

VOLUME 2, 2025

LOCAL



PROTECTING PREVAILING WAGE AND DAVIS-BACON



**Don't miss our
upcoming member
events.**

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Feel the Power

MISSOURI AND KANSAS LABORERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Union Meeting Dates

1st Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm in the union hall.

August 6
September 3
October 1
November 5
December 3

Upcoming 2025 Retiree Meetings

September 10
December 10
at 11:00am

Sign Up Day for the Out of Work List
is the 2nd Monday of Every Month

Memorial Day

Local 660 Shows Up to Remember All Who Served

Members of Laborers Local 660 Retirees Committee and V.O.C. took part in placing flags at the headstones of veterans at St. Charles Memorial Gardens. This was part of the St. Charles County-Wide Veterans Memorial Service Program.



PROTECTING DAVIS-BACON & PREVAILING WAGE

MUST READ



How a law passed nearly a century ago has protected paychecks and built a better America.

For nearly a century, the Davis-Bacon Act has stood as a pillar of working-class protection in the construction industry. Enacted in 1931 after a year-long push by Republican Senators James Davis and Robert Bacon, this federal law requires contractors and subcontractors working on federally funded construction projects to pay workers no less than the construction wages and benefits in a local area of the project. The local wage package is determined through regional wage surveys conducted by the Department of Labor, which is commonly referred to as the **prevailing wage**.

Davis Bacon and the standard of prevailing wage prevent taxpayer-funded projects from undermining local pay standards. Davis Bacon was designed to level the playing field so that contractors compete based on skill, productivity, and project management, not on who can hire the cheapest, least experienced workforce. This helps ensure that public projects, funded by your tax dollars, are built by trained, experienced craftspeople (most often union workers like you) who know how to do the job right.

More than 60 federal laws now include Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements, and 28 states—including Missouri—

have their own “Little Davis-Bacon” acts. These laws are essential to protecting not just workers’ paychecks, but the long-term safety and quality of public infrastructure. In our state, prevailing wage projects include public highways and roads, most of the work across our rivers, and the construction of courthouses, post offices, public schools, and libraries.

We work on Davis-Bacon and local prevailing wage projects every day, and spend those wages in our local communities, which promotes growth and sustainability in our local economy.

Contrary to claims by unscrupulous and low-road contractors, prevailing wage laws do not raise project costs. Numerous studies have proven that savings from cutting labor costs are not passed along to taxpayers. An unscrupulous or low-road contractor cuts corners by underpaying workers, hiring unskilled labor, or ignoring safety and labor standards to win bids and maximize profits at the expense of quality and fairness. What’s more, lower wages often lead to lower quality work, project delays, cost overruns, and a greater likelihood of injuries and accidents on the job.

Without prevailing wage laws, the U.S. would likely see an additional 76,000 workplace injuries per year—30,000 of

them serious—according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The stakes are high: prevailing wage is not just about pay; it’s about safety, quality, and long-term public investment.

That’s why the Biden Administration’s Department of Labor implemented a historic update in 2023 to strengthen Davis-Bacon protections to help workers like us. These changes modernize how wages are set and enforced, and they include:

- Stronger enforcement against law-breaking contractors.
- Crackdowns on wage theft and misclassification.
- Anti-retaliation protections for whistle-blowers.
- A more accurate process for setting wages.
- A return to a fairer “30 percent rule” where a wage rate is prevailing if paid to at least 30% of workers in a classification.

This update was long overdue and represents a monumental win for working families and union members. It ensures that government spending supports family-supporting jobs and safe workplaces.

As union Laborers, we must remain vigilant and ready to defend the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage law from renewed attacks.

During President Trump’s first term, some of his allies pushed to weaken or eliminate these protections on vital construction projects—efforts that could return in full force during his second term. The goal of politicians backed by these low-road contractors is clear: slash workers’ pay, benefits, and safety to boost corporate profits. We cannot let that happen. Davis-Bacon is under threat, and it’s up to us to fight back. That means educating our fellow members, engaging with our family, friends, and neighbors about how important Davis-Bacon is to our paychecks and our community.

