

QUARTERLY UPDATE

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SEPTEMBER 2018

GET OUT THE VOTE!

Vote on Nov. 6, 2018, for the General Election

A **general election** will be held on Nov. 6, 2018. Minnesota voters will vote in a new governor and all other executive officers. All the seats in the Minnesota House of Representatives, a U.S. Senate seat, and numerous other seats are also up for re-election.

North Dakota voters will select one U.S. senator and one U.S. representative. A new Secretary of State, Attorney General, and several other statewide executive and judicial branch offices will also be determined.

This election is important, and it is your chance to take control for your community and weigh in on the issues that matter most to you and your family. As voters, we all have an equal say in determining our future. That's why it is so important to go cast a vote!

The leaders we elect will make decisions that affect your everyday life — your job, health care, energy costs, the economy and more. So, don't sit this one out — ***join your friends and neighbors and make it count on Nov. 6, 2018!***

Minnesota voters go here: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote>.

North Dakota voters, go here: <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/PortalList.aspx>.



An Examination of Minnesota's Prevailing Wage Law

Effects on Costs, Training, and Economic Development

By Frank Manzo IV, M.P.P. and Kevin Duncan, Ph.D.

Key Findings

At a time when unemployment is historically low and 72 percent of contractors are having trouble filling craft positions, one policy has helped recruit and retain skilled workers into Minnesota's construction industry: the Minnesota Prevailing Wage Act. The policy provides local minimum wages for construction workers employed on public projects and levels the playing field for contractors.

The Minnesota Prevailing Wage Act keeps construction costs stable.

- The vast majority of studies find that prevailing wage laws have no effect on public construction costs.
- Labor costs are a low and historically declining share of total project costs – about 23 percent.
- A new analysis of 640 bids on school construction projects in Minnesota finds that winning bids on projects with prevailing wages are no more costly than bids on projects without prevailing wages.

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Welcome

OUR NEW MEMBERS

- Matthew Allen
- Damien Axtell
- Keara Buckley
- Ryan Burt
- Christopher Carothers
- Aaron Casar
- Matthew Conner
- Terry Cowden
- Neil Hammarsten
- Brandon Harris
- Zachary Humphrey
- Jeremy Johnston
- Christopher Larson
- Brian LeClaire
- Travis Lewellin
- Vaughan Lofgren
- Casey Miller
- Ellis Nelson
- Taylor Otey
- Jonathan Rivera
- Terry Rodahl
- Jesse Stassen
- Thomas Stroup
- Joshua Summers
- Scott Wilbanks
- Erik Windom

Prevailing Wage Law Key Findings

Continued from page 1

The Minnesota Prevailing Wage Act is an effective job skills advancement policy.

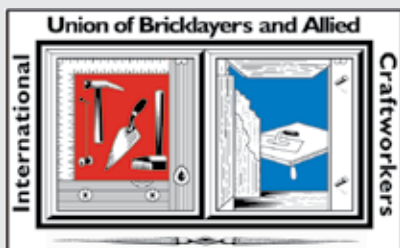
- Prevailing wage laws increase apprenticeship training, boost worker productivity, and reduce injury rates – helping to address the skilled labor shortage in construction.
- 93 percent of all registered apprentices in Minnesota are enrolled in joint labor-management programs.
- In 2015, the 10 largest joint labor-management apprenticeship programs had \$29.8 million in annual revenue and \$68.5 million in total assets while the program associated with the employer-only Associated Builders and Contractors had just \$297,000 in revenue and \$290,000 in total assets.

The Minnesota Prevailing Wage Act provides pathways into the middle class and boosts the economy.

