

Minneapolis Labor Review

117th Year

No. 5

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www.minneapolisunions.org

Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

With clear choice for President, labor mobilizes for Harris

Labor 2024

Third in a series

By Jean Hopfensperger
Special to the Labor Review

MINNEAPOLIS — Feben Ghilagaber is among the surge of Minnesota union members now door-knocking for AFL-CIO endorsed candidates, but she's bit more uneasy than her colleagues. She's an African immigrant, raised in Minneapolis but with a foreign face and slight accent — a group of people under constant attack by former president Donald Trump.

The restaurant worker is hitting the streets both to support Vice President Kamala Harris for president and to set an example. She hopes to counteract the fake information about immigrants repeated by former president Donald Trump, who she

laments spends more time attacking people than addressing workers' needs.

"It's very scary to go out and door-knock, with all the lies Trump is spreading about foreigners," said Ghilagaber, an airport restaurant worker and member of UNITE HERE Local 17. "I feel like I need to be a voice for the voiceless. I want people to know I'm a regular person, a law-abiding citizen, that I love this country and I'm your co-worker and neighbor."

She added: "And I want them to know it's crucial to vote."

As the November 5 election day draws near, union activists are feeling a growing sense of urgency to get out the vote, court undecided voters, and clear up confusion fueled by social media and Trump. Voters are more polarized than in decades. Union members in Minnesota — and



Labor Review photo

Labor 2024 Day of Action October 12 in Coon Rapids: Mike Esau, from the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (left), handed-out doorknocking routes to a line of Minnesota union volunteers.

across the nation — hope solid support by the labor movement will help push the Harris-Walz ticket over the finish line.

So much is at stake. The winning candidate's policies and staff will impact workers' rights to unionize, to combat unfair la-

bor practices, to uphold workplace health and safety laws, to secure prevailing wages and more. That's not to mention shaping the future of reproductive rights, environmental protections, immigration, taxes and

HARRIS-WALZ page 12

Early voting continues up through the day before November 5 election

MINNEAPOLIS — Early voting for the Tuesday, November 5 general election — underway since September 20 — will continue to be available up until Monday, November 4.

According to state law, any registered voter may vote early for any reason.

Voters may go to their local county election office or other designated early voting center to cast their vote early in-person.

Eligible voters who are not yet registered to vote may register at an early voting site.

Same-day voter registration

also is available on election day at local polling places.

Voters can find voting information, or request an absentee ballot to vote by mail, by visiting the Minnesota Secretary of State's website: mnvotes.org.

The November 5 ballot will include:

- President and Vice President of the United States;
- One of Minnesota's U.S. Senate seats;
- All of the state's eight U.S. Representatives;
- All members of the Minnesota House;

AFL-CIO Endorsements See page 24

- A special election for Minnesota Senate District 45;
- Local offices including city councils, mayors, county commissioners, school board members.

See list of AFL-CIO endorsed candidates, page 24.

In certain communities, school levy requests also will be on the November 5 ballot.

In addition, the renewal of Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund will

be on the ballot statewide.

For Minneapolis residents, early voting will be available at Minneapolis Elections & Voter Services, 980 Hennepin Ave. E. through November 4. Hours there will include:

- Weekdays through November 4 (hours vary);
- Weekends October 26-27 and November 2-3, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Ballot drop-off only Tuesday, November 5 until 8:00 p.m.

In addition, Minneapolis residents may vote early at temporary

VOTING page 5

General Election:

Tuesday, November 5

- Polls open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- State law allows you to take time off the morning of Election Day to vote, if you notify your employer.
- Minnesota allows same-day voter registration if you're not already registered. Bring ID such as MN drivers license AND current utility bill with your name and current address.

To Find Your Polling Place

Anoka County	763-324-1300
Hennepin County	612-348-5151
Scott County	952-496-8560
Carver County	952-361-1910
McLeod County	320-864-1260
Meeker County	320-693-5212
Wright County	763-682-3900

Minnesota Secretary of State's
on-line pollfinder:
pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us

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The choice is urgent and important

Editor's Note: The kick-off for a Labor 2024 "Day of Action" in Coon Rapids October 12 included several inspiring speeches by elected officials, but also some very powerful and heartfelt words from Marshall Everhart. Everhart, St. Louis Park, is one of several UFCW Local 663 members who have been doorknocking regularly since September 7. Here is the text of his remarks. See page 13 for a photo of Everhart and his fellow UFCW member political organizers.

By Marshall Everhart

My name is Marshall Everhart and I've been a union member for 14 years with the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 663. First of all, I want to thank all of you for dedicating the time to be here this morning. We all understand that there are many ways you could choose to spend your Saturday morning other than knocking on doors. So the fact that there are so many of us willing to be here for this work is a testament to the urgency and importance of the choice that stands before us in just a few short weeks.

This is my first election cycle participating in these labor-to-labor-doorknocks... This has been an eye-opening experience for me.

As I've participated in these labor-to-labor events over the course of the last few weeks, I've had the opportunity and pleasure to speak with so many of our union brothers and sisters. And the conversations we've had, and the excitement around our pro-labor candidates, have provided me with a deep well of motivation to continue this work as we grow our power and significance as a voting bloc.

As rewarding as these experiences have been, it has not been without its

challenges. I've encountered my fair share of incivility, negativity, and downright nastiness. Yes, this can be challenging and hard work, but to steal a sentiment from our soon to be Madame President, "We like hard work. Hard work is good work."

I bring this up not to scare anyone who is new, but to drive home the fact that these negative experiences are few and far between and often illustrate an exception that proves a rule. And the rule is this; most of our fellow union members are decent, hardworking individuals who are encouraged to see their fellow workers showing up and showing out in their neighborhoods.

These labor-to-labor events are building blocks of community and offer the opportunity to connect face-to-face with people in an age where that is becoming more and more uncommon. And that is not a small or insignificant thing.

The more space we dedicate to honest, open discussion and discourse, the less room there is for lies, misinformation and the seeds of distrust.

And, as we get ready to go out and knock this morning, I wish to leave you with this: please take comfort in knowing that the work you are doing is having an overwhelmingly positive impact — not only in regards to this upcoming election, but also for the larger labor movement as a whole as we continue to foster these important relationships between working people across all unions and all industries.

Workers are here, we vote, and we're not going anywhere.

UFCW Local 663 member Marshall Everhart works as deli manager for Lunds & Byerlys at the Wayzata location.

See page 3 for information about upcoming Labor 2024 Get-Out-The-Vote volunteer opportunities



Labor Review photo

MRLF hosts annual 'meet and greet' with endorsed candidates for local elected office

MINNEAPOLIS — Each year, the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO hosts a "meet and greet" for some of the federation's endorsed candidates for local elected office. The gathering allows the candidates to meet each other and network and also meet MRLF staff and leaders and activists from the federation's affiliated unions. This year's event included a special guest, Minnesota State Auditor Julie Blaha, who in her work consults with local elected officials across the state. Blaha, who is a former math teacher and former president of Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota, offered words of encouragement to the local candidates: "I can't thank you enough for what you're doing," she said. She noted that the presidential race is getting lots of attention but "you can't get anything done without the local level."

Front row, left to right: Tekoa Cochran, candidate for Osseo School Board; Kirsten Buscher, candidate for Ramsey City Council; Kim Nelson, candidate for Plymouth City Council and assistant political director for the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters.

Back row, left to right: Peter Butler, candidate for Coon Rapids City Council and MAPE union member; Patrick Vescio, candidate for Fridley City Council and LIUNA Local 363 member; Kelsey Dawson Walton, candidate for Osseo School Board; Keith Tate, candidate for Osseo School Board; Greta Callahan, candidate for Minneapolis School Board and former president of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers; Tony McGarvey, incumbent candidate for Brooklyn Park City Council and director of government affairs for Painters District Council 82.

MRLF makes final round of local endorsements

MINNEAPOLIS — Meeting by Zoom October 9, delegates to the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO voted to approve a final round of endorsements for local elected office for the 2024 elections.

The endorsements included candidates for Columbia Heights School Board, Eden Prairie School Board, St. Francis School Board as well as Crystal City Council and Richfield City Council.

In the MRLF's seven-county region, the MRLF endorsement is the AFL-CIO endorsement.

See page 24 for the full list of MRLF

endorsements for local elected office.

Columbia Heights School Board

With three candidates to be elected, the MRLF endorsed incumbent Mary Granlund, incumbent Michelle Pettway and Corenia Smith.

Eden Prairie School Board

Also with three candidates to be elected, the MRLF endorsed Ann Bradsher, incumbent Kim Ross, and Jody Ward-Rannow.

St. Francis Area School Board

The MRLF previously endorsed Jake Humphrey for St. Francis School Board. **ENDORSED page 18**

'Welcome' to new Minneapolis Labor Review readers

As a member of a union affiliated with the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, you now are receiving a subscription to the monthly Minneapolis Labor Review. Several affiliates recently have updated their Labor Review mailing lists. For subscriber service, see page 23.

Minneapolis Labor Review

Since 1907

Steve Share, Editor

Next issue:

November 16, 2024

Holiday Shopping Guide

Deadline:

October 30, 2024

See page 23 for complete 2024 schedule

"The rights labor has won, labor must fight to protect."
—Floyd B. Olson, Minnesota Governor, 1930-1936

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Events

October 30: Online forum discusses 'The Battle for Congress' and the stakes in 2024 election

MINNEAPOLIS — A free online program Wednesday, October 30 from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m., will discuss “The Battle for Congress: What’s at Stake in the Upcoming Elections,” hosted by the University of Minnesota’s Center for the Study of Politics and Governance.

The upcoming congressional elections will play a pivotal role in determining which policies the next president can successfully pass. Majority party control in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate is up for grabs.

Join University of Minnesota associate professor and congressional scholar, Kathryn Pearson, alongside congressional expert professor Wendy J. Schiller, director of the Taubman Center for American Politics and Policy at Brown University, as they explore the high-stakes battle for control of Congress.

Registration is free for this event on Zoom but advance registration is required. To register, visit www.hhh.umn.edu/event/battle-congress-whats-stake-upcoming-elections.

October 31: Minneapolis hosts one-day-only 'pop-up' early voting at Cedar Cultural Center

MINNEAPOLIS — A one-day-only “pop-up” early voting event for any City of Minneapolis resident will be offered Thursday, October 31 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Cedar Cultural Center, 416 Cedar Ave.

Minneapolis Elections and Voters Services will be offering 10 other one-day-only “pop-up” early voting events each day from October 22 through November 1 — located at community sites across the city.

These one-day early-voting events will be offered in addition to two early voting sites which open October 22 and will be

open every day of the week through November 4: The North Early Vote Center, located at the Urban League Twin Cities, 2100 Plymouth Ave. N., and the South Early Vote Center, located at Bethel Lutheran Church, 4120 17th Ave. S.

Minneapolis residents also can vote early at the Hennepin County Government Center and at Minneapolis Elections and Voter Services, located at 980 E Hennepin Ave.

For more information about early voting, City of Minneapolis residents can visit vote.minneapolismn.gov.

November 7-9: Minnesota Orchestra performs classic film scores by composer John Williams

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Orchestra will present three concerts November 7-9 at 7:00 p.m. at Orchestra Hall performing selections from the classic film scores by composer John Williams.

The list of epic film scores composed by Williams includes scores for *Star Wars*, *Harry Potter*, *E.T.*, and more.

Performances will include: Thursday, November 7; Friday, November 8; and Saturday, November 9.

The members of the Minnesota Orchestra are members of Twin Cities Musicians Union Local 30-73.

Visit minnesotaorchestra.org for tickets and additional information.

November 9: Reception concludes photo exhibit portraying the ATU workers at Metro Transit

SAINT PAUL — The bus operators and light rail operators, mechanics and other members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 who work at Metro Transit are the subject of a photo exhibit on display through November 9 at East Side Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier St., Saint Paul.

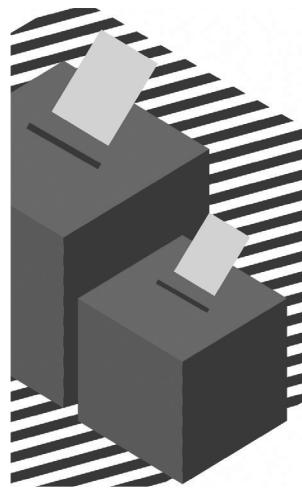
A closing reception with the photographers is planned for Saturday, November 9 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Local photographers Leslie Grant and Jeffrey Skemp attended union meetings, followed ATU members at work, and

photographed members in their work environment. The exhibit also includes photos of ATU archives and historical photos of local public transit sites.