This all leads to ensuring that you make your voice heard. One voice can make a real impact. Just like your own two hands working on a project. This is about our wages, benefits, and safety on the job. If they attack those things, we will stand up and fight back.

Davis-Bacon and prevailing wage laws have helped generations of workers build careers, support families, and retire with dignity. These protections remain under attack by low-road contractor-backed lawmakers, but LIUNA members and allies must continue to stand strong. Missouri deserves quality public projects built by skilled local workers—and that’s exactly what Davis-Bacon delivers.



Brandon Flinn, MKLDC Business Manager, gives speech to graduates.



Group photo of 2025 Apprenticeship Graduates.

JOURNEY AHEAD



Celebrating the April 2025 Laborers Apprenticeship Graduation

On April 10th, the Laborers and Contractors Training Center celebrated its 22nd apprenticeship graduation. 123 graduates received certificates affirming they completed 4,000 hours of training in the apprenticeship program. The Missouri LECET was thrilled to support and celebrate the amazing accomplishments of these apprentices and to continue bolstering their strength as they journey out.

Since 1972, Missouri's Construction Craft Laborers have had access to top-of-the-line training courses through our union's training fund. Our apprenticeship program has expanded and flourished over the last forty years and today stands as one of the biggest reasons we stand apart as a safe, high-quality asset on the job site. Our apprenticeship program and continuing education at the training center also provides industry recognized credentials and certification which make us even more valuable to contractors and provide access to higher paying, specialized fields.

As four-year college degrees become increasingly expensive, our trade provides a comprehensive, tuition-free education that allows apprentices to work full-time while they learn. Apprenticeship doesn't put anybody into debt, instead it supports financial growth with access to best-in-class wages and benefits.

Both Josh Wright, Executive Director of the Training Center, and Joe Weinhardt, Director of Training, offered remarks on the significance of the apprenticeship graduation. Mr. Weinhardt stressed that graduation "is more than a certificate. It represents every early morning, every tough day on the job, and every skill they have worked hard to master."





Joseph Weinhardt, Director of Training, addresses graduates.



Graduates take membership oath.

Reflecting on the future of this year's graduates, Mr. Wright said that he "would like for them to remember their experience as an apprentice. Take that experience and be a leader on the job. When an apprentice shows up on their job... Take them under your wing and tutor them to the best of your ability. Their success will become your success which will also be the success of LIUNA."

Mr. Weinhardt also hopes our new graduates will remember how our union makes us stand apart as construction workers and craftspeople. "Every hour they spend on the job and in the classroom brings them closer to becoming leaders not just for our craft, but for our union. And that's what makes our union stronger... We raise the bar; we protect the standards that make the union what it is," Weinhardt adds. "Just because the apprentice label is gone doesn't mean the growth stops... Keep your head up, keep learning, and take pride in every task you do, no matter how big or small. Represent our union with pride. We're more than just workers; we are part of a family."



MKLDC Business Manager, Brandon Flinn, reads membership oath.

Work Hard, Play Harder

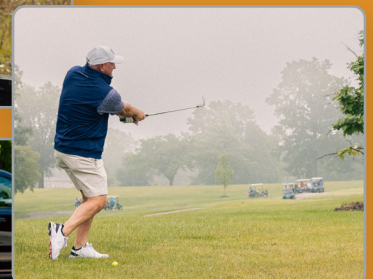


2025 MKLDC Member Events

The Missouri LECET is thrilled with the success of our 2025 member events so far this year. Our clay shoot, crappie tournament, and golf tournament had great attendance and were a ton of fun. Don't miss the last two events of the year!

3D Archery Tournament | **August 16**
Labor Day Picnic | **August 24**

Scan Code Above



CAPITOL BEAT

Spring 2025 Legislative Report: Profits Over People



The 2025 Missouri Legislative Session told a familiar story: brief moments of cooperation quickly undermined by calculated betrayal. At first glance, there appeared to be genuine bipartisanship. Republicans and Democrats joined forces to defeat Senate Bill 8, protecting critical unemployment benefits from devastating cuts. House Bill 419, championed by LIUNA Local 955 and Senator Stephen Webber, honored veterans with a paid holiday for University of Missouri employees—a meaningful recognition of public service. Senate Bill 4’s passage brought crucial “Future Test Year” planning, securing infrastructure investments and creating good-paying union jobs for hardworking Missourians.