- Minnesota’s prevailing wage law increases annual incomes by 5.2 percent, expands health insurance coverage by 5.0 percent, and improves pension-coverage by 5.3 percent for blue-collar construction workers.
- Prevailing wage reduces the share of construction workers receiving food stamps by 2.1 percent.
- When school districts in Minnesota include prevailing wages on projects local contractors account for a 10 percent higher market share – with tax dollars staying in the local economy.
- By protecting work for in-state contractors, Minnesota’s prevailing wage law improves the state economy by \$981 million and generates \$37 million in state and local tax revenue.
- Compared to Indiana, which recently repealed its prevailing wage law, construction worker productivity has grown 7.7 percent faster and worker turnover rates have fallen further in Minnesota.



Minnesota’s prevailing wage law produces positive impacts on the economy. By protecting local standards, prevailing wage supports work for local contractors and makes it easier for contractors to recruit, train, and retain skilled workers. The Minnesota Prevailing Wage Act is the best deal for taxpayers.



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An Examination of Minnesota's Prevailing Wage Law Report Summary

Prevailing wage is a minimum wage for construction workers employed on publicly-funded projects. The main purpose of a prevailing wage law is to protect local construction labor standards in the low-bid environment. Prevailing wage laws create a level playing field for all contractors by ensuring that public expenditures maintain and reflect local area standards for wages, benefits, and training contributions. This study examines the effects of Minnesota's prevailing wage law on the cost of public construction, apprenticeship training programs, and economic development outcomes – including impacts on worker incomes, government assistance programs, and the broader Minnesota economy.

Minnesota's Prevailing Wage Law, Public Construction Costs, and Bid Competition

Fully 72 percent of peer-reviewed studies conducted since 2000 find that prevailing wage laws have no effect on the cost of public construction projects, including 82 percent of the studies focused on school construction costs. Prevailing wage laws do not impact project costs because labor costs are a low and historically declining share of total construction costs – about 23 percent in the United States.

Consequently, only minor changes in labor productivity and other construction costs are needed to offset the effect of the wage policy.

Opponents of prevailing wage laws claim that the wage policy reduces the level of bid competition, leading to higher costs. This claim is often made in the absence of any empirical evidence. There have been three peer-reviewed studies and one other report that examine the effect of the wage policy on the level of bid competition. These studies investigate 2,183 total bids on public projects in four distinct states or provinces and find that prevailing wage standards do not reduce the number of bidders on public projects.

To provide recent evidence of the effect of prevailing wage standards on the cost of public construction in Minnesota, 640 subcontractor low bids in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area are analyzed. The results indicate that winning bids based on the payment of prevailing wages are no more costly than bids that do not require prevailing wages. These results are consistent with the preponderance of peer-reviewed academic research.

Minnesota's Prevailing Wage Law and Apprenticeship Training

Formal apprenticeship training is the foundation for human capital development in Minnesota's construction industry.

By reflecting local market-based standards for wages, benefits, and training contributions, Minnesota's prevailing wage law increases apprenticeship training. Economic research has found that prevailing wage laws are associated with higher apprenticeship shares, better apprenticeship program completion rates, and higher levels of worker productivity. By strengthening private apprenticeship investments, Minnesota's prevailing wage law is an essential policy to help meet the demand for skilled workers. Prevailing wage promotes a skilled workforce that completes high-quality public construction projects on time and under budget.



In Minnesota, fully 93 percent of all registered apprentices are enrolled in joint labor management programs. Joint labor management programs train 92 percent of all white apprentices, 92 percent of all African American apprentices, 95 percent of all Latino and Latina apprentices, and 84 percent of all veterans in registered apprenticeship programs in Minnesota.

There is a significant disparity in training resources between joint labor-management apprenticeship programs and those offered by non-joint sponsors, such as the Construction Education Foundation of Minnesota sponsored by the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC). Joint labor-management programs are financed by a “cents per hour” contribution that is part of the total wage and benefit package negotiated privately with contractors. In 2015, the 10 largest labor-management programs, by number of active apprentices, had \$29.8 million in annual revenue, \$68.5 million in total assets, and 252 total employees. By contrast, non-joint programs are sponsored by a single contractor or group of employers. The ABC's apprenticeship training program had just \$297,000 in annual revenue, \$290,000 in total assets, and one employee.