The artists said in a statement, “the erasure of labor runs through the history of photography. Our project, however, highlights workers and labor union members in order to insist on the importance of the visibility of labor in contemporary life.”

Visit eastsidefreedomlibrary.org to RSVP for the free event or for more information.



LABOR 2024 DAY OF ACTION

Saturday, October 26

Shakopee West Middle School

200 10th Ave. E., Shakopee

This will be our finally labor-to-labor Day of Action before we shift to Get-Out-The-Vote activities. Join us!

Through October 28

Phone Bank at United Labor Centre

from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday-Wednesday

Door Knock Launch at United Labor Centre

from 1:00-4:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday

FFI contact: volunteer@minneapolisunions.org

GOTV GET OUT THE VOTE!

Beginning October 29, volunteer activity shifts to a coordinated Get-Out-The-Vote effort. To sign up for a doorknock or a phonebank visit tinyurl.com/gotvmn2024.

Under “Sign Up Now,” be sure to answer the question, “Are you a union member?” and then select your union from the pull-down menu.

Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO Minneapolis Labor Review Editor and Communications Director

The Minneapolis Labor Review and the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation are excited to announce our search for a new multitalented communications specialist to join our team later this fall. This position will be responsible for telling the stories of today’s labor movement for generations to come.

We are seeking individuals who can carry on the 117-year legacy of our print publication, the Minneapolis Labor Review. In a time of constantly changing news/communication strategies, we are looking for a leader who can manage systems change while still covering day to day production timelines and content creation for both print and online platforms.

Producing the Labor Review includes all stages of production, from writing the stories, designing the layout and soliciting the ads all the way to managing the mailing list and other logistics. All of this production happens while exciting worker-led, union-led activity is unfolding all around us daily—making our work to positively impact our members’ online experiences just as critical.

The ideal candidate will have print publication design experience and strong skills in Adobe InDesign.

If you have a strong sense of commitment to social justice, are innovative and independently motivated and would like to learn more about this opportunity, please submit a short letter of inquiry to chelsie@minneapolisunions.org. Your letter should include a short summary of your relevant experience and what skills you would be excited to bring to our team.

Additional job posting details will be posted online at minneapolisunions.org as available.





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Begins November 16: East Side Freedom Library offers help for 'History Day' projects

SAINT PAUL — Beginning November 16, the East Side Freedom Library will offer free help to students who are creating projects for this year's National History Day competition.

Each year for History Day, junior high and senior high students research and present projects in connection with a theme. This year's theme is "Rights and Responsibilities in History." The student research projects can be presented as a website, live performance, documentary film, display, or research paper.

For student research, East Side Freedom Library offers a range of resources (books, art, music, and more) as well as experienced mentors who can help shape student projects.

The History Day mentors will be available every Saturday morning beginning November 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the East Side Freedom Li-

brary, 1105 Greenbrier St. in Saint Paul.

Students are encouraged to make a Saturday appointment by sending an e-mail to peter@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org. After an initial mentoring consultation, students will be welcome to come at other times to use the library's resources, and mentors will be available for one-on-one conversations, in person or remotely. For questions, call 651-207-4926.

This year's History Day theme, "Rights and Responsibilities in History," is a good fit for labor history projects.

Again this year, cash prizes for labor history projects will be awarded by the state's three labor newspapers — *Minneapolis Labor Review*, *St. Paul Union Advocate*, and *Duluth Labor World*. A list of suggested labor history topics is available at minneapolisunions.org, as well as information about the online archives of the *Labor Review* and *Union Advocate*.

'Fare For All' offers November 'Holiday Pack' for \$35, including whole turkey, more

MINNEAPOLIS — For all shoppers who are interested in grocery savings, a special "Holiday Pack" for a Thanksgiving meal is available for \$35 from Fare For All. The "Holiday Pack" will include: a local 10-12 pound whole turkey from Ferndale Market; 1 pound of sage pork sausage; 1.25 pounds of local chicken drumsticks from Kadejan; 16 ounces of homestyle meatballs, 12 ounces of green beans; and a 24-ounce pumpkin pie.

Stretch your grocery dollars by visiting a community location for a Fare For All pop-up food sale, which offers discounted grocery packages.

Fare For All offers a savings of 40 percent on grocery items.

Fare For All's regular offerings include a produce pack for \$10, a mini meat pack for \$11, a mega meat pack for \$25. Other monthly specials also are available.

Fare For All is open to everyone and has no income requirements.

Cash, credit cards, debit cards, and EBT cards are accepted. Checks are not accepted. No need to call or register in advance — just stop in to shop!

Here is the coming schedule for Fare For All's sites in the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation's seven-county region, listed alphabetically by city:

■ **Anoka, Thursday, November 14, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Zion Lutheran Church, 1601 S. 4th Ave.

■ **Blaine, Thursday, November 21, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, Christ Lutheran Church,

641 89th Ave. NE.

■ **Bloomington, Friday, November 15, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. So.

■ **Buffalo, Tuesday, October 29, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Highway 25 South.

■ **Chaska, Thursday, November 14, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Crown of Glory Lutheran Church, 1141 Cardinal St.

■ **Fridley, Friday, November 22, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**, Fridley Community Center, 6085 7th Street NE.

■ **Golden Valley, Friday, November 22, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, Animal Humane Society, 845 Meadow Lane N.

■ **Hutchinson, Thursday, November 7, 3:30–5:30 p.m.**, Oak Heights Church, 1398 South Grade Road SW.

■ **Minneapolis, Tuesday, November 5, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, note new location: Mill City Church, 685 13th Ave. NE.

■ **New Hope, Wednesday, November 13, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, St. Joseph Parish Center, 8701 36th Ave. N.

■ **Norwood Young America, Tuesday, November 26, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, All Saints Lutheran Church, 511 Merger St..

■ **Richfield, Tuesday, November 19, 1:00–3:00 p.m.**, Richfield Community Center, 7000 Nicollet Ave. So.

■ **St. Louis Park, Wednesday, November 13, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Vista Lutheran Church, 4003 Wooddale Ave. So.

See www.fareforall.org for more information and dates for all 30-plus locations.

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Voting

continued from page 1

Early Vote Centers which will be open every day of the week from October 22 through November 4: The North Early Vote Center, located at the Urban League Twin Cities, 2100 Plymouth Ave. N., and the South Early Vote Center, located at Bethel Lutheran Church, 4120 17th Ave. S.

Minneapolis residents also can vote early at the Hennepin County Government Center.

In addition, Minneapolis will be offering one-day-only “Early Voting Events” at 11 community sites each day from October 22 through November 1.

Visit vote.minneapolismn.gov for more information.

For Hennepin County residents, early voting is available at local election offices and at the skyway level of the Hennepin County Government Center, 300 S. 6th St. in downtown Minneapolis.

Beginning October 26, extended hours and weekend hours will be available there.

See page 1 for phone numbers for county election offices.

For additional voting information, including a sample ballot, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website: mnvotes.org.

National Apprenticeship Week coming November 18-24

Women Building Success will host ‘Trades Games Challenge’ November 21

SAINT PAUL — Apprenticeships are winning increasing recognition as a pathway to a career with good wages and benefits.

In Minnesota, the state’s building trades unions report more than 10,000 registered apprentices — offering participants good wages and benefits while they learn on the job tuition-free.

National Apprenticeship Week, coming November 18-24, highlights the opportunities offered by apprenticeships.

In Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry along with partner unions and organizations plan a variety of on-line and in-person events to mark National Apprenticeship Week.

Each day during the week will feature an “Apprentice of the Day” on social media.

Here are events scheduled as the *Labor Review* went to press:

■ **Monday, November 18, 10:00-11:00 a.m.** – Registered K-12 Teacher Apprenticeship Kickoff (on-line). Celebrate the creation of Minnesota’s

first registered K-12 teaching apprenticeship. This on-line webinar will discuss the barriers to becoming K-12 ed-

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2024



ucators and how the apprenticeship program addresses those barriers. Discussions also will highlight the collaboration that made creating the registered apprenticeship programs possible.

■ **Thursday, November 21, 4:00-6:30 p.m.** – Women Building Success presents the Trades Game Challenge. This in-person event offers fun, food and friendly competition — along with a variety of prizes, including cash-prize drawings. Anyone age 18 and up is wel-

come. The event will be hosted at the Pipefitters Local 455 Apprenticeship Training Center, 1301 L’Orient Street in St. Paul.

Visit tinyurl.com/tradesgames24 to register as a participant or spectator.

■ **Friday, November 22, 1:00-2:00 p.m.** – Registered Apprenticeship Panel (webinar). A virtual event for individuals to learn more about what to expect as an apprentice. Apprentices across multiple occupations will share their successes, how they became an apprentice, and their typical schedule and will answer audience questions. This webinar is intended for anyone who is interested in learning more about apprenticeships.

To register for the on-line events, visit www.dli.mn.gov/NAW.

To follow the Facebook feed of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, visit www.facebook.com/ApprenticeMN.

Questions? Call 651-284-5090 or e-mail dli.apprenticeship@state.mn.us.

Feeling the Squeeze?

Just like that last bit of toothpaste, your high-interest credit card balance might be running you dry.

Transfer a credit card balance from November 1st – December 31st and receive a cool 1.99% *APR for 12 months with a low 2.99% balance transfer fee.

Why stress when you could be smiling? Transfer, relax, and enjoy lower rates!



763.315.3888
buildingtradesCU.com



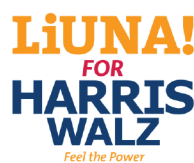
*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Promotional APR of 1.99% is valid for balance transfers for the first 12 billing cycles from the date of transfer. After the promotional period, the APR will revert to the standard APR, currently 7.5% plus prime rate. A balance transfer fee of 2.99% of the transferred amount applies. Promotion runs from 11/1/2024 through 12/31/2024. Promotional APR excludes balance transfers from a BTCU credit card. Rates and terms are subject to change without notice. See a Building Trades Federal Credit Union Loan Officer for more details.



Nicole, LIUNA
Local 563 Laborer



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www.LIUNAMinnesota.org/vote

Prepared and paid for by LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota/Laborers' District Council of Minnesota & North Dakota, 81 E. Little Canada Road, Saint Paul, MN 55117 and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

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for Minneapolis School Board, District 6



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U.S. House

Minnesota's 2nd Congressional District again sees national battleground race AFL-CIO endorses re-election of Angie Craig

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

EAGAN — “I’m with labor and I’m in one of the toughest seats to defend in the country,” says Angie Craig, who is running for a fourth term to represent Minnesota’s District 2 seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. “I’ve lost by two points and I’ve won by two points.”

The Minnesota AFL-CIO has endorsed three-term incumbent Craig for re-election. She also is endorsed by the DFL Party.

District 2 includes metro area suburbs south of the Minnesota River and extends from St. Peter on the south to Hastings and the Mississippi River on the north.

In Craig’s three terms in the U.S. House, she has earned a 100 percent voting score from the national AFL-CIO for her support of working families issues.

The National Republican Congressional Committee has included Craig’s seat in its list of 40 targeted races.

Craig supports the labor-backed Protecting the Right to Organize Act (PRO Act), which would strengthen the rights of workers to organize and collectively bargain.

Growing up, Craig saw first-hand the importance of a union job. Her grandmother worked in a union shoe factory and helped to support Craig’s mom and her three children. Craig says of her grandmother, “I’m forever indebted to her for having a good-paying union job and being able to help my family.”

In running for re-election, “the high cost at the grocery store is a major concern” of voters, Craig says. “I’ve been working on a bill to address corporate price-gouging.” She notes that high prices for consumers are coming at a time of record-high CEO pay.

Two years ago, campaign spending in the District 2 race — including spending by outside groups — was the highest in Minnesota history, \$32.5 million, Craig reports.

“When you’ve got a race like that, what matters most is getting to the doors and having conversations with our neighbors,” Craig says.

“To me, there’s no better partner than labor,” Craig adds, listing the unions who have turned out volunteers for doorknocks in the district. “Those neighbor to neighbor conversations can make a big difference and labor has been particularly great in helping me on the doors,” Craig says.

“This race will be won or lost on the ground in Minnesota,” Craig believes. “We have to get to those doors and have those conversations.”

Craig was the first House Democrat in a



Angie Craig

Second District

battleground district to call on President Joe Biden to withdraw from the race following his June 27 debate performance, POLITICO reported.

