How Politicians Affect Your Paycheck
Have you heard enough about politics over the past few years? We are all living through the most divisive and politically charged years most of us have ever experienced. There is so much information and news being directed at us that it can be difficult to sort through and make informed decisions. As an organization, we remain diligently focused on politics that impact our union. We will now begin providing you with an annual Carpenter Economics publication which demonstrates the political strategies and actions behind the policies and programs that impact your job security, wages and benefits.

As a brotherhood, we work through many challenging issues that affect our health, our retirement, our working conditions, our contracts, and our ability to earn what we are owed. We also recognize that we must preserve these items for our future brothers and sisters. Politics, elections, and the passing and enforcing of laws have never jeopardized these issues more than they do today.

You do not have to look far to see what can be lost or gained with one executive action or one significant piece of legislation. I was personally involved in negotiating and lobbying on behalf of an important $1.8 billion bonding bill in Minnesota in 2020. Our work outlook could have been jeopardized by the pandemic, and the legislature looked like it was not going to pass a bonding bill at a time our members and the economy needed it most.

I met with legislative leaders, withheld resources and endorsements, and encouraged members to get actively involved in politics. I encouraged labor and community leaders to do the same until the legislature passed the bonding bill. Our members get paid when their work is done. The same standard should apply to politicians in state capitols and in Washington, D.C. I have been clearly stating this fact for years. Thankfully, the bonding bill was eventually passed with bipartisan support.

Another recent victory occurred when our membership was deemed to be essential and allowed to work while large segments of the economy were shut down due to COVID-19. We worked with governors in our states to be able to work because of our ability to demonstrate that we could work safely. Some states saw their construction industries grind to a halt. Due to our efforts, members were able to continue working and providing for their families.
Local Politicians Make the Difference

Few unions do the necessary field work to increase area labor standards like the Carpenters. We work with federal, state and municipal elected officials and frequently lead the way amongst other labor unions. We understand the importance of not leaving members’ wages, benefits, safety, and livelihoods to chance.

Municipal-level politics do not attract the same level of attention as federal and state politics; however, there is good reason to spend significant time and resources on them. Municipal government often determines job creation and jobsite area labor standards. The Minnesota political department is working to ensure that we have a “champion” city council member identified in our 100 most populated cities. Once we have our “champion”, we will continue working to obtain a majority of votes on those city councils.

West Saint Paul was a city where we were surprised to learn area labor standards were at risk. It is a small suburb of Saint Paul with a population of 20,000. It has a high concentration of union householders and activists. We learned from our “champion” that the city council was considering a repeal of the prevailing wage ordinance. The ordinance requires developers, who receive public funds, to pay workers the prevailing wage. The developers, who receive public funds, were at risk. It is a small suburb of Saint Paul.

Instead of just accepting the vote results, we immediately started working to change the members on the city council.

“Before I learned that my councilperson wanted to repeal our city’s prevailing wage ordinance, I was deeply concerned that it would open the door to wage theft and human rights abuses in my neighborhood. I am proud to work alongside Carpenters to protect our prevailing wage ordinance. Carpenters’ support was vital to my win against the anti-union councilmember. Today, more than $150 million in development is moving forward in the city all under prevailing wage,” said newly-elected Councilwoman Robyn Gulley. The majority of the city council members now support carpenter economics. We are confident that an attempt to decrease labor standards with the current members of the city council is unlikely to pass.

WAYS YOU CAN BE PROACTIVE WITH YOUR CITY OFFICIALS

1. Request time to speak with your mayor and city councilmembers to begin building a relationship.

2. Email your mayor and city councilmember to let them know about issues related to carpenter economics that are important to you and your family.

3. Attend a city council meeting and be visible. Wear work-related union clothing.

4. Monitor meeting agendas of your city council. You can find most agendas online or by calling the office of your city clerk. Notify your state political director immediately if there is an agenda item related to labor standards, a particular project of concern or one that we should lend support.

5. Work with our political departments to determine if your city council supports carpenter economics. If not, let us work together to change that.

6. Run for city council! The best one to represent us is one of us.
Every Vote Counts

Two Votes Win Mayoral Race

However, Councilmember Lisa Jacobson stood out as chair of the Brooklyn Park Economic Development Authority (EDA). The EDA and other subcommittees of city councils, like planning commissions, are frequently our best opportunity to provide education about developers and general contractors who engage in wage theft, trafficking, and tax fraud. Councilmember Jacobson has been a strong advocate for our members and was always willing to ask the tough questions regarding construction industry wage theft.