Minnesota's Prevailing Wage Law and Economic Development

In addition to ensuring that the next generation of construction

Continued on page 5

2018 Continuing Education Schedule

All journeyworkers are welcome to attend any course. You must RSVP by calling 763-404-8345 or online at www.bactraining.org.

Date	Time	Branch Of Trade / Location	Class
9/17/18	4 - 8 p.m.	All / Metro	Pro-10
9/26 & 9/27/18	4:30 - 8:30 p.m.	All / SE MN	CPR/First Aid
<i>Safety Certifications through Minnesota Safety Council that includes 1st Aid, CPR, and AED (use of automated external defibrillator) MUST ATTEND BOTH NIGHTS. They will be held at the Mazeppa, MN Training Center.</i>			
10/1 – 11/19/18*	4 - 8:30 p.m.	All / Metro	OSHA 30
<i>*Mondays starting October 1 through November 19.</i>			
10/10/18	4 - 8 p.m.	Tile / Metro	Bostik Grouts
10/16/18	4:30 - 8:30 p.m.	All / Metro	Pro-10
12/12 & 12/19/18	4 - 8 p.m.	All / Metro	CPR/First Aid
MUST ATTEND BOTH NIGHTS.			
12/19/2018	4:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Brick / Metro	Flashing

Flashing & Grout in Bismarck area will be in the late fall, date TBD. Stay tuned for updates.

ACT Certification dates TBD. Call Jayson Moore for more information at 612-380-3022 or email jmoore@bactraining.org.

CLASSES TO BE OFFERED BY DEMAND, SO RESERVE YOUR SPOT EARLY.

Apprentice Orientation

Mandatory for all Brick & Tile Apprentices

Metro Area

Wednesday, September 5

4:30-6:30 PM

5420 International Pkwy.
New Hope, MN 55428

Rochester Area

Tuesday, September 4

4:30-6:30 PM

928 Chestnut St. NE
Mazeppa, MN 55956

Duluth Area

Thursday, September 6

4:30-6:30 PM

9165 Highway 53
Cotton, MN 55724

For Greater MN/ND Apprentices, please stay tuned for further updates.

Questions? Call 763-404-8345

Prevailing Wage Law Report Summary *Continued from page 3*

workers is well-trained, state prevailing wage laws foster good, middle-class careers for construction workers. Minnesota's prevailing wage law statistically increases annual blue-collar construction incomes by 5.2 percent on average and on median.

Minnesota's prevailing wage law supports self-sufficient construction workers. The law expands private health insurance coverage by 5 percentage points, improves the share of construction workers with pension plans by 5.3 percentage points, and reduces the share of construction workers who qualify for food stamp assistance by 2.1 percentage points. As a result, an estimated 5,800 construction workers have pension plans, 5,500 construction workers have private health insurance coverage (including more than 400 veterans), and 2,300 construction workers avoid reliance on food stamps due to Minnesota's prevailing wage law. By improving apprenticeship training and safety, promoting a strong middle class, and keeping construction costs stable, Minnesota's prevailing wage law produces fiscally responsible public budgets.

Minnesota's prevailing wage law also produces positive impacts on the broader Minnesota economy. By protecting local standards, prevailing wage supports work for local contractors and their employees – keeping more taxpayer funds in the local economy and stimulating economic activity. The policy allows local contractors to submit competitive and profitable bids based on the wage rates needed to attract local workers possessing the skills required by the project. As a consequence, local contractors have an advantage over out-of-area, out-of-state, and foreign competitors.

Evidence of this benefit is illustrated by more than 600 contractor bids for school construction projects built within the seven-county Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. Fully 74 percent of the total bid values for school projects requiring the payment of prevailing wages was awarded to metro-resident contractors. When prevailing wages were not applied, only 64 percent of the total bid values was awarded to local contractors. This means that, when a school district chooses to include prevailing wage standards, local contractors and workers account for a 10 percent higher

market share, on average.