Now, with Kamala Harris leading the Democratic ticket, Craig finds “people are excited to get out and campaign and door-knock.”

Craig echoes Biden in saying, “unions build the middle class in this country.”

“As a member of Congress, I’ve tried to demonstrate my support for labor,” Craig says, supporting the PRO Act, pension reform, and major job-creating legislation like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the CHIPS and Science Act.

“I wrote the bill to cap insulin co-pays at \$35 per month for seniors on Medicare and got it signed into law. I’m working to pass my Affordable Insulin Now Act to extend those savings to every American who needs them,” Craig says.

In the wake of the Supreme Court’s ruling overturning Roe v. Wade, Craig says, “I will not stop fighting until every woman’s fundamental right to control her own body is protected and Roe is restored.”

Craig grew up in Arkansas in a mobile home park, raised by a single mother.

She earned a journalism degree from the University of Memphis. “I always thought I was going to chase down politicians and hold them accountable, not be one,” she told the University of Memphis Magazine.

After working as a reporter, Craig moved into corporate communications and came to Minnesota in 2005 for a job at St. Jude Medical.

She and her wife have four adult sons and three grandchildren.

Website: angiecraig.com

State Senator Kelly Morrison runs for Minnesota's 3rd Congressional District *Incumbent Dean Phillips not seeking re-election*

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

DEEPHAVEN — “I’ll always stand with workers and working families,” says Kelly Morrison. “It’s never been more important to stand up for workers’ rights.”

Morrison is running for Minnesota’s District 3 seat in the U.S. House of Representatives with the endorsement of the Minnesota AFL-CIO and Minnesota DFL Party.

District 3 includes Minneapolis suburbs in an arc looping west of the city from Coon Rapids on the north to Eden Prairie and Bloomington on the south.

The DFL incumbent, Dean Phillips, won the seat three times beginning in 2018 but chose not to seek re-election — and instead launched a brief run for President.

Morrison previously served two terms in the Minnesota House, first elected in 2018, earning a 100 percent voting score from the Minnesota AFL-CIO on working families issues.

In 2022, after redistricting, Morrison ran for the new District 45 seat in the Minnesota Senate. Over two legislative sessions, she earned a 98 percent voting score from the Minnesota AFL-CIO on working family issues.

Morrison resigned her Minnesota Senate seat in June 2024 to focus on her race for Congress.

Before running for office, Dr. Kelly Morrison worked 20 years as an obstetrician gynecologist and continues to see patients.

Serving in the Minnesota legislature, “I dug into health care pretty deeply,” Morrison says. She authored bills to cut prescription drug costs and address the opioid crisis.

After the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022, sending the issue of reproductive choice to the states, Morrison led Minnesota’s response as the Senate author of the Reproductive Freedom Defense Act. The bill passed both the Minnesota Senate and House and Governor Tim Walz signed it into law last year.

“This legislation simply keeps patients and providers safe when they receive or provide reproductive health care that is legal in Minnesota,” Morrison said at the time. “What people need right now is care, support and assurances that they are safe.”

In addition to her focus on health care issues, “I voted for a lot of pro-labor and pro-worker bills,” Morrison says. She was the chief author of an early version of a bill to ban non-compete agreements, which restrict a worker’s right to seek employment elsewhere after leaving a job. The bill didn’t pass that year, but a later version did



Kelly Morrison

Third District

pass in 2023. “It took us a few years but we got it done,” Morrison says.

Morrison initially ran for public office in response to the election of Donald Trump in 2016.

She takes pride in sponsoring common sense legislation that can draw bi-partisan support, passing 90 bills during her six years in the Minnesota legislature.

In the Minnesota Senate, she’s been part of the one-vote pro-labor majority that’s led to historic progress on pro-worker legislation the past two years.

“I’m really proud Minnesota has consistently been voted one of the top ten states for workers in the country,” she says. “We’ve earned that designation.”

In running for Congress, Morrison says, “I’ve been really focused on health care issues and cost-of-living issues — that’s important for working families as well.”

“I’m looking forward to voting for the PRO Act (the Protect the Right to Organize Act) if I am elected to Congress,” Morrison says, “to ensure all Americans can bargain collectively and organize.”

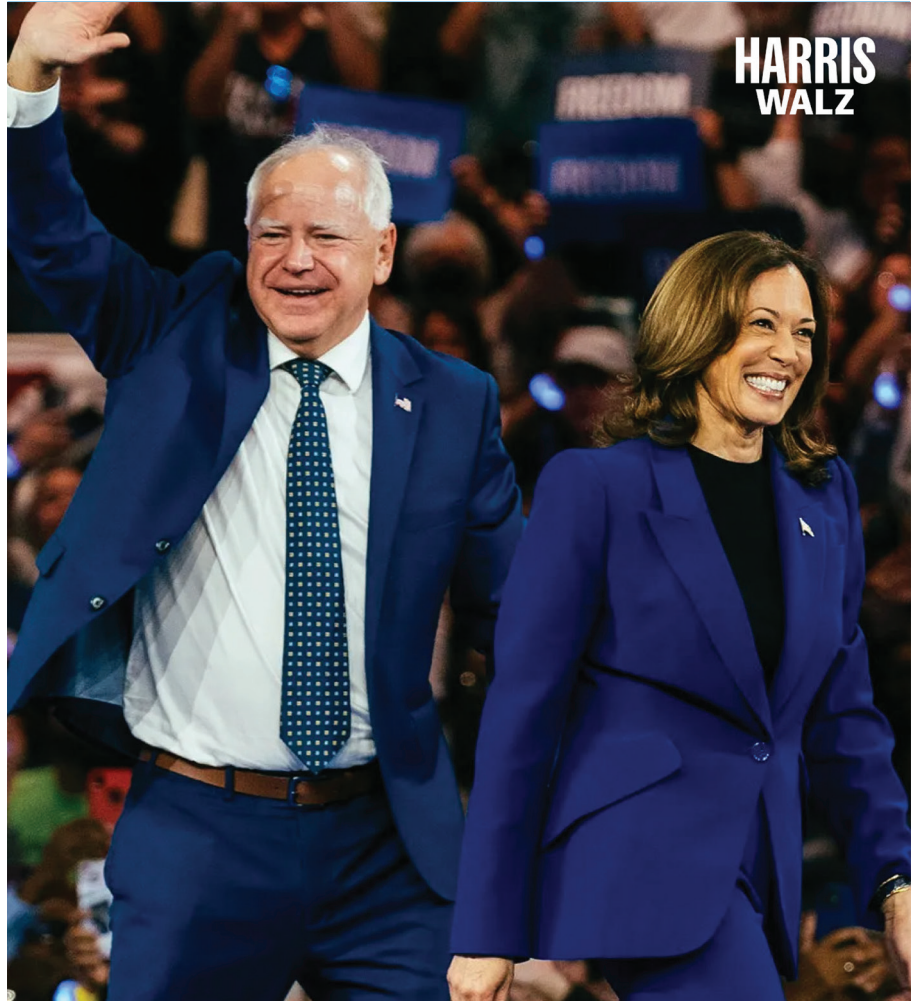
Morrison is a sixth-generation Minnesotan. She attended Jefferson elementary school in Minneapolis and later graduated high school from Blake School. After graduating from Yale College with a B.A. in history, she earned her medical degree from Case Western Reserve University.

“I knew I’d move back to Minnesota because I wanted to have a family and raise my kids here,” she says.

Morrison lives in Deephaven with husband John Willoughby and their three children. Willoughby is a former Army Ranger.

“I and my husband both come from families that value service,” Morrison says.

Website: kellyforcongress.org



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Matt Norris: 'Look at what I've done'

BLAINE — “I always tell the voters, don’t rely on what I say. Look at what I’ve done,” says Matt Norris.

Norris is running for a second term for the House District 32B seat in Blaine and Lexington with the endorsement of the Minnesota AFL-CIO. He also is DFL-endorsed.

And what a first term! “The past two years at the State Capitol have been perhaps the best in history for labor when you look at the legislation that was passed,” Norris says.

Norris takes credit for passing 34 bills — 24 in the first year, 10 the second year — where he was the chief author, either for a stand-alone bill or for a bill that later was included in an omnibus bill.

He highlighted three. “First and foremost,” he reports, he authored the bill to secure \$103 million to fund rebuilding of Highway 65 in Blaine. “It will be a huge win for my district but in terms of labor, that’s going to be a lot of good-paying union jobs.”

Second, “we increased the general

formula for our public schools and, importantly, we bench-marked it to inflation.” Already this win is leading to pay increases for educators at the bargaining table, he notes.

Third, “I authored the bill that renewed the funding for the Helmets to Hardhats program,” he says, which helps veterans move into a career in the building trades.

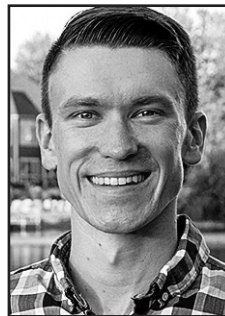
In his first term, Norris received a 100 percent score from the Minnesota AFL-CIO on working families issues.

In a second term, Norris says, his focus will be, “how do we make life more afford-

able for Minnesotans? I’ve been talking about the three cares: child care, health care, and senior care. If we can focus on trying to reduce the cost of these items, it leaves more money for gas, groceries, and everything else.”

Norris grew up in the northern suburbs, graduating from the University of Minnesota with a degree in business and earning his law degree there in 2014.

Website: votefornorris.com



Matt Norris

District 32B

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For IBEW Local 292 endorsements:
ibew292.org/political

Brian Raines: Third-generation union member

ROGERS — “I think it’s important for union members to run for office, because no one represents us like us,” says Brian Raines, a Carpenters union business agent.

Raines is making his third race for the Minnesota House of Representatives, seeking the District 34A seat in northwest Hennepin County, including Champlin, Dayton and Rogers.

He’s running with the endorsement of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, plus a long list of unions. He also is DFL-endorsed.

The race is a rematch between Raines and Republican Danny Nadeau, who won the race for the then open seat in 2022. Over Nadeau’s two years in the House, he earned a 20 percent voting score from the Minnesota AFL-CIO on working families issues. In the 2024 session, Nadeau’s score was nine percent — only one pro-labor vote out of a dozen votes tracked.

While doorknocking, “the main issue that the voters talk about is protecting a woman’s right to choose,” Raines re-

ports. Raines is pro-choice. “I trust women,” he says. “I believe decisions made regarding a woman’s body and reproductive choices are between her and her doctor.”

“I’m a third-generation member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters,” Raines says proudly. Raines grew up in Prior Lake and graduated from high school there, then joined the U.S. Navy. Returning to civilian life, he became a member of the Laborers union. Next, he joined the Piledrivers and went through their apprenticeship program, later transferring to the Millwrights. In

2011, he became a business agent for the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters.

“The importance of union membership and what it does for a family, I can’t stress how important it is,” Raines says. “It’s the driving force behind what I do.”

Raines has lived 17 years in Rogers, with two sons in the Rogers Public Schools.

Website: brianforminnesota.com



Brian Raines

District 34A

Zack Stephenson: 'We got the job done'

COON RAPIDS— Zack Stephenson celebrates the progress of the past two years at the Minnesota legislature: “After many years of divided government that prevented meaningful progress for our state, we got the job done through a host of accomplishments that will benefit Minnesotans for generations to come.”

First elected to the Minnesota House in 2018, Stephenson is running for re-election for a third term for the District 35A seat to represent Anoka and Coon Rapids. He has the endorsement of the Minnesota AFL-CIO and DFL Party.

In three terms in the Minnesota House, Stephenson has earned a 100 percent voting record on working families issues from the Minnesota AFL-CIO.

Stephenson chairs the Commerce Finance and Policy Committee in the House, focused on protecting consumers from fraud. For example, legislation enacted this year ends the unfair business practice of “junk fees” and requires transparency on ticket prices.



Zack Stephenson
District 35A

For his leadership in passing clean energy legislation in 2021, Stephenson received the “2022 LIUNA Leadership Award” from the Laborers District Council. “Our bill will help Minnesotans get more affordable, reliable and clean energy,” Stephenson says. “It will also help make sure that the next generation of energy infrastructure is built by good paying, union Minnesota jobs!”

Stephenson authored bills to bring investments to local infrastructure, too, including a new bridge between Dayton and Ramsey, rehabbing Mississippi Point Park in Champlin, and improved facilities for the nursing and business classes at Anoka Ramsey Community College.

Stephenson grew up in Coon Rapids, graduating from Coon Rapids High School and Knox College in Illinois. He earned a law degree from the University of Chicago. An AFSCME member, Stephenson is an assistant Hennepin County attorney prosecuting criminal cases when the legislature is not in session.

