

VOLUME 2, 2026

LOCAL



ELECTION 2026

***What's on the ballot
and where does your
union stand?***

LiUNA! *Feel the Power*
MISSOURI AND KANSAS LABORERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Union Meeting Dates

3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm in the union hall.

August 18
September 15
October 15
November 19
December 17

Interested in volunteering?

The VOC Meets on Union Meeting Nights at 6:00pm

Out of work?

The Re-Registration Deadline to Remain on the Out of Work List is the First Working Day of Each Month.

Respect MO Voters

Local 662 was proud to help deliver signatures to the secretary of state's office.

Local 662 was proud to stand alongside fellow union members and supporters at the Respect MO Voters rally as signatures from the initiative petition drive were delivered to the Secretary of State's office. This historic campaign has gathered more signatures than any initiative petition effort in Missouri history. Thank you to all the members who stepped up to help make this possible.



LABORERS JOURNEY FORWARD

Celebrating the 2026 Apprenticeship Banquet



The Missouri-Kansas Laborers District Council and Laborers-Contractors Training Center extend a huge congratulations to the Laborers who have journeyed out this year. Completing your apprenticeship was no small order. By walking across the stage and receiving your certificate of completion, you are illustrating to your contractor and your union the extent of your commitment and follow through. Those who held perfect attendance at the training center also received gift cards to Nu Way, where they can purchase brand new work equipment and gear. We wish our new journey-level Laborers all the best and look forward to seeing you in the field.



Election 2026

What to expect on your ballot this election season and where your union stands on the issues.

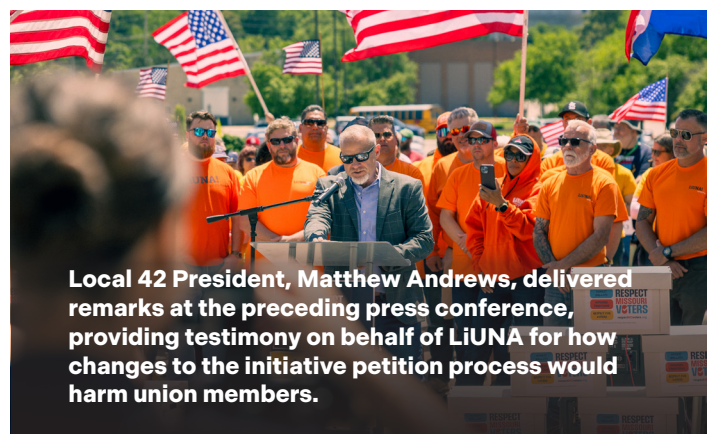
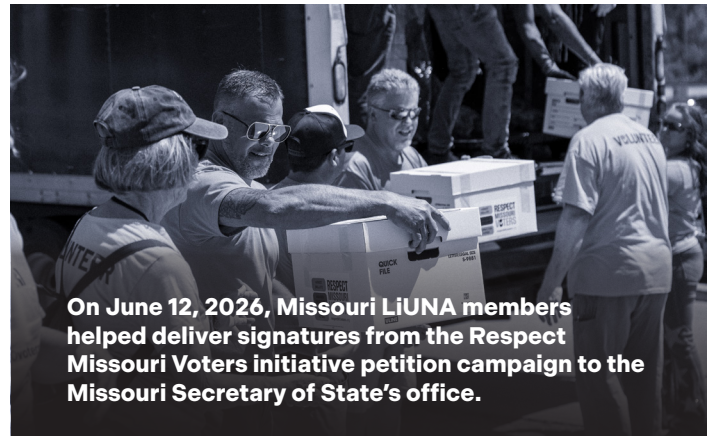
Defend Your Voice: **Vote No on Amendment 4**

Politicians in Jefferson City are trying to take away your power. On August 4th, they are asking you to change how we vote on state amendments. Right now, a simple majority wins. If most Missourians want a new rule, it passes. That is how true democracy works.

Amendment 4 wants to rig the system. It would require a statewide vote to win a majority in every single one of Missouri's eight congressional districts. If just one district votes no, the entire amendment dies—even if the rest of the state completely agrees on it.

Think about how this hits our wallets. Back in 2016, Missouri voters passed a major sales tax cap to protect us from new taxes on everyday services. It won statewide by over 375,000 votes! But under the confusing new rules of Amendment 4, those vital tax protections would have failed just because a single district lost by a small margin.

As union members, we value fairness, freedom, and local control. We do not like government overreach, and we do not want politicians changing the rules of the game just to quiet our voices. Amendment 4 gives a tiny minority the power to veto what the hardworking majority supports. Don't let out-of-touch politicians strip away your rights. Protect your vote. **Vote NO on Amendment 4 on August 4th.**





Defend Your Wallet: **Vote No on Amendment 5**

Amendment 5 sounds like a sweet deal on the surface because it talks about cutting the state income tax. But if you look closer at the fine print, it is actually a massive tax trick. It hurts working families while letting the wealthiest off the hook.