By maintaining prevailing wage standards, Minnesota ensures that more work is completed by local contractors and that project funds, jobs, income, and economic activity do not leak out of the local economy. In total, Minnesota's prevailing wage law protects \$505 million in construction business for in-state contractors. The stimulus effect-through, for instance, higher sales at local retail stores and service industries –

improves the Minnesota economy by approximately \$981 million annually. The corresponding total employment increase is 7,200 jobs- including 5,000 construction jobs and 2,200 jobs in other industries, such as retail, service, and restaurants. Minnesota's prevailing wage generates \$37 million in state and local tax revenue every year.

Finally, nearby Indiana offers a case study to compare and contrast with Minnesota. Minnesota's construction market has fared better than Indiana's construction market

since Indiana repealed its prevailing wage law in 2015. Per-worker productivity has grown 7.7 percentage-points faster in Minnesota and worker turnover rates have fallen in Minnesota while rising in Indiana. Employment on public projects has also grown 1.1 percentage-points faster in Minnesota than in Indiana. Ultimately, maintaining the prevailing wage law has produced positive effects on construction market outcomes in Minnesota.

Prevailing Wage is Good for Minnesota Taxpayers

Minnesota's prevailing wage law has positive impacts on the state's construction industry and broader economy. Both the highest-quality research available and recent data on school construction projects in the Twin Cities region indicate that Minnesota's prevailing wage law keeps construction costs stable. The law promotes apprenticeship training programs and ensures that public projects are completed safely, on time, and on budget. Prevailing wage also fosters a strong middle class in Minnesota, raising wages for people of all backgrounds and keeping blue-collar construction workers off public assistance programs. By ensuring that Minnesota's tax dollars are used to employ Minnesota workers at Minnesota construction companies, the prevailing wage law boosts economic development in the state. Ultimately, the prevailing wage is the best deal for Minnesota taxpayers.



¹ Policy Director; Midwest Economic Policy Institute; www.midwestepi.org

² Professor of Economics; Colorado State University-Pueblo Hasan School of Business; www.csupueblo.edu

MEMBER RECOGNITION



BAC Golf Tournament Winners

Left to right: Dallas Smith, Tom Kraft, Brian Kraft, and Elliot Hunt.

Thanks to the donations from affiliates and service providers, we raffled off an iPad 6, 43" and 32" televisions, a digital smoker, and a pressure washer. The proceeds go to the Injured Apprentice Fund. Thank you to all the sponsors listed below.

A big **thank you** to Pheasant Acres Golf Course for the beautiful weather and a great course.

Thanks to Our Sponsors

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*Indicates one (1) hole sponsorship

MEMBER RECOGNITION



Metro, MN: 40-Year Members

Gold Card Dinner at Envision Catering & Hospitality on July 12, 2018

Back, left to right: 40-year members Bill Hicks, Doug Carlson, Bob Steinbring, Mike Cook, Mike Strand, Steven Ruzek, Ronald Nordeen, Jerry Jerome, Larry Strese, Paul Weise, Terry Wong. Front, left to right: Richard Perreault, Donald Sorensen, Randall Petrash, Bruce Falck, Mike Hawthorne, Terry Moen, Paul Roberts and Oaklon Martin.



Metro, MN: 50-Year Members

Gold Card Dinner at Envision Catering & Hospitality on July 12, 2018

Left to right: President, Secretary/Treasurer Doug Schroeder, 50-year members Wynn Ostlie, Dan Simon, Leonard Jarosiewicz, Glenn Welle, Dwayne Fladland and Gary Goblirsch.



7th Annual BAC ATV Ride Happy Trails Enjoyed By Many

The 7th annual BAC ATV ride was held on July 21. Twenty participants with 13 machines covered 39 miles of trails through the Paul Bunyan State Forest. Local members along with members and families from Milaca, Clear Lake, Bemidji, and Akeley enjoyed the sights, sounds and smells of the north woods.