Website: zack.mn

Kari Rehrauer: Science teacher, union activist

COON RAPIDS — “The presidential election of 2016 changed my involvement on many different levels, including in my union,” says Kari Rehrauer, a science teacher for 20 years. “Before that I was a busy working mom.”

Rehrauer is running for the open Minnesota House District 35B seat in Coon Rapids and Andover, endorsed by the Minnesota AFL-CIO and DFL Party.

The DFL incumbent, Jerry Newton, is retiring and has endorsed her.

Rehrauer currently is a member of the Coon Rapids City Council, winning election in 2020 to a four-year term.

In 2022, she ran for Minnesota Senate District 35 with AFL-CIO and DFL endorsement, losing narrowly to Republican incumbent Jim Abeler.

In running for the House this year, Rehrauer says, “I care deeply about preserving our freedom here in Minnesota, freedom to learn, reproductive freedom, freedom to love who we want, and making sure our union freedoms

stay protected.”

Rehrauer grew up in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, moving to the Twin Cities to attend the University of Minnesota.

She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology and later earned a master’s degree in education. For 20 years, she taught middle school biology.

Her world was full as a mom and as a teacher, but after the 2016 election, she says, “all those things were under attack.”

“I took a more active role in the different things our union offered, lobby days and get-out-the-vote days.”

In 2020, she went to work full-time as field staff for her union, Education Minnesota, supporting 16 local unions including educators, custodians, bus drivers, and nutrition staff.

“I care about issues that are for putting people first,” she says.

Rehrauer is a 20-year resident of Coon Rapids, where she and her husband Dan raised their two daughters.

Website: kariformn.com



Kari Rehrauer
District 35B

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Tracey Breazeale: 'I'll always listen'

MINNETONKA BEACH — On labor issues, Tracey Breazeale says, “I promise I’ll always listen and do everything I can to support workers and their communities.”

Breazeale is running for the Minnesota House District 45A seat, which encompasses communities west of Lake Minnetonka.

The one-term Republican incumbent, Andrew Meyers, earned only a nine percent Minnesota AFL-CIO voting score on working families issues in 2024. Over his two years in the House, he scores 20 percent.

“My opponent casts himself as a moderate,” Breazeale says, “but his voting record does not support that.”

“It’s an obligation in a democracy that the voters know what the person in office is doing or not doing for them,” Breazeale says.

Breazeale is currently a member of the Minnetonka Beach City Council, serving a second term. She is a 25-year area resident. “I originally ran

wanting to bring the community together,” she says.

“What I’ve learned more about than I ever imagined was infrastructure,” she says. Minnetonka Beach needed to put in a new water tower and water plant.

“I learned how important it is to have people in the legislature really advocating for our community,” Breazeale says.

Breazeale grew up in the west Minneapolis suburbs, leaving the state for college. She earned her undergraduate degree at Brown University and an MBA at Harvard. After a business

career, her focus now is public service. Breazeale’s brother Ty Thayer is a teacher at Breck School and Education Minnesota member.

“To union members, our people who are working in jobs across the state, whether teachers, healthcare workers, construction workers, they are the foundation of everything that gets done in this state,” she says.

Website: traceyformnhouse.com



Tracey Breazeale
District 45A

Brad Tabke: Leader on transportation issues

SHAKOPEE — “I’ve been having a lot of really good substantive conversations on the doors about substantive issues in Minnesota,” says Brad Tabke. “Especially having Governor Walz in the race [as running mate for Kamala Harris] has really put a large spotlight on the work we did.”

Tabke is running for re-election to the House District 54A seat in the Shakopee area with the endorsement of the Minnesota AFL-CIO and the DFL Party.

In Tabke’s two non-consecutive terms in the Minnesota House, he has earned a 100 percent lifetime voting score from the Minnesota AFL-CIO on working families issues.

This year’s election follows two years’ legislative sessions with historic progress on a wide range of worker-friendly policy issues and investments in the public good.

Tabke has been vice-chair of the House transportation committee and

notes that the 2023 transportation bill, investing in transit and transportation projects— and creating thousands of jobs — “is huge for all our friends in labor.”

“If I’m lucky enough to get re-elected, my plans are to work on roadway safety,” Tabke says, “especially local roads unsafe for pedestrians and bikes.”

He’s not leaving re-election to luck, however. Tabke says he personally has knocked on 45,000 doors. His team has knocked another 40,000 doors. “We make sure to talk to everybody,” he says.

“We are one of the GOP’s top targets in the state,” Tabke says. “This is a big race,” one of four seats the Republicans are trying to flip.

“Our union and labor friends, they understand how much work we did for workers in Minnesota,” Tabke says.

Tabke is a former two-term mayor of Shakopee. His wife Katy is a Shakopee teacher

Website: tabkeformn.com



Brad Tabke
District 54A

Lucy Rehm: 'Address corporate greed'

CHANHASSEN — “A lot of people I talk with are voting early,” says Lucy Rehm. “We’re hoping that this time they’ll not only vote Harris-Walz but go down the ticket and vote for their state representative.”

Rehm is running for re-election for a second term for the District 48B seat in the Minnesota House of Representatives. She has the Minnesota AFL-CIO endorsement and she’s also been endorsed by the DFL Party.

District 48B in Carver County includes Chanhasen and part of Chaska.

“A lot of people out here will not vote for a Republican ever again,” she says. “Trump has really tainted the party.”

In her two years in the House, Rehm has earned a 100 percent voting record on working families issues from the Minnesota AFL-CIO.

Rehm previously served as an at large member of the Chanhasen City Council.

Rehm is pro-choice, which she says has become a top issue for voters following the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. “We have to stand up for our rights,” she says. “I think it is an issue for women as well as men.”

Rehm is a former union member, working as a member of AFSCME for two years at the Carver County Library.

“We need to make sure our wages are increasing because prices are increasing,” she says. “We need to make sure workers are protected on the job and have the benefits they need so their families can stay healthy.”

“I want to make sure we’re addressing corporate greed and that people can afford their lives,” she says.

Rehm and her husband have lived in the same Chanhasen home for 27 years, raising their family there. “I’m grateful and I’d like other people to have that same experience,” she says.

Website: lucyrehm.com



Lucy Rehm
District 48B

Jess Hanson: Provide pathway to good jobs

BURNSVILLE — “I believe that economic opportunities should be abundant, education should be equitable, and government should be responsible,” says Jess Hanson. She advocates for a “politics of care,” saying, “I don’t participate in the hyper-partisanship.”

Hanson is running for re-election for House District 55A, which includes the city of Savage and three precincts in northwest Burnsville.

Hanson is endorsed by the Minnesota AFL-CIO and the DFL Party.

Over Hanson’s two terms in the House, she has earned a 100 percent lifetime voting score from the Minnesota AFL-CIO on working families issues — “that stuff is a no-brainer,” Hanson says.

A single mom, Hanson says she has worked full-time since she was 16 years old. She notes that seven out of ten Minnesota millennials like herself live paycheck to paycheck.

She’s spoken of creating a “millenni-

al agenda” to address the needs of her generation. “We’re all just so focused on trying to survive,” she says. “We’re next up to lead and we’ve got no guardrails.”

Again this year, Hanson’s race will be one of the key races to maintain a pro-labor majority in the Minnesota House. In 2020, she won by just 800 votes. In 2022, she won by 1,119 votes.

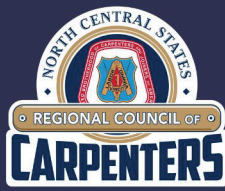
Hanson says, “our state’s economic recovery is built on the backs of working families, but too many Minnesotans are being left behind as the corporations, the wealthy, and the well-connected get richer. I value providing Minnesotans with pathways to good-paying jobs, supporting their small business ventures, and improving safety in the workplace.”

And when it comes to increasing opportunity through education, she maintains, “we have the funds to fully-fund it — it’s a matter of political will.”

Website: jesshansonforhouse.com



Jess Hanson
District 55A



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Labor 2024: The Race for the White House

Harris-Walz: The difference between Harris and Trump could not be more clear

continued from page 1

health care.

The difference between Harris and Trump could not be more clear, union leaders and activists say. On one side, Harris' career has clearly supported workers, and she was a key player in the most pro-union administration in nearly a century.

Trump, conversely, has never been a friend to labor. As president, he weakened labor regulations, gutted the National Labor Relations Board, and pursued policies that favored the wealthy over workers. And, like in 2020, even when election day has passed, it's unclear whether he would accept a legitimate defeat.

There's solid support among Minnesota's union members for Harris and her vice presidential pick, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, but the race remains too tight to predict.

"We understand that we're struggling for every single vote," said Peter Molenaar, a volunteer from Teamsters Local 970, who has been working three-hour shifts at the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation's phone bank at the United Labor Centre this past month. "So even if we get one vote every three hours, it's worth it."

Different unions, different fears

Kristine Foslien, who works in a New Brighton grocery store, is among hundreds of union members out in full force in recent weeks, door-knocking, staffing phone banks and attending rallies to build excitement for the AFL-CIO endorsed candidates. She also serves on the board of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 663, which represents workers in grocery stores, retail, meat packing and processing and more.

Like all members of all unions, she



AFSCME Council 65 photo

Shannon Douvier, executive director of AFSCME Council 65 (left), was among the speakers at a Minnesota state capitol rally October 1 to sound the alarm about Project 2025, a policy blueprint for a second Trump presidency.

wants to be sure the right to organize, earn decent wages and benefits, and other labor priorities remain strong under the next president. But she's particularly concerned about worker health and safety standards, especially for meat slaughterers and packers — standards that were weakened under Trump. She worries about children under 18 being permitted to work in meat plants. Trump's current policy blueprint calls for rolling back some child labor laws.

Likewise, Trump's talk of a massive deportation of immigrants could be a disaster for the country, she and other organizers said. That's especially true for the millions of lower wage jobs that most Americans won't take.

"People have a fixation on immigrants invading our country and taking away our jobs," said Foslien. "But we can't get peo-

Voters can sort truth from fiction online at projects such as the non-partisan FactCheck.org, a project of the University of Pennsylvania and PolitiFact.com, an initiative of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies in Florida

ple to work certain jobs, especially entry-level jobs."

On a recent sunny fall morning, Foslien was knocking on doors on tree-shrouded street in Coon Rapids, part of a Minnesota AFL-CIO voter outreach blitz to union households. She dropped off leaflets and talked with folks who answered the door. On this day a Trump supporter — and first-

time voter — invited her to talk on the patio.

The older woman, also a grocery worker, talked to Foslien in generalities about how the U.S. was importing too much oil. That was the main reason she supported Trump, she said. Foslien didn't know this, but the United States produced more crude oil in 2023 than any country in the world, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The woman also said she liked what Trump said about too many imports.

"I kept trying to draw the conversation back to daily life," said Foslien, who walked away marveling that the woman made no connection between her union-earned wages, health benefits and pension and the Republican candidate who eroded worker rights during his term as U.S. President.

Meanwhile a few days later at the state capitol, Twin Cities labor unions organized a rally to denounce other concerns with Trump's agenda and to reinforce support for Harris. The so-called "shred event" October 1 put the spotlight on a Trump blueprint for governing — called Project 2025 — which union speakers said would "shred" public services, family supports and union protections.

Among Project 2025's hundreds of provisions, the proposal calls for rolling-back government regulations that protect health and safety and also cutting budgets for programs including Medicaid and food stamps.

Minnesota workers with jobs in areas such as human services, corrections, food security — programs that receive federal funding — could face job cuts, said Max Hall, director of external relations for AFSCME Council 5. That, in

HARRIS-WALZ continued page 13

The Trump vs. Harris record on labor issues: No contest

The Donald Trump labor record

- Appointed anti-worker lawyers and corporate leaders to key agencies overseeing labor issues, rolling back worker rights and protections.
- Cut federal workplace safety inspectors to their lowest level in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) history.
- Urged a 21 percent cut to the Department of Labor's budget, including a 40 percent cut in job training.
- Restricted the labor rights of 950,000 federal government employees who belong to unions.
- Proposed revoking key child labor protections for teenagers.
- Repealed OSHA's rules requiring employers to keep and report accurate injury records.
- Derailed the Department of Labor's overtime rule, blocking millions of workers from receiving a full paycheck.
- August 12, 2024: During a live conversation on X with billionaire buddy Elon Musk, Trump expressed his support for firing striking workers, saying, "they go on strike, and you say, 'that's okay, you're all gone. You're all gone. So, every one of you is gone.'"