She’s the type of leader who always answers the phone when we call and is willing to assist. We worked with Councilmember Jacobson to table projects following information that was available about the questionable business practices of some developers. She understood our issues and was supportive of carpenter economics or those policies and programs that impact wages, benefits and job security. When we thought about who we wanted as the next mayor, Lisa Jacobson was the obvious choice.

The difference that the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters made to my campaign, and this win, is immeasurable.”

LISA JACOBSON
MAYOR OF BROOKLYN PARK

Our Regional Council staff encouraged her to consider running for mayor in late 2020 and asked her again in January of 2021. We informed her that we would support her if she decided to run for mayor. Councilmember Jacobson agreed and made the decision to run for office in a race that was shaping up to be highly visible and difficult.

As other candidates announced their campaigns, the race narrowed to Councilmember Jacobson and a previous candidate for mayor, Hollies Winston. Mr. Winston, a Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party (DFL) activist, had the support of most other labor unions and many elected officials as the DFL party made an official endorsement in this mayoral race despite city council and mayoral races typically being non-partisan. This endorsement did not impact the Regional Council’s support of Councilmember Jacobson. In politics, loyalty is important. Having a mutual trust with Councilmember Jacobson was important enough for us to continue supporting her mayoral campaign.

Our goal was to assist Councilmember Jacobson in her primary election where she needed to place in the top two to be on the ballot for the general election. The primary was a seven-candidate race held this past April. Assistant Political Director, Kim Nelson assumed several roles and responsibilities that impact an election.

Throughout the summer, NCSRCC volunteers dedicated countless hours to get Councilmember Jacobson on the ballot in the general election. Councilmember Jacobson placed second in the primary election.

Two votes? It doesn’t seem possible, but I won the election to serve as the 13th Mayor of the fourth largest city in the Twin Cities metro area by two votes. The difference that the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters made to my campaign, and this win, is immeasurable. I appreciated their true dedication and commitment to put ballots in the box for me when other unions went in the opposite direction. I look forward to continuing to advocate and be a champion for issues in the construction industry,” said Mayor Lisa Jacobson.

NCSRCC’s endorsement and resources were vital in electing Mayor Jacobson. Our efforts have provided us with a strong advocate in the mayor’s office in a market that is important to our membership. This demonstrates why politics matter and how volunteers can impact an election. Every vote counts.
Six Minnesota Politicians Work Against Carpenter Economics - Your Paycheck

It was not long ago that Minnesota legislators would introduce legislation each biennium to strip our collective bargaining rights with so-called “right-to-work” bills and attempts to erase our prevailing wage laws. These attacks were widely supported, and we designated significant time and resources to stopping bills in committee and were prepared to preserve our rights through introducing floor amendments. Over the last decade, we have expanded our bipartisan outreach and worked extensively to stop these attacks on our members.

During the 2021 session, only six of the 201 legislators in the Minnesota House of Representatives signed onto a right-to-work bill. In the Senate, no matching bill was introduced nor were any bills seeking to change prevailing wage laws. The decline in the number of legislators supporting these harmful bills and the lack of further legislation demonstrates the positive political relationships that the members and staff of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters have built with members of the Minnesota House and Senate. We know we need to focus on carpenter economics, and that means working across the aisle wherever and whenever we can.

The six House Members who did sign on to the right-to-work bill are the elected officials we need to unseat. If you live in their area, please let them know what you think of them supporting this anti-union legislation regardless of whether you affiliate more with the Democratic-Farmer-Labor, Republican, or the Independent Party. You can also consider running against them as our political staff can assist you with that process.

UNSEAT SIX HOUSE MEMBERS WHO SIGNED THE RIGHT-TO-WORK BILL

Rep. Drakowski, Mazeppa
Rep. Mortensen, Shakopee
Rep. Miller, Prinsburg
Rep. Munson, Lake Crystal
Rep. Bahr, East Bethel
Rep. Lucero, St. Michael

Bipartisan Efforts Salvaged the Davis-Bacon Act

For 90 years, the Davis-Bacon Act, named after U.S. Senator James Davis and Congressman Robert Bacon, has ensured that when our tax dollars are spent on construction projects, contractors who bid on them pay the local area wage rate (prevailing wage) to workers. This is the minimum wage paid to a worker on taxpayer-funded public works construction jobs in a particular area.