We had excellent riding conditions with two days of rain prior to the ride. There was no dust and minimal mud. Temps were comfortable and the deer flies were on vacation with not much for bug issues. This year again we had a trail lunch of grilled hot dogs and chips at the scenic overlook on the west side of the trail system. We started and returned to base camp which was at the Stomping Grounds Campground, Bar and Grill with great accommodations.

This was the third year of having a potluck back at the campgrounds at 6 pm for fellowship.

The 8th annual BAC ATV ride is scheduled for July 13, 2019. Mark your calendar!



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IMI Masonry Minute

IMI provides masonry education and expertise to the design and construction communities on behalf of BAC Local 1 MN/ND members. Mark Swanson, IMI director and licensed architect, provides educational seminars and serves as a project consultant to boost masonry work opportunities for BAC members.

Recent IMI Seminars

Swanson has been busy throughout the metro area and Minnesota meeting with architectural and engineering firms. In July, he traveled to Mankato to Brunton Architects. Other seminars were recently delivered to Collage Architects, Alliance, LSE, and Reprise Design.

Swanson works with structural engineers Sam Rubenzer and Mike Manor of Forse Consulting to broaden the impact of IMI by targeting a variety of structural firms, encouraging them to use masonry structurally and efficiently in their projects. Recent seminars include Masonry Movement Joints for Architects at Mohagen Hansen. This seminar led to ongoing project involvement with BKBM Engineering.

Masonry Wednesdays

IMI's Masonry Wednesday Series has been up and running for almost a year now. Masonry Wednesdays have helped raise awareness and knowledge around masonry and masonry products in an effort to increase union masonry work hours.

Since last September, we have had more than 365 architects, engineers, construction managers, owners, general contractors,



Sam Rubenzer at Mohagen Hansen Architect



Pittsburgh IMI Director, Brian Trimble, PE at Masonry Wednesday at BAC training center

and BAC signatory contractors registered for the Masonry Wednesday seminar series and visit the BAC Training Center in New Hope, MN. Swanson coordinates speakers and topics that may include new masonry products, new masonry construction techniques, and best practices. Join us on the third Wednesday of each month for a free, one-hour seminar and lunch!

Technical Assistance and Project Involvement

Swanson has been providing project assistance to architects, engineers, and signatory contractors with best practice masonry detail information. Recently, Swanson along with Wisconsin IMI Director Pat Conway made suggestions to a detail that was provided on a stone veneer project by a Local 1 MN/ND contractor who saw that something wasn't right and wanted confirmation. Providing graphics, code and best practice information, Swanson and Conway were able to

provide the mason contractor with substantial information to suggest an improved detail to the design team.

Training Programs for You

Swanson continually advocates for the design and construction community to use skilled, highly-trained union labor. To learn more about training programs available to BAC members, visit www.IMTEF.org and www.bactraining.org. Follow IMI Minnesota on Facebook to stay up-to-date on local news and events.



Passings

DECEASED MEMBERS

We are sorry to report the deaths of these members:

#1 MN-St. Paul

Frank Fischer
Joseph Hofmann

#2 MN-Minneapolis

Donald Kubal
Robert Lund
Lowell Prestegord
Roger Reiter
Lester Tessness

#3 MN-Duluth

Peter Isaacson

#10 MN-

Albert Liverseed

15 MN-

Daniel Wegner

18 MN-

Robert Jaunich

#107 MN-

Kenneth Hanson

#4 ND-Bismarck

Leo Kuntz

Help For Legal and Financial Concerns

According to a poll taken by Work Place Options, at least 36 percent of workers believe that financial stress has affected their ability to do their jobs. Therefore, the worker's issues become significant for businesses of all sizes when they experience a drop in productivity. The individuals who responded to the survey were concerned about a lack of retirement savings, monthly bills and expenses, taxes and growing debt. Working individuals may also be troubled by legal concerns such as divorce and custody proceedings, landlord/tenant lease disputes or complicated probate events. Often times, a person may be in need of accurate legal information and advice, but feels daunted by the perceived costs or feel they just do not know where to turn for help.