The Kamala Harris labor record

- Led a White House task force that made recommendations how federal agencies could reduce barriers to organizing or joining a union. Dues-paying union members jumped 20 percent the year after implementation.
- Cast the tie-breaking Senate vote in 2021 to rescue underfunded pensions of more than 2 million union members, including 400,000 Teamsters.
- Played a key role passing the historic "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law" and the "CHIPS and Science Act" spearheaded by the Biden/Harris administration.
- Supported the Biden-Harris administration's initiative that invested \$730 million to expand and diversify registered apprenticeships.
- When serving in the U.S. Senate, served as the lead co-sponsor for the Protecting the Right to Organize Act (PRO Act).
- Earned a lifetime score of 98 percent for her U.S. Senate voting record from the AFL-CIO.
- As California attorney general, tightened wage theft enforcement and won a \$1 million-plus settlement from eight car wash companies that grossly underpaid and exploited their workers.

Want to know more about the Trump and Harris labor records? Visit betterinaunion.org/candidate-comparison

Labor 2024: The Race for the White House

Harris-Walz: Hundreds of union members are knocking doors, making phone calls

continued from page 12

turn, could reduce services for the people who need them.

“They want to take away the tools we use to keep our workplaces safe, our families healthy, maintain our standard of living and ensure we have the equipment we need to make sure we go home to our families at night,” said Bart Andersen, executive director of AFSCME Council 5 and former bridge worker for the Minnesota Department of Transportation, addressing the crowd.

Trump’s anti-worker legacy

Steve Dilger, a retired organizer for Pipefitters Local 539, is particularly worried about labor appointments made by the next president. Dilger was a union organizer for Local 539 during the Trump administration, attempting to bring cases to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) for investigation. The NLRB is supposed to protect organizing rights and prevent unfair labor practices. But the anti-union people that Trump appointed to the board, and other agencies, made that almost impossible.

“It was blatantly obvious it was a waste of time,” said Dilger. “We just wanted people who broke the law to get consequences.... Once the Biden administration got in, we didn’t get everything we wanted. But we got a fair shake.”

While working as a union organizer, Dilger said he met labor organizers from New Jersey where Trump businesses had investments.

“They stiffed contractors in the building trades over the years,” Dilger said.

The USA TODAY Network, the national newspaper and its U.S. partners, investigated the Trump organizations’ failure to pay bills in 2016. The investigation found that “at least 60 lawsuits, along with hundreds of liens, judgments, and other government filings ... document people who have accused Trump and his businesses of failing to pay them for their work.”

There were unpaid bills to painters, a plumber, a dishwasher, a glass company, 48 waiters, dozens of bartenders and other hourly workers, real estate brokers who sold his properties, the investigation found. Trump companies were cited for 24 violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act since 2005 for failing to pay overtime or minimum wage, the investigation found.

The Economic Policy Institute, a Washington D.C. think tank, reviewed the Trump administration’s labor record in 2020 as the election drew near.

“From President Trump’s first day on the job, his administration has systematically promoted the interests of corporate



Labor Review photo

At a Labor 2024 Day of Action kick-off in Coon Rapids October 12, U.S. Senator Tina Smith jumped into a photo with UFCW Local 663 members before they headed out door-knocking, “turf” maps in hand. Left to right: Smith, Marshall Everhart, Michael Butler, Kristine Foslien, Andy Wilhelm (UFCW Local 1189), and Mattie Rynkiewicz.

executives and shareholders over those of working people,” the institute reported in September 2020. “The current administration has rolled back worker protections, proposed budgets that slash funding for agencies that safeguard workers’ rights, wages, and safety, and consistently attacked workers’ ability to organize and collectively bargain.”

Harris continues a pro-labor legacy

In contrast, the AFL-CIO reports that even before Kamala Harris became vice president, she earned a lifetime score of 98 percent support for working families issues in her voting record as a U.S. Senator.

(Trump’s vice presidential running mate, J.D. Vance, received a zero percent rating from the AFL-CIO for his U.S. Senate votes as of mid-2024.)

While a U.S. Senator, Kamala Harris introduced a bill amending the Fair Labor Standards Act to extend overtime rights to all agricultural farmworkers working beyond 40 hours a week and ending exemptions for minimum wage and overtime for farm workers.

As California attorney general, Kamala Harris won more than a \$1 million settlement from eight California car wash companies that grossly underpaid and exploited their workers. She cracked down on wage theft, signing an agreement with a Department of Labor division to more closely share information on labor violations.

In the Biden administration, Vice President Harris was a key player in some

of the critical legislation supporting job creation and labor, including the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the CHIPS and Science Act. Taken together, these two major bills have brought \$6 billion and 450 projects to Minnesota to date, employing thousands of construction workers and supporting a new wave of building trades apprenticeships.

The Harris platform now calls for lowering taxes for the middle class, a home ownership downpayment of up to \$25,000, tax breaks for contractors who build starter homes, increased childcare assistance, and other supports to workers and families.

These all are issues that speak to UNITE Local 17 door-knocking volunteer

Feben Ghilagaber and many union members. “It’s very important for people to vote for her (Harris),” said Ghilagaber. “The labor issues are huge. And for workers, getting a chance to buy a house is huge... Plus she is more humane (than Trump). Much more humane.”

The issue of character

The issue of Trump’s character often comes up in discussions with union members. His rhetoric is mean-spirited, they say, full of name-calling and belittling. The constant lying and stirring up anger against fellow Americans should never be the behavior of a man running for U.S. president, they said.

“He cares more about himself than the country,” said Kyle O’Neill, a canvasser in the Chanhassen area and IBEW Local

292 member. “I don’t understand how with a man who lies that much, this election is so close.”

And don’t forget Trump inciting a mob of his supporters who violently attacked the U.S. Capitol January 6, 2021 —injuring law enforcement personnel —with four Capitol Police officers committing suicide in following days in response to the stress they experienced.

Voters can sort truth from fiction online at projects such as the non-partisan FactCheck.org, a project of the University of Pennsylvania and PolitiFact.com, an initiative of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies in Florida.

Here are a few clarifications to campaign myths circulating this year:

Myth: Harris will take away your guns.

Fact: Harris only has proposed banning assault-style weapons, a ban that had been in place from 1994 to 2004.

Myth: Trump won the 2020 election.

Fact: More than 60 court cases proved there was not widespread fraud or cheating.

Myth: Illegal immigrants come here and get Social Security.

Fact: Only people who pay into the Social Security system can receive benefits.

‘A new surge of activism’

The prospects of a Harris presidency, and dread of a second Trump administration, has galvanized community volunteers and union member volunteers.

“There’s a new surge of activism,” said Todd Dahlstrom, organizing director for the Minnesota AFL-CIO. “People are getting plugged in. They know what’s at stake. We want to bring this thing home.”

That’s exactly what the volunteer door-knockers who recently gathered at Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota planned to do. At a rally before the October 5 canvassing blitz, the 60-some activists received a pep talk from Randi Weingarten, national president of the American Federation of Teachers. She reminded them of the stark difference between the Trump and Biden-Harris administrations, and of their role as “agents of hope.”

“We will win this race by inches, not by yards,” Weingarten told the crowd. “And when we do, your governor will be the vice president of the United States.”

This story is part three of a three-part series reported for the **Labor Review** by Jean Hopfensperger, a retired member of the Minnesota Newspaper Guild who worked 35 years as a reporter at the **Star Tribune**.

To volunteer for a Labor 2024 door-knock or phone-bank, contact: volunteer@minneapolisunions.org

Minnesota AFL-CIO Convention

State labor federation's convention celebrates historic legislative wins for workers Labor and political leaders say 2024 election brings high stakes to protect workers' gains and rights

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

DULUTH — With the urgency and importance of the November 5, 2024 elections foremost in most speakers' remarks, union members and leaders from across the state gathered in Duluth September 22-24 for the Minnesota AFL-CIO's 57th Constitutional Convention.

Convention speakers highlighted the high stakes not only in the 2024 race for U.S. President, but also the high stakes in close races in Minnesota for U.S. House and in races to determine whether labor-friendly majorities keep control of the Minnesota House and Senate.

The convention drew about 200 delegates, who represented the 1,000-plus local unions affiliated with the state labor federation — across many job sectors — and who together represent more than 300,000 union members in Minnesota.

Celebrating legislative wins

The convention celebrated the historic progress won for workers over the past two sessions of the Minnesota legislature — because of the labor movement's role in helping to elect pro-labor majorities in the Minnesota House and Senate and because of labor's advocacy at the legislature: passing a transportation bill to invest in roads and transit and create jobs, expanding prevailing wage, passing earned sick and safe time, passing paid family medical leave, extending unemployment compensation for hourly school workers, enacting tougher enforcement for wage theft and for worker misclassification, expanding collective bargaining rights, and more.

"We could be here all day talking about every win for workers over these last two years, but the bottom line is — brothers, sisters, siblings — in Minnesota, it's not only #BetterInAUnion, it's better because of unions," said Bernie Burnham, Minnesota AFL-CIO president.

Burnham emphasized, "these historic wins at the legislature happened only because union members knocked on doors" and made phone calls to elect the trifecta: a pro-labor Governor, House, and Senate.

"What a legislative session we had," said Representative Jamie Long (DFL-Minneapolis), the Minnesota House majority leader, commenting on the 2024 legislative session.

"I think it will go down in Minnesota history as one of the most pro-labor sessions ever," he said.

"Labor and support for working people is deeply ingrained in the House DFL caucus," Long said. "We believe in, we stand with, and we will fight for working people every single day."

High stakes for 2024 election

Long noted, however, that all the progress of the past two years came with the slimmest of pro-labor majorities in both houses of the state legislature: two seats in the House, one seat in the Senate. And many of those races, he added, were won back in 2022 with just a handful of votes.

"We know this is going to be a really close election," Long said. "When we do come back, we're going to continue to make the state the best state for working people in the United States."

Other convention speakers included Minnesota Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, Attorney General Keith Ellison, State Auditor Julie Blaha, Secretary of State Steve Simon, and Jen Schultz, AFL-CIO endorsed candidate for 8th District U.S. House of Representatives.

"The stakes in this election are high and could not be higher," said Flanagan. "We have incredible enemies to labor in Donald Trump and J.D. Vance."

"Our fight is against a billionaire like Donald Trump who uses the same old playbook, to divide us," said national AFL-CIO president Liz Shuler (who addressed the convention via a live online feed after missing a flight connection to be there in person).

"They're trying to trick us to turn on each other so they benefit," Ellison said. "And we won't let it happen... It is the labor movement that knows better than anybody else the importance of solidarity."

New models for worker organizing

The convention wasn't all about politics and legislation, however.

New worker organizing was front and center the first day of the convention with a panel discussion moderated by Todd Dahlstrom, the Minnesota AFL-CIO's organizing and growth director.

"We can't do this work alone — we need to work in coalition," Dahlstrom emphasized, introducing a panel discussing how workers are getting involved in organizing their workplaces with the assistance of non-profit "worker centers" like the Restaurant Opportunities Center. These worker centers assist workers in taking first steps to organize, beginning to build power and seek improvements in working conditions before taking the next step to formally organize a union.

"People want to find ways to build power for themselves in their workplaces," said Helen "Lenny" Cane, an organizer with UNITE HERE Local 17. "During the pandemic and after, service industry workers realized they were on the front lines."

CONVENTION page 20



Labor Review photo
Photo above: Bernie Burnham, Minnesota AFL-CIO president (right), offered a thank-you to the federation's staff seated behind the podium while Brad Lehto, Minnesota AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer (left), looked on.



Labor Review photo
Photo above: State Representative Jamie Long (DFL-Minneapolis), the Minnesota House majority leader, addressed the Minnesota AFL-CIO convention.



Labor Review photo
Photo above: Tamika Hannah, vice president of AFSCME Local 34 (left), was attending her third MN AFL-CIO convention. She works as a financial worker for Hennepin County's human services department. She also serves as an executive board member for AFSCME Council 5. "Just being part of the entire umbrella of union activity is really important to me, to know what's going on at all levels," she said.

Ann Johnson Stewart runs for Minnesota Senate in hotly-contested special election Outcome will determine the Senate majority

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNETONKA — For voters in Minnesota Senate District 45 in the west Minneapolis suburbs, the November 5 ballot will include a special election to fill a vacancy in the Senate District 45 seat.

Former State Senator Ann Johnson Stewart is running for the Senate District 45 seat with the endorsement of the Minnesota AFL-CIO and the DFL Party.