This act makes it harder for low-wage employers to win bids while benefiting contractors who hire highly trained carpenters who do not want to drive down the standard of living.

This year, there was an attempt to repeal Davis-Bacon via an amendment made on a package of bills designed to invest in U.S. business competitiveness with China. The legislation was the $52 billion Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors Act. The vote struck down the amendment intended to remove the bill’s prevailing wage. This was the first major floor vote on Davis-Bacon in over a decade. A bipartisan group of 58 senators rejected the amendment, protected prevailing wage, and ensured workers receive fair pay for their work on these projects.

When carpenters vote, politicians listen, and many staff and members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters successfully worked to preserve the prevailing wage threatened in this amendment.

WHERE OUR U.S. HOUSE MEMBERS STAND ON DAVIS-BACON

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<tr>
<th>AGAINST</th>
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<td>Rep. Johnson (R-SD)</td>
<td>Rep. Forster (R-NE)</td>
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Support for Davis-Bacon prevailing wage is a cornerstone issue for earning an endorsement from our Regional Council. We routinely educate elected officials and candidates about the need to uphold Davis-Bacon prevailing wage. Their support equates to voting for good jobs and fair pay for the work performed on the job.

Preserving Davis-Bacon prevailing wage helps to keep the training and safety standards high on public works projects. If they oppose Davis-Bacon, they are helping to drive wages down in the areas they represent. It is that simple.

Your Regional Council endorses politicians who support Davis-Bacon and a bigger paycheck for our members. To the left is a list of House members from throughout the states in our Regional Council and where they stand on this important issue. Their position was derived from endorsement questionnaires, committee votes and publicly voicing their commitment.

U.S. House Davis-Bacon Support
## Congressional Scorecard

Our scorecard looks at the highest profile infrastructure jobs, labor standards, and industry-related issues that Congress has recently voted on including the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage, the bipartisan infrastructure bill, Protect the Right to Organize (PRO) Act and the National Apprenticeship Act. These scores are based on votes, public statements and political questionnaires.

As a result of the way the U.S. House and Senate work through legislative proposals, there are less and less individual bills and votes today than there has historically been in Congress. Many bills pass in the House and do not ever get considered by the Senate. Both the PRO-Act and apprenticeship votes have been passed in the House but not considered by the Senate.

### 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 not voted on in the U.S. House prior to publication deadline. It 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.

### PRO Act

The Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act is the most important piece of labor legislation in decades. It seeks to empower workers by removing barriers to organizing a union in their workplace. It will also repeal "right-to-work" laws that lead to lower wages, fewer benefits, and more dangerous workplaces.

### National Apprenticeship Act

The National Apprenticeship Act would invest $3.5 billion over five years to expand apprenticeships across the country. The bill focuses primarily on registering apprenticeships, which are programs authorized by the Department of Labor or a state apprenticeship agency as meeting certain qualifications.

### Scorecard

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<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Davis-Bacon</th>
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How Presidents Effect Your Pocket

The United States has had 46 presidents since George Washington’s election in 1789. While President Washington was not affiliated with any political party, and even opposed partisanship, political differences over 250 years ago led to rivalries and the founding of the first political party, the Federalist Party. As of today, we have had 17 Democratic and 19 Republican Presidents. We must work towards our agenda regardless of who is in office. If history tells us anything, we will continue to see a mixture of Democrat and Republican control. Carpenter economics crosses party lines, and we continue to advise companies on safety and compliance as a safety consultant. He will be a strong safety advocate.

Despite a difficult hurdle in the U.S. Senate, President Biden has publicly maintained his support for the PRO Act. The PRO Act would provide a giant boost to carpenter economics by creating penalties for employers who try to illegally bust unions, strengthening protections for workers who are wrongfully fired as part of organizing campaigns and overriding anti-union “right-to-work” laws in most states making it easier for new unions to secure their first contracts. While the PRO Act has been reintroduced in Congress, continued support by Biden will be key to ensuring labor earns as many votes as possible on the bill.

