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.


---

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.

*Continued on page 2*
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.

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

BAC LOCAL 1: 612-379-2966  Fax  612-379-8754
BAC INTERNATIONAL UNION: 1-888-880-8222
GENERAL INFORMATION: BAC1MN-ND.org
APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING: BACtraining.org or phone 763-404-8345
BENEFITS: Check the Zenith American Solutions website, zenith-american.com
Call 651-256-1801 or 1-800-879-4412
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.

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 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.

**Minnesota’s Prevailing Wage Law and Economic Development**

In addition to ensuring that the next generation of construction workers...
## 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Branch Of Trade / Location</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/17/18</td>
<td>4 - 8 p.m.</td>
<td>All / Metro</td>
<td>Pro-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/26 &amp; 9/27/18</td>
<td>4:30 - 8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>All / SE MN</td>
<td>CPR/First Aid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Branch Of Trade / Location</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/1 – 11/19/18*</td>
<td>4 - 8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>All / Metro</td>
<td>OSHA 30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Mondays starting October 1 through November 19.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Branch Of Trade / Location</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/10/18</td>
<td>4 - 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Tile / Metro</td>
<td>Bostik Grouts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/16/18</td>
<td>4:30 - 8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>All / Metro</td>
<td>Pro-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/12 &amp; 12/19/18</td>
<td>4 - 8 p.m.</td>
<td>All / Metro</td>
<td>CPR/First Aid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MUST ATTEND BOTH NIGHTS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Branch Of Trade / Location</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/19/2018</td>
<td>4:30 - 8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Brick / Metro</td>
<td>Flashing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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**
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

Anderson Agency
Argent Capital Management, LLC*
ASB Capital Management*
AGC of Minnesota*
Bentall Kennedy*
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of MN*
Bob’s Sparklewash
Building Trades Federal Credit Union*
Cement Masons Local 633*
Center for Diagnostic Imaging*
Clifton Larson Allen
Cummins & Cummins*
Delta Dental
EFS
Fidelity Asset Management
GCM Grosvenor*
HealthPartners
International Masonry Insitute
Jax Café
Kiffmeyer
Knutson Construction
Labor/Management Health Care Coalition
MC&MCA*
Milliman*
Minneapolis Building Trades*
Royl Masonry*
Segal & Company*
Seven Corners Printing
St. Paul Building & Constr. Trades*
T.E.A.M.*
Union Bank & Trust
United Sportsmen’s Alliance
VSP
Wells Fargo*
White Pine Capital*
Zachman Precast, Inc.*
Zenith American Solutions

*Indicates one (1) hole sponsorship
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!

Credit: Mike Gantz
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, 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.

Mark Swanson can be reached at mswanson@imiweb.org, 612-332-2214 or on his cell at 612-840-8695. To learn more about the International Masonry Institute, visit www.imiweb.org.
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.

Call us now. We are here to help YOU!
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.”
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.