It's the only State Senate seat on the ballot this year. The outcome of the November 5 election will determine whether the DFL Party or the Republican Party has a majority in the Minnesota Senate, so the race is drawing lots of attention — and spending.

Johnson Stewart reports a flood of volunteers assisting her campaign, including a lot of union members. "People have finally figured out — if I don't win, we're going backwards," she says.

Johnson Stewart's other labor endorsements include: AFSCME Council 5, Carpenters Local 322, Minnesota Association of Professional Employees, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, and SEIU Minnesota State Council.

Senate District 45 consists of communities surrounding Lake Minnetonka, including Deephaven, Excelsior, Greenwood, Long Lake, the north part of Minnetonka, Minnetonka Beach, Minnetrista, Mound, Orono, St Bonifacius, Shorewood, Spring Park, Tonka Bay, Wayzata, and Woodland.

The seat became vacant when the incumbent, Dr. Kelly Morrison, resigned to run for Congress (see story, page 7).

Johnson Stewart represented part of this area before, when she won election as the DFL candidate in 2020 to represent the old Senate District 44. Redistricting led Johnson Stewart to leave the Senate after just two years.

During those two years in the Minnesota Senate, Johnson Stewart won a 95 percent voting score from the Minnesota AFL-CIO on working families issues.

"That's who I am and what I stand for," Johnson Stewart recently told the *Minneapolis Labor Review*. "I was raised in a union family. My mom and dad were teachers... That's a family value I grew up with."

A civil engineer by profession, "I see the value that unions bring to the construction industry," Johnson Stewart says. For individual workers, she added, she sees the difference between union and non-union workers and how they experience their careers.

More than 20 years ago, Johnson Stewart started her own engineering firm,



Ann Johnson Stewart

District 45

which grew to 26 employees. Her firm helped local and state government to build infrastructure across the state. Two years ago, she sold the company but continues to work there part-time. "I did that to focus on being in the Senate," she says.

"I was the first civil engineer to serve in the Minnesota Senate," Johnson Stewart says. "We need somebody who really understands infrastructure and the value of state spending on local projects."

The bonding bill which the legislature is supposed to take up every two years is all about jobs, Johnson Stewart notes. "The bonus is you get a bridge."

If she returns to the Senate, "it is my top priority to de-politicize bonding, to get a bonding bill every year until we catch up," she says.

When Morrison resigned the Senate District 45 seat in June 2024, jumping in the race "was a very easy decision," Johnson Stewart says. "I really had a lot left I wasn't able to accomplish. I was excited for the opportunity to go back."

When she served previously in the Senate, Johnson Stewart says, "it was really demonstrating the importance of having an infrastructure expert on the bonding and transportation committees." She knew how to ask the right questions, she says. "Having somebody with that construction background was one of my biggest accomplishments."

Johnson Stewart grew up in Wausau, Wisconsin. She earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin Platteville and a masters degree in civil engineering at the University of Minnesota. She has lived in Minnetonka for 27 years.

Website:
annjohnsonstewart.com

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Mike Gamache: 'The experience of doing the job helps get the job done right'

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor
ANDOVER — Identifying community needs, planning for solutions, getting the job done right. That's the approach Mike Gamache has taken in his 10 years' work as Anoka County Commissioner. Gamache adds, "it's the experience of doing the job that helps get the job done right."

Gamache is seeking a fourth term on the Anoka County Board to represent District 5 and is running with AFL-CIO endorsement.

"I'm taking it seriously," he reports. I'm out doorknocking... the response is good."

District 5 includes parts of Andover, Oak Grove and Coon Rapids.

Gamache currently serves as chair of

the Anoka County Board, elected by his colleagues in a 5-1 vote.

G a m a c h e p r e v i o u s l y served as mayor of Andover, winning election seven times and serving 14 years in that role.

"I've always been pleased and honored over the years being endorsed by the labor unions for both my runs for mayor and county board," Gamache says. "It also helps me understand the issues we're facing."



Mike Gamache

District 5

As mayor of Andover, Gamache left two lasting legacies: building the Andover YMCA Community Center and leading the drive to pass a local open space referendum.

Elected to the Anoka County board in 2014, Gamache has focused on improvements to government operations and public infrastructure.

Past successes include returning Chomonix golf course to profitability with new management and a new operating plan and repairing structural issues at the Bunker Beach Water Park.

Over the past two years, Gamache checked-off another major goal: a "salary structure" project to improve retention of county employees and hiring. "It's working," he says. "Everything

we're hearing is when and how directors are able to keep people." He adds, "now we're competitive with other counties and cities" and the county has fewer job vacancies. "That's going to help us do the work we're supposed to do."

Another goal completed the past two years: building a new 911 center, which will open early in 2025.

Planning continues to build a new Anoka County jail. "We are doing our best to work with the city of Anoka to listen to their concerns," Gamache reports. "We are on the right track of working with them."

"There's always projects going on," Gamache says, include coming improvements needed for Highway 65.

Website: reelectmike.com

Julie Jeppson: Securing funds for badly needed improvements to Highway 65

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor
BLAINE — "Your local government is *your* government that impacts your life 24-7," says Julie Jeppson.

Jeppson is running for a second term for the District 6 seat on the Anoka County Board with AFL-CIO endorsement.

District 6 includes Blaine and part of Spring Lake Park.

Jeppson previously served as a member of the Blaine City Council, winning election to two terms before winning election to the County Board in 2022.

During Jeppson's time on the Blaine City Council, and now as County Commissioner, seeking funding for Highway 65 improvements has been one of her top priorities. "Raising dollars for Highway 65 — that's a big reason why I ran," she says.

"We secured a little over \$200 million through 14 different state and federal agencies in two years," she reports. "That's ridiculously fast."

Construction is set to begin in 2026. "It's going to be one of the biggest and most complex highway projects in the region," she says.

When Jeppson ran for County Board two years ago, Highway 65 concerns were the top issue residents shared with her when doorknocking.

"People were dying on our streets

and I didn't find that acceptable," Jeppson says.

Now, she says, identifying the needs for arterial road improvements will be a next focus.

Jeppson says an important role for elected officials is maintaining public infrastructure. "You need to spend money in order to maintain your investments, your assets." If not, she says, "the bill will come eventually" with even more costly repairs. What's best for taxpayers, she says, is planned spending on infrastructure over time.

The new Anoka County jail currently under discussion "is going to be a huge expense that's going to be taxpayer-funded," she says. She's working to ensure the "best, safest solution for all — including inmates, their families, surrounding communities, and our staff."

"Unions are the backbone of our community," Jeppson says. "They absolutely have my utmost respect... They're the ones building the buildings, building the roads, plowing the streets."

As an elected official, Jeppson makes transparency a top concern. "I actively listen to my community."

A Blaine resident since 2004, Jeppson and husband Nate have two children.

Website: jeppsonforcommissioner.com



Julie Jeppson

District 6

Mandy Meisner: A commissioner who advocates for union values on the board

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor
FRIDLEY — "I'm in that sweet spot where I've learned the role, established relationships," says Mandy Meisner. "I'm able to do solid work for my district."

Meisner is running for re-election for a third term for the District 7 seat on the Anoka County Board with the endorsement of the AFL-CIO.

District 7 includes Fridley, Columbia Heights, and Hilltop and is the most diverse Anoka County commissioner district.

Meisner makes it a point to meet quarterly with the mayors, administrators and police chiefs of each of the cities in District 7. "That's something I put into practice from year one," she says. "It's a way to get updates" and informs her work on the board to "really make sure District 7 has a voice."

Meisner points to her work to secure funding for District 7, including: \$3.5 million in state and federal funds to renovate a new building for the Southern Anoka County Assistance food shelf; \$1 million towards a new city hall/community center/emergency shelter for Hilltop ("we're still not done"); a new main pavilion for Kordiak County Park in Columbia Heights, fully-funded with federal funds, with construction to begin in spring 2025.

Good governance is another priori-

ty for Meisner. In the search for a new county administrator, "finally we did a best practice," she says, and hired a search firm to help conduct a national search.

"I am absolutely a commissioner that keeps union values in mind and continues to advocate for that in the board room," Meisner says.

When the county undertook county-wide wage adjustments for staff based on market rates, workers in collective bargaining units weren't included in the first round of adjustments. "I said that was absolutely unacceptable — you can't give some county employees a market rate adjustment but not union employees."

Now, she reports, the situation has been corrected, for all but one unit.

When issues affect county employees, "I'm always looking out for them," Meisner says.

Meisner comes from a union family. "My entire personal history has been afforded to me because of unions." A grandfather worked as a union member in Cloquet, Minnesota's paper mills and her father was a CWA member working for Northwestern Bell and U.S. West.

In running for a third term, Meisner reports, "I'm working really hard. I don't take this election for granted."

Website: votemandy.com



Mandy Meisner

District 7

Minneapolis School Board

Former teacher, union president Greta Callahan seeks seat on Minneapolis School Board

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — Late on a Sunday morning in mid-August, a group of supporters of school board candidate Greta Callahan met at Linden Hills Park to hear from the candidate and a couple of special guests and then go doorknocking.

“We are so lucky to have Greta in this race,” said State Representative Frank Hornstein. “We have someone who is going to fight for our kids, fight for our parents, fight for our communities.”

Callahan is running for the southwest Minneapolis District 6 seat on the Minneapolis School Board with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO and the DFL Party.

Incumbent Ira Jourdain chose not to run for re-election.

A teacher since 2011, Callahan taught kindergarten in the Minneapolis Public Schools and for four years served as president of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers Local 59 — leading the union during its 2022 strike.

(Callahan recently chose not to seek re-election as MFT president and has accepted a position working for the Minnesota Nurses Association).

As a kindergarten teacher, Callahan



Greta Callahan

District 6

began inviting local elected officials to come to her classroom to read to the kids — so those officials could gain some firsthand classroom experience.

In addition to Hornstein, one of her guest readers was Keith Ellison, now Minnesota’s Attorney General. He also was on hand to speak to Callahan volunteers at the August doorknock. He told her, “every step of the way, whether it’s the kids, whether it’s the union, you’ve put your heart out there, every step of the way.”

The Minneapolis Public Schools face the challenges of declining enrollment, possible school closings, and a continuing racial achievement gap.

In Callahan’s view, the district needs to do more to meet those challenges head-on and engage with families to plan to revive the Minneapolis schools.

“I want MPS to be a place where people want to send their kids,” she said.

Right now, she said, the district is on a path to “managed decline” when instead it should be developing a plan for “purposeful rebuilding.”

During the height of the pandemic, with little chance for public input, the district adopted a controversial Comprehensive District Design plan which led to new school boundaries — and sped up an exodus of families from the district.

“Those of us at the time said, ‘this is dangerous,’” Callahan said, and predicted the now looming school closings.

“We need to have the political will to expand and enlarge the MPS system,” Callahan said. “The district continues to talk about cuts and closing schools... Where is your plan to get those kids back? Where is your plan to stabilize the workforce? What are we doing to retain families?”

“Families want safety and stability,” Callahan said. “These are things I’ve been shouting about for a long time... These are things I’m hearing at the

doors.”

“I’m not coming and saying, ‘here is my plan,’” Callahan stressed. Rather, she’s amplifying what she’s hearing from families and school staff. “The only way to be successful is to co-create it with them,” she said. “Nothing will be successful without total buy-in.”

Callahan maintains that restoring the health of the school system is vital to the future health and safety of the city.

Callahan grew up in southwest Minneapolis, attending Burroughs elementary and Anthony middle school. She lives in District 6 and her son recently graduated from Southwest High.

Callahan’s campaign seeks volunteers for doorknocks and phonebanks. “There are 50,000 people in District 6,” she says. “We need all the help we can get.”

“This is coming down to pro-labor versus anti-labor in this race,” she adds.

She urged *Labor Review* readers who live in District 6: “Get a lawn sign... Keep spreading the word about what a pro-labor candidate will do to enhance the Minneapolis Public Schools and make Minneapolis a better place.”

Website:

gretacallahanforschoolboard.com

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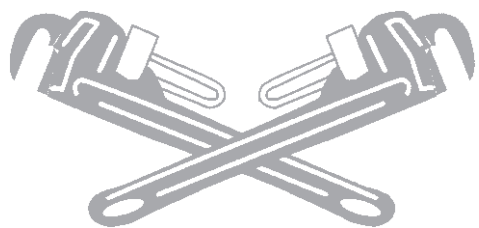
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1177, 1292, 1614 and 1976



Osseo School Board

Tekoa Cochran, Kelsey Dawson Walton, and Keith Tate run with AFL-CIO endorsement

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

OSSEO SCHOOL DISTRICT — The Osseo Area Schools are on the front lines of a battle over the direction of public education. Educators and community members are pushing back against the efforts by a vocal group who seek to impose their conservative values and religious beliefs on a public institution. The public schools are taxpayer-funded *public* schools, after all, and should be welcoming for all students and families with diverse backgrounds and values. The freedom to learn is at stake.