Many of President Biden’s initial accomplishments will positively impact carpenter economics. However, members will still have strong feelings about President Biden over social issues that encompass their beliefs. Yet, without our livelihoods, nearly all social issues would take a back seat. This is not to suggest that politicians, including President Biden, should not be held accountable and evaluated for what remains on their agendas and whether any of it gets accomplished. One major item that remains on all our agendas is the $1.2 trillion infrastructure bill that would bring billions of dollars of work to our Region, including bridges, airports, and other infrastructure needs. This will be a key issue used to measure political support for carpenter economics in the near future.

CARPENTER ECONOMICS

President Biden selected James Fredrick, long time Steelworker employee, to lead the Department of Labor’s OSHA division. Fredrick spent 25 years working in the United Steelworker’s health, safety and environment department. In 2019, Fredrick left the Steelworkers but continued to advise companies on safety and compliance as a safety consultant. He will be a strong safety advocate.

An 11-volume State Department report on the Keystone XL pipeline found that it would not significantly contribute to carbon pollution. Critics say the project threatens Albertas rivers and forests resulting in Biden citing concerns over the environment as the basis for reverting the permit.

TC Energy Corp, the Canadian company that owns the Keystone XL pipeline along with the Alberta government, claims more than 1,000 people are out of work, thousands of jobs and billions of dollars wasted. Building trades unions and the Carpenters continue to advocate for this project and the jobs it supports.

In April, President Biden created a White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment focusing on promoting labor organizing. Following decades of declining membership in labor unions, this task force will issue recommendations on how the government can use existing authority to help workers join labor unions and bargain collectively. It will also recommend new policies that may contribute to achieving those goals. The task force will be led by Vice President Kamala Harris and includes other key cabinet officials and White House advisers.

President Biden also replaced Peter Robb as head of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) with Peter Ohr. Robb was a key player in helping to bust the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization union and continued his anti-labor track as head of the NLRB. He tried to make changes that would end neutrality agreements, which are agreements between an employer and a union where the employer agrees not to oppose the union’s organizing efforts within their company. Neutrality agreements often include an employer’s promise to maintain silence during union organizing efforts. Upon taking office, Ohr announced that the NLRB will no longer pursue cases that challenge a company’s right to stay neutral during a union election. He also rolled back two directives aimed at making it easier to prosecute labor unions’ negligent behavior which was previously treated as a harmless mistake.

In an executive order, President Biden ordered the Department of Labor to issue a regulation that clarifies workers have a federally guaranteed right to refuse employment that puts their health in danger and still qualify for unemployment insurance. When unscrupulous contractors fail to provide safe working conditions that are at the forefront of the Carpenters training and prioritized by signatory contractors, workers will have a safety net that protects them from having to decide whether to risk their lives or provide for themselves and their families.

How has the Joe Biden administration supported Carpenter Economics?

- Selecting Marty Walsh as Secretary of Labor - the first union member to be appointed in nearly 50 years.
- Reversing the permit for the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline in opposition to many trade unions.
- Creating a White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment promoting labor organizing.
- Replacing the head of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) with Peter Ohr.
- Ordering the DOL to issue a regulation that clarifies workers’ rights to unemployment.
- Selecting Jessica Looman as the deputy administrator of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division.
- Selecting James Fredrick, a long time steelworker, to lead the DOL’s OSHA division.
- Publicly maintaining support for the PRO Act which would boost Carpenter Economics.

President Biden signed an executive order revoking the permit for the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline in opposition to many of the building trades unions. Biden’s order revoked the permit President Trump granted on March 29, 2019. The Keystone XL pipeline is an international project with years of planning and work completed. The 875-mile pipeline would have carried a heavy crude oil mixture from Western Canada to Steele City, Neb., where it would connect with another leg stretching to Gulf Coast refineries. Without the U.S. government’s support, it is essentially halted.

Selecting Marty Walsh as Secretary of Labor - the first union member to be appointed in nearly 50 years.
Gov. Evers’ Building Commission Budget Creates Union Jobs

Every two years, the Governor of Wisconsin introduces a Building Commission budget, which funds the construction and repairs for all state buildings including the University of Wisconsin System. The overall budget includes individual projects encompassing every corner of the state from the new UW-Platteville Sesquicentennial Hall to the UW-La Crosse field house.

For Building Commission projects, union general contractors maintain an extremely high market share under the bidding policies which require high standards and a proven track record of quality performance.

