our union.

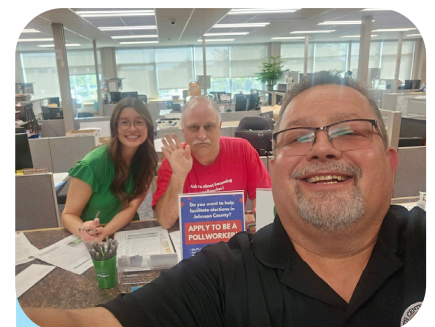
Matt Bieser, Local 231 - Pewaukee, WI, swearing in as Delavan City Council Member.























Rob Busch, Local 322 - St. Paul, MN, campaigning for Columbus City Council.



Jesse Gregerson, Local 427 - Papillion, NE, volunteering through Downtown Omaha INC.

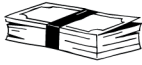


Royce Peterson, Local 1260 - Iowa City, IA, filing for Coralville City Council.

	Member Name	Local Union	Position
	Christian Allen	Local 314 - Madison, WI	Village of Brooklyn Trustee
	Ryan Austin	Local 310 - Rothschild, WI	Wisconsin Rapids Common Council
	Matt Bieser	Local 231 - 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 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
	Shannon Derby	Local 2089 - Madison, WI	Two Rivers City Council Member
	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
	Pat Gill	Local 948 - Sioux City, IA	Woodbury County Auditor
	Jesse Gregerson	Local 427 - Papillion, NE	Omaha Administrative Board of Appeals 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 Minnesota Attorney General's Taskforce on Misclassification
	Dave Jacoby	Local 1260 - Iowa City, IA	Legislator, House District 74 Johnson County
	Jayson Karas	Local 930 - Saint Augusta, MN	Milaca Township Board
	William Krueger	Local 1146 - Green Bay, WI	Town of New Denmark Chair
	Rick Lautenschlager	Local 1056 - Kaukauna, WI	Outagamie County Supervisor
	Scott Luostari	Local 361 - Hermantown, MN	Douglas County Supervisor
	Jon Mahan	Local 587 - Sioux Falls, SD	South Dakota Workforce Development Council
	Luke Meier	Local 548 - Saint Paul, MN	State of Minnesota Food Safety and Defense Task Force
	Diego Morales	Local 68 - Saint Paul, MN	Metropolitan Council
	Kim Nelson	Local 464 - Mankato, MN	Plymouth City Council Ward 1
	Royce Peterson	Local 1260 - Iowa City, IA	Hawkeye on Safety Committee Member Hawkeye Area Labor Council Trustee Coralville City Council
	Steve Nienhaus	Local 1260 - Iowa City, IA	Muscatine Planning Zoning Commission
	Rhea Pierce	Local 2060 - Altoona, IA	Northeast Workforce Development Board
	Phillip Schroeder	Local 464 - Mankato, MN	Ottawa Township Board of Supervisors
	Bob Scott	Local 948 - Sioux City, IA	Sioux City Mayor
	Matt Scott	Local 427 - Papillion, NE	Sarpy County Economic Development Committee Greater Lincoln Workforce Development Committee
	Carson Starkey	Local 2055 - Saint Paul, MN	Labor Standards Advisory Commission Human Rights Equal Economic Opportunity Commission
	Tim Stender	Local 68 - Saint Paul, MN	Forest Lake Planning Commission
	Marvin Taylor	Local 322 - Saint Paul, MN	Newport City Council
	Tom Warosh	Local 731 - Sheboygan, WI	Cleveland Village Trustee
	Justin Weninger	Local 231 - Pewaukee, WI	Kewaskum Village Board
	Zachariah Zebell	Local 1143 - La Crosse, WI	Monroe County Board

PREVAILING WAGE

The North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters supports candidates who back **Davis-Bacon Prevailing Wage, Member Work Hours, and Market Share**. Make sure you know where your candidates stand on carpenter economics.



PROTECTS FAIR WAGES

Davis-Bacon Prevailing Wage laws ensure workers are paid a fair hourly rate that reflects local standards, along with full fringe benefits like health care and retirement. They also guarantee overtime pay for any work beyond 8 hours in a single day on the job site.



SETS FAIR WAGES

Davis-Bacon Prevailing Wage rates are determined by the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) based on wage surveys, project location, and type of work. These rates apply across commercial, highway/heavy, and residential construction sectors.



LEVELS THE PLAYING FIELD

Davis-Bacon Prevailing Wage laws level the playing field for law-abiding contractors by preventing unfair practices used to undercut bids and drive down area stands, like wage theft, worker misclassification, tax fraud, and exploitation.



PROMOTES A TRAINED WORKFORCE

Davis-Bacon Prevailing Wage promotes the use of a skilled, trained workforce, which enhances safety, increases productivity, and reduces jobsite injuries and OSHA violations.



INCENTIVIZES HIRING APPRENTICES

Encourages the hiring of apprentices enrolled in certified programs by requiring wage scales for both journey-level workers and apprentices, thereby supporting workforce development and future industry growth.

RIGHT-TO-WORK

Right-to-Work laws weaken the ability of workers to form unions and negotiate for better wages, benefits, and conditions. They allow individuals to benefit from union representation without contributing, raising costs for the union. These laws also create an environment where businesses are more likely to cut safety standards and avoid union oversight.