TEAM can be a good resource to help union members solve both financial and legal problems. When you call, TEAM staff will gather your personal information and connect you to our Work Place Options consultants for either legal assistance or financial counseling.

All financial counselors are certified experts and they may be able to provide you immediate assistance over the phone. For more complicated cases, the consultant may schedule a 1-hour appointment. At times, the counselor may send worksheets to complete prior to the appointment and will follow up by sending a summary of goals and steps. There is no restriction on the use of this free service.

If the union member needs legal consultation, many questions can be answered on the phone with a legal assistant, at no cost. Should the need arise to hire a lawyer, the legal consultant will provide contact information for a qualified attorney who is able to take on your particular case. The first 30-minute consultation is free and the attorney working with our network will discount the hourly rate by 25 percent. All attorneys have multiple years of experience, carry liability insurance and have no public record for discipline.

Call TEAM today at 651-642-0182 and let us help you solve your financial or legal challenges.

TEAM also provides short-term, face-to-face counseling for personal and workplace problems. All counseling is free and confidential. There is 24/7, year-round phone assistance with a live person. Immediate dependents are also eligible for TEAM services.

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2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please clip the calendar and post it in a convenient spot so it's handy when you want to check meetings and events.



Chapter 1-Minneapolis-St. Paul

312 Central Ave., Minneapolis:
4:30 p.m. Sept. 10, Nov. 12
Envision Catering & Hospitality, 484
Inwood Ave., Oakdale: All Metro
members 7 p.m. Dec. 10

Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing-Iron Range

Duluth Labor Center:
5 p.m. Sept. 12, Dec. 12
Hibbing Crown Ballroom: 6 p.m.
Nov. 14

Chapter 4-St. Cloud-Brainerd

St. Cloud Labor Home: 7 p.m. Nov. 7
Brainerd American Legion: 7 p.m.
Sept. 6, Dec. 6

Chapter 8-Rochester-Faribault

Rochester Eagles Club:
7 p.m. Sept. 10, Dec. 3
Faribault Eagles Club: 7 p.m.
Nov. 5 Bean Feed

Chapter 11-Mankato-New Ulm

Mankato Eagles Club:
7 p.m. Sept. 6, Dec. 6

Chapter 15-Bemidji and ND

Bemidji Elks Club: 5 p.m. Sept. 13, Nov.
8, Dec. 13
Bismarck AmVets: 7 p.m. Nov. 13
Fargo Dilworth Hi Ho Tavern: 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 25, Dec. 11
Grand Forks; E. Grand Forks American
Legion: 7 p.m., Sept. 26, Dec. 12
Minot VFW: 7 p.m. Nov. 14

GOLD CARD DINNERS

Letters will be mailed.

Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing-Iron Range

Duluth area: Holiday Inn, 6 p.m. Oct. 12
Iron Range: Valentini's, 5 p.m. Oct. 13

OTHER EVENTS

Retirees Club Breakfast meetings

Jax Cafe, Minneapolis, 9 a.m., Sept. 27,
Dec. 6

Duluth area Retirees coffee meetings

Miller Hill Mall Perkins, Duluth 9:30 a.m.,
First Wednesday of each month

Iron Range Retirees coffee meetings

Sportsmen's Restaurant and Tavern,
9 a.m., Hibbing
Third Monday of each month



St. Cloud Retirees coffee meetings

Brigittes Café, 9:30 a.m.,
Third Tuesday of each month

Executive Committee meeting

312 Central Ave., Minneapolis
9 a.m. Oct. 5

Semiannual Meeting-All of MN and ND

312 Central Ave., Minneapolis
9 a.m. Oct. 6

BAC Training Center

Apprenticeship Orientation Open
House: 4:30 p.m. Sept. 5

Chapter 3 Golf Tournament

Grandview Golf Links, Duluth
8 a.m. Sept. 8

WORKERS REMAIN UNITED DESPITE SUPREME COURT DECISION

The U.S. Supreme Court recently overturned four decades of precedent and sound law, making it harder for working people to join together in strong unions to build better lives for families and communities.