The current arena for this clash over the schools is the coming November 5, 2024 election for three school board members for the Osseo Area Schools.

Three of the six candidates vying for three spots on the board are associated with the so-called Minnesota Parents Alliance, a culturally conservative group which purports to speak for all parents.

Three other candidates — Tekoa Cochran, Keith Tate, and Kelsey Dawson Walton — are running with the endorsement of Education Minnesota Osseo and the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

“Our [candidate] screening team were Osseo workers — teachers, nurses, KidStop instructors,” reported Ternesha Burroughs, math teacher and Education Minnesota Osseo’s president.

Evaluating candidate questionnaires and interviews, the screening team voted for the endorsement of their top three choices: Cochran, Tate, and Walton.

“They are not about banning books,” Burroughs said. The three labor endorsed candidates also support Policy 508, “which is our gender inclusion policy,” Burroughs noted. “They also support the LGBTQ history and culture resolution passed by the school board.”

Kelsey Dawson Walton, Burroughs noted, served on the board when the policy



Campaigning at the Osseo Lions Parade September 7 (left to right): Keith Tate, Tekoa Cochran, Kelsey Dawson Walton.

was written and passed. (Walton lost her next bid for re-election).

Cochran and Tate, Burroughs said, also “support students’ ability to be their authentic selves.”

Debates about school curriculum also are at issue, but calls to ban books are a flashpoint. “This whole book thing has been a huge issue in Osseo,” Burroughs said. Books are picked for the school libraries, she noted, by licensed staff who are trained to select age-appropriate books. That decision shouldn’t go to parents acting from their personal belief systems.

“If you’re not willing to listen to the workers, that’s a problem for me,” Burroughs said.

Education Minnesota Osseo is waging an active independent expenditure campaign on behalf of Cochran, Tate, and Walton. “We have volunteers that are out door-knocking, we have volunteers that are out phone-banking,” reported Burroughs. She welcomed members of other unions to help.

Endorsed

continued from page 2

With four candidates to be elected, the MRLF added three more endorsements October 9: Matt Beukema, Kwawdo “K” Osei, and incumbent Rob Schoenrock.

Crystal City Council

The MRLF endorsed incumbent David Cummings for Ward 4. Cummings is a member of Education Minnesota Osseo and previously participated in the AFL-CIO’s Union Member Candidate Program.

Richfield City Council

For Ward 2, the MRLF endorsed incumbent Sean Hayford Oleary.

Get Out To Vote!

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The officers of Local 15 urge you to get out and vote for labor endorsed candidates on or before November 5th

Amy Klobuchar

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Thank you for getting involved in our democracy and voting in the November 5 elections!

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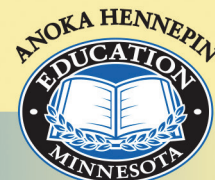


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- Melissa Hortman (34B)**
- Matt Norris (32B)**
- Zack Stephenson (35A)**
- Brain Raines (34A)**
- Kari Rehrauer (35B)**

We hope you join us to support these candidates. Vote early, in person, by mail or on Election Day for candidates who will put educators first.

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Let's elect labor-endorsed candidates who support investing in our transportation infrastructure

From the Members of Local 1005

Convention: 'If you have never done direct voter contact, this is the year to do it'

continued from page 14

"The pandemic really exposed the fissures in the industry," said Wade Luneburg, recording secretary for Local 17, which has partnered with worker center ROC to help workers organize in several workplaces. When the pandemic hit, he said, "workers discovered pretty quickly that boss is not my friend."

"A lot of times I didn't feel safe in my workplace and they didn't do anything to change it," said Mariam Karcache, a barista who became involved with organizing at Café Ceres through the ROC and UNITE HERE Local 17 collaboration. "It took about a year to organize and delegate and win our election," Karcache said, a win which involved organizing all four Café Ceres locations in Minneapolis.

Now, Karcache said, "I can go into work every day and have dignity and feel respected." Karcache added: "Seeing that as a possibility was really exciting... that's why I started organizing... I started organizing not just for myself but for my co-workers."

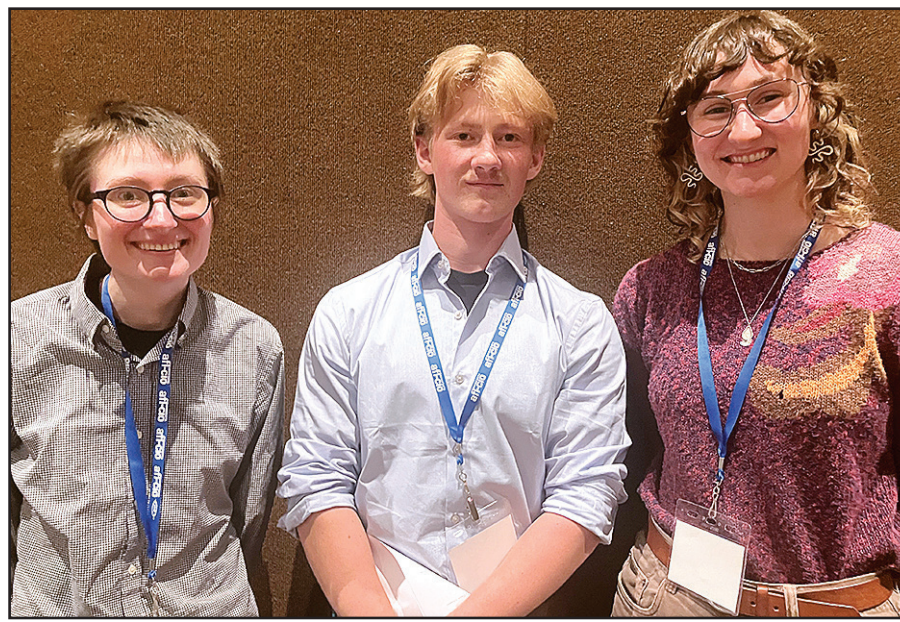
In the private sector, 92 percent of workers do not have a union, noted Casey Hudek, co-director of the Workers Confluence Fund of Minnesota, which helps to foster cooperation between worker centers and local unions. In developing those relationships, "we are thinking about organizing and building to scale," he said.

"There's momentum with community organizations" and this sort of coalition-building, Hudek reported. For example, the Minnesota legislature passed the nation's strongest warehouse worker safety bill, the result of a collaboration between Teamsters Local 120 and the Awood Center, a worker center which has assisted immigrant Somali warehouse workers at the Amazon warehouse in Shakopee.

Getting young workers involved

Another panel discussion put the spotlight on getting young workers involved in the labor movement.

"We need to be listening to our younger workers," said Minnesota AFL-CIO presi-



Labor Review photo

Panelists who shared their perspective about how to get young workers involved in the labor movement included (left to right) Ethan Carlson, UFCW Local 1189; Ray Wicks, IBEW Local 343; Abby Hornberger, BlueGreen Alliance.

dent Bernie Burnham, who moderated the panel.

The young workers on the panel offered different perspectives.

"If you want to get young workers involved, you need to make it easier for them," said Ethan Carlson, member of UFCW Local 1189.

Asking people to drive one hour to a union meeting presents a barrier, said Ray Wicks, member of IBEW Local 343, which has offices in Mankato and Rochester.

Burnham asked, can social media play a role in connecting younger workers with their unions?

"I'm not sure social media can replace a union meeting," said Abby Hornberger from the BlueGreen Alliance. "It's a lot harder to feel the energy of your fellow members."

"Young people want to see the agency they have to make change," Hornberger said. "People like to see the work they put in pay off."

"People made spaces for me; I had a lot of encouragement," said Carlson.

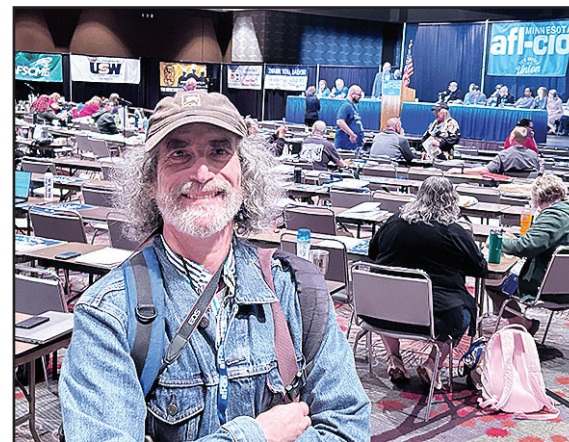
"One thing our generation values a lot is

We are the difference-maker in this election and we need to leave it all on the field.

—Liz Shuler, AFL-CIO president

non-violent communication, or being able to see other points of view," said Wicks.

"We value inclusion of all types of peo-



John See photo

ple," Carlson said. "Welcome people who aren't like you."

"If we want the movement to be strong, we've got to build it bigger and better," Wicks said.

Call to action wraps up convention

"We have a trifecta to keep," said president Bernie Burnham, preparing to adjourn the Minnesota AFL-CIO convention on September 24, just six weeks before the November 5 election. "You can find all the labor door-knocks and phone-banks on our website [mnaflcio.org] and pinned to the top of all our social media feeds."

She asked: "So, am I going to see you out there on the doors?"

"Yeah!" the convention delegates shouted in reply.

"All right, I hope so!" Burnham said.

Earlier, State Auditor Julie Blaha urged, "if you have never done direct voter contact, this is the year to do it."

"When you ask a union member, who is their most trusted source in politics, it is their union," said Liz Shuler, national AFL-CIO president, in her live video remarks to the convention. "We are the credible messengers in politics... What are you going to do with that trust?"

"Share your story," Shuler encouraged. "The thing that really breaks through is personal stories."

"We are the difference-maker in this election," Shuler said, "and we need to leave it all on the field."

Photo, left: Labor Review editor Steve Share reporting from the floor of the Minnesota AFL-CIO convention in Duluth. Bernie Burnham, Minnesota AFL-CIO president, noted from the podium that this would be Share's last convention as editor of the Labor Review. After 21 years at the Labor Review, Share is retiring after the first of the year.

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Labor 2024 Day of Action



COON RAPIDS — About 70 union members turned-out for a Labor 2024 Day of Action October 12, including union members and staff from AFSCME Council 5, UFCW Local 663, Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota, LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota, UNITE HERE! Local 17, SEIU MN State Council, and others. Before heading out to doorknock, the crowd got an inspiring send-off from U.S. Senator Tina Smith, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, and Minnesota Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy — and also from UFCW Local 663 member Marshall Everhart! Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota hosted the event. See page 3 for more information about volunteering for the final Get-Out-The-Vote effort. For more photos: facebook.com/minneapolisunions.

Retiree Meetings

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If your union retiree group is meeting in-person or online, and you want to share that information, or if you have other important announcements, contact the editor at laborreview@minneapolisunions.org or 612-715-2667.

Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council: Monthly meeting coming November 21

The next regular monthly meeting of the Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council, AFL-CIO will be a hybrid meeting — in person and by Zoom — Thursday, November 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided for people at the in-person meeting after the meeting adjourns. The in-person meeting will be in Room 218 at the United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave. SE, Minneapolis.

Parking is available at the Saint Anthony Public Parking Ramp (at the corner of 2nd St. SE and University Ave. SE), across University from the United Labor Centre building. The ramp recently moved to a new payment method, so contact Graeme Allen for more information about parking reimbursement.

To request the Zoom link for the October 17 meeting, or for more information about the Council, contact Graeme Allen, community and political organizer for the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, at 612-481-2144 or e-mail graeme@minneapolisunions.org.

ATU Local 1005 Retirees: Meet first Wednesday of the month

The Southside Retirees of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 are now meeting for breakfast the first Wednesday of the month at 8:00 a.m. at the Richfield VFW, 6715 Lake Shore Drive South, Richfield.

Carpenters Retirees:

Next meeting October 31

Carpenters Retirees will meet Thursday, October 31 at 10:00 a.m. at the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters union hall, 710 Olive Street, St. Paul. Lunch follows the meeting. The meetings will continue through October on the last Thursday of each month.