In addition to new construction, the budget supports renovations and repairs to buildings. The majority of repairs and renovations are for buildings constructed decades ago in need of frequent repairs. One example is the highly publicized case from this spring when concrete slabs broke off a UW-Madison building crashing onto a public sidewalk. Engineers found that the building’s remaining panels posed an immediate threat to public health, welfare and safety. Gov. Evers’ budget recommendation incorporated $2.4 billion in funding over the next two years on state building projects with the majority going to the University of Wisconsin System. This budget would increase the work hours and projects available to union general contractors and members.

The numbers speak for themselves. Gov. Evers’ budgets have aggressively addressed delayed maintenance caused by former Gov. Scott Walker’s failure to invest in our state’s infrastructure. This change in investment priorities is a result of electing Gov. Evers, in which the Carpenters played an integral role.

Building Commission funding set by Gov. Evers has created family-supporting jobs while clearing repair backlogs and modernizing our world class educational facilities. He continues to be an invaluable partner delivering results for the middle class and for union carpenters in Wisconsin.

This August, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) held its second Work Boots to Wingtips campaign and candidate training. Members met in Pewaukee, Wisconsin, to learn about how to file for office, organize a campaign, raise money, write a campaign stump speech and how to determine the number of votes necessary to win an election.

This training has been conducted twice by the NCSRCC political department staff and will become an annual event going forward. We have had dozens of members run for office and apply to serve on boards and commissions. From this class in Pewaukee, there are a number of members who are running in the Wisconsin spring elections and other future races.

“Members who step-up make a difference,” said Executive Secretary-Treasurer John Raines. “When decisions get made that impact our work and our paycheck, we need elected officials who understand the middle class and carpenter economics casting votes and carrying legislation.”

In addition to the training that focused on skills and tactics, participants heard from elected officials who have successfully ran for office. Most candidates must commit to run for office more than once to get elected, which was a theme they heard from state legislators and local candidates alike. Elected officials also emphasized the importance that experience and messaging has to a candidate’s constituents. Participants learn that any leadership role, such as running a job site or volunteering in the community, can create name recognition and trust among voters that can impact the outcome of an election.

“As an organization, we design our training curriculum for apprentices to go from an entry-level carpenter to an experienced, fourth-year professional who is ready to work in the field as a journeyman,” said Director of Government Affairs, Adam Duininck. “These same principles apply to members who have an interest in being politically active. With the right training and preparation, our members will be set up for success and ready to win.”

If you or your spouse are interested in running for office, please contact your area political director about future opportunities to take the Work Boots to Wingtips training.

Pictured above: 2021 Work Boots to Wingtips Candidate Bootcamp graduates in Pewaukee, WI.
Wisconsin’s Ten Most Anti-Carpenter Politicians
Up for Re-Election in 2022

Project labor agreements (PLAs), which are agreements between a contractor and labor unions that establish the terms and working conditions on large projects, are once again under attack in Wisconsin. Ten politicians who voted to kill public sector PLAs in Wisconsin are now lobbying for the same ban at the federal level.

We cannot allow them to continue their anti-carpenter initiatives in Washington, D.C. They intentionally misled federal politicians and political officials in a letter they drafted and signed that implies PLAs are designed to discourage qualified contractors and are more costly. Despite the research contrary to their statements, these ten politicians continue to ask for your vote while intending to destroy your livelihoods.

These TEN Politicians who voted to KILL public sector PLAs in Wisconsin are now lobbying for the same ban at the federal level.

Representative Shannon Zimmerman
Representative Ron Tusler
Representative Terry Katsma
Representative Ken Skowronski
Representative Daniel Knodl
Representative Joe Sanfelippo
Representative Scott Allen
Representative Barbara Dittrich
Representative Michael Schraa
Representative David Murphy

PLAs deliver cost savings for developers by meeting deadlines and reducing construction costs.

Although Wisconsin has a ban on public sector PLAs, they are still allowed in the private sector. Successful private sector project examples include: the Fiserv Forum, The Couture in Milwaukee and the upcoming Nemadji Trail Energy Center in Superior. These projects have generated significant hours of work for members.

While the voting records of these anti-carpenter legislators are shameful, the good news is some Wisconsin members will have the opportunity to hold them accountable during the next election in November 2022.

TRUTH
PLAs benefit the local economy by increasing employment via local union hiring referrals.