The 5-4 decision in the Janus v. AFSCME (American Federation of State, Country, and Municipal Employees) case now allows public sector employees to enjoy the benefits of a negotiated contract without paying for it.

Janus is the culmination of decades of attacks on working people by corporations and the wealthy to rig the economy in their favor. Despite their efforts, workers will continue to work in union to make our children smarter, care for our family members and make sure our communities are safe every day.

Bill McCarthy, President of the Minnesota AFL-CIO: "No court decision will ever stop working people from joining together in union to negotiate a fair return on their work. No matter how many roadblocks corporate special interests put in our path, our state's labor movement will continue to fight for working Minnesotans' freedom to prosper."



QUARTERLY UPDATE

QUARTERLY UPDATE

Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers
Local 1 Minnesota/North Dakota
312 Central Avenue, Suite 328
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Seven Corners
Printing to add
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Quarterly Update is published four times a year by Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 1 Minnesota/North Dakota to communicate with its members.

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President Doug Schroeder

Editor Patricia Johnson

Design & Production Peggy Zetah

GOVERNMENT POLITICS: OUR ISSUES



POLITICS – Our Issues

By Bill McCarthy,
MN AFL-CIO President

In the face of attacks, Minnesota's labor movement thrives

The working people of our state's labor movement make a difference every day. We build and maintain our roads and bridges, educate our children, ensure safe drinking water, respond to emergencies, care for our family members in the hospital, prepare our food, and so much more.

Recently, in a narrow 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court issued a ruling in its "Janus" decision that presents a new challenge to tens of thousands of Minnesota's public employees and their families. In this case, a bare majority of the court, over the vigorous dissent of four justices, conceded to the dark web of corporations and wealthy donors who wish to take away the freedoms of working people.

While the Supreme Court sides with powerful special interests, the rest of the country is heading in a different direction. All over Minnesota and the entire nation, workers are organizing and

taking collective action as we haven't seen in years – and we won't stop. No court decision will ever stop working people from joining together in union to negotiate a fair return on our work. No matter how many roadblocks corporate special interests put in our path, our state's labor movement will continue to fight for working Minnesotans' freedom to prosper.

In light of the Janus decision and the attacks on working peoples' freedom in our neighboring states, the 2018 election will be critical for Minnesota's unions.

For the past eight years, in neighboring states like Wisconsin, politicians backed by big corporations have systematically taken away workers' freedom to join together. They sought to divide people by race, where we live, religion, and immigration status; all so they could reward their wealthy backers with tax cuts and defund vital public services.

In the face of these attacks in our neighboring states, Governor Mark Dayton instead stood with working people in building a better Minnesota. Together, we raised our state's minimum wage, expanded all-day kindergarten to every child, and cracked down on bad employers who steal wages from workers.

We've accomplished much, and we can do even better. This November, Minnesotans won't just elect a new governor, we will be deciding whether to



continue a legacy of progress for working people. All our accomplishments could easily slip away. Voters will be faced with a clear choice of whether to build on our state's success or go back to the days of crumbling infrastructure, yearly budget deficits, and underfunded schools.

While large corporations will be spending millions of dollars on TV ads and slick mailers to elect their preferred candidate for Governor, Minnesota's union members will be having one-on-one conversations about the election with our friends, neighbors, co-workers, and fellow union members. Let's work together to build an even better Minnesota for this and future generations. Standing together, we can prevail.