



MINNESOTA POLITICAL NEWS

UBC 2021 Tax Fraud Days of Action, April 14th-17th

UBC's Construction Industry Tax Fraud Days of Action are an opportunity for NCSRCC to join in solidarity with other councils across North America to raise awareness and highlight the great work that we are doing to deter the practice of wage theft/tax fraud in our industry. Deterring tax fraud is important to protect workers' rights and to level the business playing field for contractors following the rules. To learn more about this issue and to find an action near you go to www.StopTaxFraud.net/Standup.

SAVE THE DATE: Monday, April 26th 9:30am to 10:30am Virtual Rally for Jobs & Safety of Workers

Join the Leadership of NCSRCC, Laborers International Union of North America, the Operating Engineers, and Legislative Leadership for a ZOOM rally in support of jobs and worker safety. The rally is being held in conjunction with Workers Memorial Week and is part of our virtual 2021 Minnesota Legislative Conference. Targeted virtual lobby visits will also be scheduled throughout the upcoming weeks. Register here <https://secure.everyaction.com/TW1bvTWH10ScVx7CVMZwhg2> or by contacting your Local.

MN LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Two of the prominent issues of the session have been clean energy and affordable housing. We have strongly advocated that public dollars and PUC-approval should contain prevailing wage as a baseline for public dollars when it comes to housing and clean energy. We have also been focused on OSHA standards, increasing state funds for inspectors, and making OSHA citations public. In addition to supporting the Department of Labor proposals, we are also working with the Building Trades to support an Oil Refinery Safety bill that would add requirements for contractors to be enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program.

Lastly, we are supporting some jobs bills. The first is a tax bill that exempts having to pay income tax on the unemployment benefits in 2020 and includes a tax incentive that will allow for more development such as the Historic Tax Credit bill. The second bill we support is a bonding bill. While we are glad that the legislature passed a \$1.8 billion bill in October, we are hopeful that a bonding bill will also come together as a part of the budget negotiations. There is still great need for projects around the state and we are working with legislative leaders to support a modest construction bonding bill.

JOB CREATION & PROTECTION – Win! Defending Prevailing Wage in Rochester

Passing prevailing wage language is a way to protect labor area standards. It is also one of the best deterrents to fighting contractors practicing in wage theft. Your NCSRCC Political Team has worked to reverse a Council Initiated Action in Rochester, final vote 6 to 1, that would have exempted all affordable housing projects seeking city funds from having to pay prevailing wage. City staff will now come back to the council with new language tying prevailing wage to all projects seeking Rochester city funds.

Background: Spring 2020 saw the City of Rochester, upon our recommendation, enact prevailing wage on all projects seeking city funds or assistance. Fall 2020 saw four incumbent city councilmembers either, not seek re-election or suffer defeat. This outgoing council passed a Council Initiated Action directing city staff to draft language that would exempt affordable housing projects from having to pay prevailing wage. This is problematic for two reasons. First, the affordable housing crisis is not simply a housing issue it is also a wage issue. Second, contractors who practice wage theft/tax fraud are prevalent in the affordable housing world.