TRUTH
PLAs deliver cost savings for developers by meeting deadlines and reducing construction costs.

TRUTH
PLAs project owners receive the best trained, highest skilled workers ensuring efficiency and safety.
In Iowa, we focus much of our political attention on local government decision makers along with the state legislature. Local government is where most of the decisions are made regarding vertical development. They make land use, zoning and permitting decisions. Local communities and their governments are also more likely to support local workers and businesses. The Regional Council’s political staff focused their efforts on encouraging cities and counties to develop a Taxpayer Quality Assurance ordinance and corresponding questionnaire. After repeated conversations with contractors and local government officials to continue building political relationships, the Taxpayer Quality Assurance ordinance continues to be adopted in more counties and cities throughout Iowa.

The questionnaire ensures that responsible contractors are receiving public development contracts. It helps local government officials identify and hire contractors who are up-to-date on basic compliance standards including proper business registration, history of compliance with labor and safety laws and relevant insurance coverage. These ordinances have been passed in Johnson, Linn, Polk and Woodbury counties in addition to the cities of Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Waterloo and Sioux City.

Nebraska Senators Tackle Wage Theft and Tax Fraud

Senator Matt Hansen, representing Legislative District 26 (Northeast Lincoln), sponsored wage theft legislation that requires payment of unpaid wages for violations of the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act. He also included several additional provisions in his omnibus bill in support of workers.

Sen. Vargas’ bill targeted contractors who misclassify craft employees as independent contractors. The bill allowed the NDOL to use cash funds to hire additional bilingual inspectors dedicated to inspecting construction sites and meat packing facilities. The bill received bipartisan support to use $125,000 in NDOL cash reserves to hire bilingual investigators in the Misclassification Investigation Division. In addition, he reached an agreement with the NDOL to convert an existing position within the misclassification division to become a bilingual construction investigator. From July 2019 through June 2020, Nebraska field investigators completed 765 audits. The outcome of the audits revealed 2,820 workers wrongfully classified as independent contractors. As a result, they were added to the employers’ tax and wage records. These corrections resulted in an additional $103,438.92 in unreported tax collections.

Sen. Hansen was instrumental in passing legislation that dictates an employer must pay an employee, or former employee, any wages determined by the NDOL to be owed under the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act. An investigation by the NDOL may trigger a citation to the employer. As the chairman of the Business and Labor Committee, Sen. Hansen also passed an omnibus labor bill that included multiple provisions that are major victories for working people in Nebraska. The first provision prohibits an employer from retaliating or discriminating against an employee who files a lawsuit, files a complaint or participates in an investigation under the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act. A second provision allows an employee working for a company, which is not subject to the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act, to file a lawsuit against their employer to recoup owed wages resulting from a NDOL violation. Finally, another provision amended the Employee Classification Act by allowing a citation to be issued to employers for misclassifying employees prior to a hearing. Citations are to employers for misclassifying employees. The following questionnaires are to be submitted to the City of Omaha Expeditor within 10 calendar days of notification to the approved bond issuer.

Apprentices at the Carpenters Training Institute - Omaha Campus.

Carpenters advocated for and testified in support of bills authored by two leading Nebraska state senators to address wage theft and tax fraud, which are both major initiatives of the Carpenters. Senator Tony Vargas, representing Legislative District 7 (South Omaha), sponsored a bill requiring the Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) to hire additional bilingual inspectors to increase compliance with the Nebraska Employee Classification Act.
North Dakota Invests In Bonding and Energy

The North Dakota legislature rarely passes a bonding bill. However, last spring, the legislature and the governor approved a $680 million bonding bill that included over $400 million for the Fargo-Moorhead flood diversion project. This large bonding bill should lead to job opportunities and set a precedent for passing future bonding bills. The Carpenters strongly supported this bonding bill as well as career and technical education policy bills while working with industry partners on energy legislation relating to power plant jobs.

The legislature also made significant investments in energy research and development on carbon capture and sequestration, or the capturing of carbon dioxide before it enters the atmosphere, transporting and storing it long-term. North Dakota’s economy depends on coal, gas, oil and other power sources. With this year’s sale of the Coal Creek Station, North Dakota’s largest and most efficient power plant, to Rainbow Energy Center along with other investments made by the legislature, we will have substantial work opportunities in the future.