IBEW Local 292 Retirees:

'Senior Sparkies' will meet November 12

The IBEW Local 292 Retirees — "Senior Sparkies" — will meet Tuesday, November 12 at IBEW Local 292's union hall, 6700 West Broadway Ave. in Brooklyn Park. A buffet lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. We will be having nominations for Senior Sparkies officers at the November 11 meeting, followed by elections at the December meeting. We also are having a hat design contest for new retiree hats. Voting will be at the November 11 meeting, with a \$150 gift card to Jax Café for the winning design. For more information, contact the IBEW Local 292 office at 612-379-1292.

Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59:

Enjoy "Learning, Linking & Lunch" October 22

The Retired Minneapolis Educators' 2024-2025 calendar offers monthly "Learning, Linking & Lunch" meetings. We will meet in-person at the MFT office, 67- 8th Ave. NE, Tuesday, December 3 from 10 am to 12 noon and then have lunch.

Our guest speaker will be Jay Stoffel, retiring executive director of the Minnesota Teachers Retirement Association, the Minnesota Teacher Pension. Jay will receive a thank-you certificate and gift for his 35 years of leading Minnesota educator pensions in both Duluth and the State TRA. Also invited is Mary Broderick, St. Cloud retired teacher, the only TRA board member representing retirees.

For more information, e-mail RTC59info@gmail.com.

Minnesota Nurses Association Retirees:

CARn will meet November 13

The Council of Active Retired Nurses (CARn) will meet Wednesday, November 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Minnesota Nurses Association, 345 Randolph Ave., St. Paul.

CARn meets the second Wednesday of the month. The final meeting dates for 2024 will be December 11.

All retired members of the Minnesota Nurses Association are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Barb Martin at jimbarbmartin@aol.com.

Pipefitters Local 539 Retirees:

'Fazed Out Fitters' meet third Wednesday

Pipefitters Local 539 retirees — the "Fazed Out Fitters" — meet the third Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. at Elsie's, 729 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis. New members welcome.

Plumbers Local 15 Retirees:

Meet the third Tuesday of each month

All retired Plumbers Local 15 members are invited to attend retiree meetings, continuing the third Tuesday of every month at 12 noon at Elsie's Restaurant, Bar & Bowling Center, 729 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis (corner of Marshall and 8th Ave.). For more information, contact the Local 15 office at 612-333-8601.

Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 Retirees:

'Rusty Tinners' meet November 12

The Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 "Rusty Tinners" retirees club will meet Tuesday, November 12 at the Maplewood union hall, 1681 E. Cope Ave. A pot luck salad lunch begins at 12 noon followed by the meeting at 1:00 p.m. If available, one of our business agents and/or someone from the benefits office will share updates and answer questions. All retired Sheet Metal workers and spouses are welcome to our monthly meetings. We meet the second Tuesday of the month, September through December and March through May.

MN Capitol rally amplifies alarm about Trump's anti-worker Project 2025 agenda

By Michael Moore, editor,
Saint Paul Union Advocate

SAINT PAUL — Project 2025, the 920-page playbook for former President Donald Trump's potential return to the White House, spells disaster for union members, Minnesota labor leaders and activists warned at an October 1 rally on the steps of the Minnesota State Capitol.

"Project 2025 is about one thing; it's about dismantling the rights we've fought for, taking away our power and leaving us vulnerable," AFSCME Council 65 executive director Shannon Douvier said during the rally outside the Capitol in St. Paul. "We cannot afford to let this happen."

Written by a team of former Trump administration officials and funded by the conservative Heritage Foundation, Project 2025 provides a sprawling but detailed blueprint for how a second Trump presidency would wield power.

Unions, labor standards and collective bargaining would be targets of that power, according to an analysis of the document by the AFL-CIO, the nation's largest labor federation.

The AFL-CIO highlighted several objectives that would undercut workers' power at the bargaining table and stifle their voice in the workplace, including a complete ban on public employee unions like AFSCME (the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees), Education Minnesota and the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), which organized the rally in St. Paul.

"The tools we use to keep our workplaces safe, our families healthy, our standard of living and ... the equipment we need to get home at night to our families safe and sound are all at risk," AFSCME Council 5 executive director Bart Andersen said. "Our unions and our contracts bring us stability and peace of mind, and right now it's all on the chopping block with Project 2025."

The document calls on the Trump administration to defund federal services, eliminate agencies like the Department of



AFSCME Council 65 photo

Shannon Douvier, executive director of AFSCME Council 65 (at podium), was among the speakers at a Minnesota State Capitol rally October 1 to sound the alarm about Project 2025, a policy blueprint for a second Trump presidency.

Education and scrap civil service rules so that federal workers could be more easily replaced with MAGA loyalists.

Mechell Snider, a member of AFGE Local 899 who works as a TSA agent at Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport, said voters need to "stop Project 2025 in its tracks" to "protect an apolitical federal workforce" that is loyal to the Constitution, not to Trump.

"We need a federal workforce that has the right to unionize, to bargain in good faith and to show up to do a job safely, for the sole benefit of the American people," Snider added.

Project 2025 takes aim at private-sector workers' rights, too, calling for a ban on union organizing by card check, which speeds up organizing drives by allowing employers to recognize majority support for a union voluntarily, without a National Labor Relations Board election.

Project 2025 also supports allowing employers to push decertification cam-

paigns at any time, making it easier to wiggle out of their obligations to workers in the middle of a contract.

Project 2025 also takes aim at union workers' wages — Building Trades workers, in particular. It calls for a repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act, which requires construction companies to pay prevailing wages to workers on federally funded projects.

Additionally, the document calls on federal agencies to stop bargaining project labor agreements — so-called "PLAs," which set the terms and conditions of employment for construction projects before bidding begins — with unions. That would open the federal bidding process to low-wage, low-road contractors.

Other provisions in Project 2025 would be bad for union and non-union workers alike, from eliminating overtime protections to allowing states to set their

own minimum wage below the federal rate. Child labor laws, unemployment insurance programs, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration — Trump's allies aim to weaken them all, according to Project 2025.

Education Minnesota vice president Monica Byron, an elementary-school teacher, said Project 2025 is a game plan for making it harder for workers to get ahead and stacking the deck in favor of Wall Street and wealthy CEOs.

"We have a choice to make in this election," Byron said. "We can support the freedom to come together in union and bargain for better lives and better schools, or we can choose the MAGA agenda of Project 2025 that would give greedy corporations even more control over our lives and decimate unions and public education."

Learn more about Project 2025's impact on workers at betterinaunion.org.

Pipefitters Local 539

PIPERS

Dues Reminder

Please remember to pay your July-December 2024 dues. You are able to pay online for your dues on the Pipefitters website. You do not need to log in to do so.

Save the Date:

Annual Christmas Party planned December 7

Pipefitters Local 539's Annual Christmas Party will be held on December 7, 2024. More information will be sent out closer to the date.

If you would like something added to the Pipers section of the Labor Review, call the office at (612) 379-4711.

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Minneapolis Labor Review

2024 Holiday Issue



Publication Date: December 14

Deadline: November 27

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IBEW Local Union 292 Minneapolis Electrical Workers

General Election: Vote by November 5!

General Election Day is Tuesday, November 5 — Vote early, vote by absentee ballot or vote in person. In Minnesota, you can vote early or vote by absentee ballot for any reason. For more information about early voting, visit the MN Secretary of State's website at mnvotes.org. Get out and VOTE Brothers and Sisters, make sure YOUR voice is heard! To see the list of candidates endorsed by IBEW Local 292, and for volunteer opportunities, visit www.ibew292.org and click the "Political" tab at the top of the page.

See you at the General Membership Meeting, 5:30 p.m. on the Second Tuesday

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Our Future

Journeyman, it is our responsibility and duty to train our apprentices. Train them to do quality work in a timely manner as we have learned from those before us. Remember, the future of our industry will be in their hands.

Condolences

Brother Paul W. Banken; Brother Rick Benson's son, Tyler Benson; Brother Leonard B. Jensen; Brother Donald P. Dupay; Brother Kurt Mbroten's father, Robert A. Mbroten

Minneapolis Labor Review 2024 Publication Schedule

November 16
Deadline: October 30
Holiday Shopping Guide

December 14
Deadline: November 27
Holiday Issue

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Minnesota AFL-CIO

Committee On Political Education: 2024 Endorsements

**President & Vice President
of the United States:**

**Kamala Harris
& Tim Walz**

U.S. Senator:

Amy Klobuchar

**LABOR
2024
AFL-CIO**



Photo: facebook.com/KamalaHarris/photos

Philadelphia, August 6: Vice President Kamala Harris named Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as her running mate.

General Election: Tuesday, November 5
Early voting continues through November 4

U.S. Congress, 1st District:
Rachel Bohman

U.S. Congress, 2nd District:
Angie Craig

U.S. Congress, 3rd District:
Kelly Morrison

U.S. Congress, 4th District:
Betty McCollum

U.S. Congress, 5th District:
Ilhan Omar

U.S. Congress, 8th District:
Jen Schultz

Minnesota House of Representatives

Jennifer Nuesse	17B	Cheryl Youakim	46B
Matt Norris	32B	Lucy Rehm	48B
Brian Raines	34A	Alex Falconer	49A
Melissa Hortman	34B	Charlie Kotyza-Witthuhn	49B
Zack Stephenson	35A	Julie Greene	50A
Kari Rehauer	35B	Steve Elkins	50B
Janelle Calhoun	36A	Michael Howard	51A
Laurie Wolfe	37A	Nathan Coulter	51B
Kristin Bahner	37B	Brad Tabke	54A
Huldah Hiltzley	38A	Jess Hanson	55A
Samantha Vang	38B	Kristi Pursell	58A
Erin Koegel	39A	Fue Lee	59A
Sandra Feist	39B	Esther Agbaje	59B
Ned Carroll	42A	Sydney Jordan	60A
Ginny Klevorn	42B	Mohamud Noor	60B
Cedrick Frazier	43A	Katie Jones	61A
Mike Freiberg	43B	Jamie Long	61B
Tracy Breazeale	45A	Aisha Gomez	62A
Patty Acomb	45B	Anquam Mahamoud	62B
Larry Kraft	46A	Samantha Sencer-Mura	63A
		Emma Greenman	63B

Minnesota Senate District 45 Special Election

Special Election, November 5, 2024

Ann Johnson Stewart

Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation Committee On Political Education: 2024 Endorsements

Anoka County Commissioner:

Betsy O'Berry, District 1
Mike Gamache, District 5
Julie Jeppson, District 6
Mandy Meisner, District 7

Brooklyn Park City Council:

Tony McGarvey, West District

Columbia Heights Mayor:

Amáda Márquez Simula

Columbia Heights City Council:

Laurel Deneen, At Large

Columbia Heights School Board:

(Elect 3)

Mary Granlund
Michelle Pettway
Corenia Smith

Columbus City Council:

Rob Busch, At Large

Coon Rapids City Council:

Peter Butler, Ward 2
Christopher Geisler, Ward 4

Crystal City Council:

David Cummings, Ward 4



Eden Prairie School Board:

(Elect 3)

Ann Bradsher
Kim Ross
Jody Ward-Rannow

Fridley City Council:

Patrick Veschio, At Large

Hennepin County Commissioner:

Jeffrey Lunde, District 1
Debbie Goettel, District 5
Heather Edelson, District 6
Kevin Anderson, District 7

Maple Grove City Council:

(Elect 2)

Samba Fall, At Large

Minneapolis School Board:

Greta Callahan, District 6
Kim Ellison, At Large

Osseo School Board:

(Elect 3)

Tekoa Cochran
Keith Tate
Kelsey Dawson Walton

Plymouth City Council:

Kim Nelson, Ward 1

Ramsey City Council:

Kirsten Buscher, At Large

Richfield City Council:

Sean Hayford O'leary, Ward 2

Robbinsdale School Board:

(Elect 3)

Helen Bassett
Greta Evans-Becker
Aviva Hillenbrand

St. Francis City Council:

Crystal Kreklow

St. Francis School Board:

(Elect 4)

Matt Beukema
Jake Humphrey
Kwawdo "K" Osei
Rob Schoenrock

Visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at mnvotes.org to learn your districts, find your polling place, learn how to vote early, view a sample ballot

This list of candidates current as of October 9, 2024. For updates: www.minneapolisunions.org

This list of AFL-CIO endorsed candidates for Minnesota House and Minnesota Senate includes only districts in the MRLF's seven-county jurisdiction.

For the complete list of state legislative candidates endorsed by the Minnesota AFL-CIO, visit mnafflco.org