To make up for the lost state money, Amendment 5 gives politicians the green light to expand sales taxes on nearly everything you buy. We are talking about a massive “Everything Tax.” It could drive up the cost of items you need for your livelihood—like trucks, tools, work boots, gas, car repairs, and everyday groceries.

Worse yet, Amendment 5 suspends our constitutional right to vote on big tax increases for five whole years. It gives politicians a blank check to hike sales taxes without our approval. Experts say the average Missouri family could end up paying over \$500 more each year in higher sales taxes.

Our hard-earned money should stay in our pockets, not be taxed away every time we buy gear or fill up our tank. This amendment takes power away from the taxpayers and hands it straight to big spenders in government. Keep your tax dollars where they belong. **Vote NO on Amendment 5 on August 4th.**

“Amendment 5 suspends our constitutional right to vote on big tax increases for five whole years. It gives politicians a blank check to hike sales taxes without our approval.”



Find endoresments from your hall and from the Missouri-Kansas Laborers District Council on the back cover.



An Unlikely Partnership: Degrees and Dirty Jobs

Local 1104 member graduates apprenticeship program and college in the same year with the help of the Missouri LECET.

Despite coming from a family of educators, James Davis III was told by his father from a young age that he wasn't meant for a traditional classroom, he was meant for the trades. Earlier this year, Davis graduated from both the Laborers Apprenticeship Program and St. Louis Community College with an associate's degree in the Skilled Trades.

Davis became an apprentice and member of Local 1104 in 2023. More recently, he has been one of nearly 160 Laborers working on a gigantic solar installation in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, coined "Delta Bobcat." The job encompasses approximately 1,200 acres and will produce 200 megawatts of power, making it one of the biggest solar installations in the state of Missouri. Davis completed his apprenticeship and college degree while working on this project. Davis said that it was

his experience at the Laborers Contractors Training Center that motivated him to pursue the tuition reimbursement program the Missouri LECET offers. He first learned about it during his apprenticeship orientation at the Training Center in High Hill, Missouri. It piqued his interest then, but it was additional encouragement from LCTC executive director, Josh Wright, and instructor Don Moore that ultimately inspired him to make the commitment.

Davis realized shortly after beginning work on the "Delta Bobcat" project that the leaders on this job had furthered their careers and their positions through higher education along with their training in the trades. He wanted the same and committed to focusing on his associate's degree. With help from J.R. Watkins, his boss on the project, and with support from



Local 1104 Business Manager, Tony Jokerst, with James Davis at Apprenticeship Banquet.



Davis graduated from St. Louis Community College in May, 2026.

his cousin "R.J." who allowed him to crash at his St. Louis apartment when taking classes, Davis learned to balance his approach to his work and his educational pursuits and adapted to the hybrid options of online and in-person classwork to best suit his needs.

James Davis was born and raised in Cairo, Illinois, a minority community that has historically been impoverished. His desire to improve his situation and to make a better life for himself and his daughter pushed him to become a Laborer's apprentice and to pursue completing his associate's degree.

Instructor Don Moore worked with Davis to help him understand that being a person of color was a strength that he needed to leverage versus a crutch that might set him back. Davis credits Moore with teaching him what being a Laborer and a union member is all about. Many of these lessons came during the conversations about "real life". Davis stated that Moore helped him to understand money management and that looking toward the future was always in his best interest.

Having completed his apprenticeship and obtained his college degree, James Davis now encourages other apprentices to take control of their own futures and to begin planning for the next steps in their careers to make the most of it.



Laborers working on the Delta Bob Cat solar array.



LOCAL MATTERS

Local 662 Celebrates former Business Managers

This year we presented past Business Manager, Gary Griffith, with his 50-year Gold Membership card. Griffith was Business Manager when acting Business Manager, Eric Riley, was first starting his career as Union Laborer back in 1998. To the right are the past and present Business Managers for local 662.

Gary Griffith 1989-2000
Larry Bloomer 2000-2012
Sam Simmons 2012-2025
Eric Riley 2025-present



From left to right: Eric Riley, Gary Griffith, Larry Bloomer, and Samuel Simmons.



1st Annual Local 662 Golf Tournament

Don't miss our first annual golf tournament in August! Bring the family and spend quality time with your union brothers and sisters, all in support of Local 662.

Friday, August 21, 2026

4005 Redfield Dr., Eugene, MO 65032

\$500 / 4-man scramble team

\$125 / person

Mail-In Registration Ends August 15th

Scan the QR code to register.





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Election 2026 **Laborers Endorsements**

No on Amendment 4

Protect Majority Rule

No on Amendment 5

Replaces State Income Tax with an "Everything Tax"

Quentin Wilson, Democrat

Missouri State Auditor



**Scan QR Code to
see all of your local
endorsements.**



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