Just as significantly, not one attack on prevailing wage or “Right to Work” legislation advanced—a testament to organized labor’s tireless advocacy. Yet even during this fragile period of collaboration, the Republican majority quietly advanced a \$50 million expansion of vouchers for charter and religious schools, siphoning funds away from already struggling public schools. Then came the inevitable betrayal.

When House Bill 567 reached the Senate, it blatantly disregarded voters’ clear mandate from November: over 57% had supported paid sick leave and a higher minimum wage. Senate Democrats negotiated earnestly, securing a compromise to preserve critical parts of the voter-approved paid sick leave. But Republican Senate President

Pro Tempore Cindy O’Laughlin broke her word, destroying the deal and putting politics over working Missourians’ well-being.

The damage deepened when Republicans sabotaged a \$500 million bipartisan infrastructure package, halting essential projects ready to boost local economies and employ union labor statewide.

In the session’s final days, Democrats extended another olive branch, offering Republican leadership bipartisan agreements in exchange for maintaining voters’ paid sick leave protections. Efforts to reach bipartisan compromise on this previously voter passed, worker friendly issue were rebuffed. In the end, the Republican Senate leadership erased paid sick leave entirely. Without hesitation or debate, the Republican Senate leadership adjourned the Senate, indifferent to the unfinished business and chaos left behind.

The 2025 legislative session revealed a hard truth: The majority party in Jefferson City, when faced with the choice of upholding voters’ wishes, instead voted to eliminate paid sick leave, sacrifice infrastructure investment, and leave the needs of working families unaddressed.

Governor Kehoe has called for a Special Session of the Missouri Legislature to address some of the unfinished business they left behind, including storm relief for victims of the recent tornado that struck St. Louis, funding for several critical state construction projects, as well as financing for stadiums in Kansas City. The St. Louis storm relief package provides \$100 million to aid in rebuilding and relief efforts for residents; the capital construction bill contains funding for the \$1.5 billion expansion of the research nuclear reactor in Columbia and a new crime lab in Southeast Missouri. Despite how the General Assembly concluded, the Special Session adjourned having passed these important measures providing much needed support for those in need in St. Louis and creating work opportunities for us and our contractors.



LOCAL MATTERS

Local 660 Works on St. Charles Infrastructure

Brother Steve Hoelscher, pictured left, works with E. Meier Contracting on a curb and gutter replacement project for St. Charles County. Keep your eyes peeled as Local 660 continues to work on local infrastructure improvements, small and large.



Setting the Foundation for Future Homes

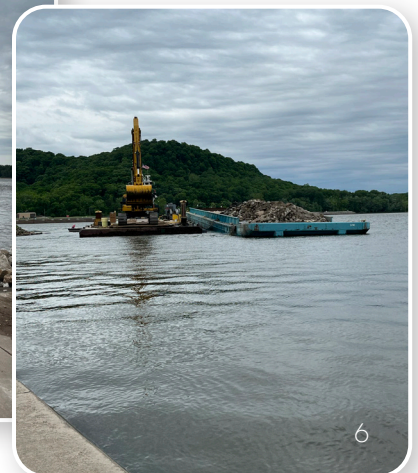
Pictured are Kenny Rounds, Jake Hemminghaus, Phil Wiggs, and Derrick Hauser.

Laborers from Karrenbrock Construction are hard at work grading rock in preparation for a new concrete slab at a local apartment complex. This phase of the project is critical to ensuring a stable foundation for the upcoming pour. By helping build much-needed housing, these Laborers are playing a vital role in making it possible for the region to welcome more families.



Laborers on the (Fish) Ladder

Laborers from Local 660 are proud to be on the river at the Saverton Dam, contributing to the construction of a new fish passage that will improve the sustainability of our river ecosystem. Our members are supporting every aspect of the project—from working as deck hands to preparing for concrete pours. We look forward to keeping you updated.





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**Official Publication
of Laborers' Local 660**
1320 S. Callahan Road
Wentzville, MO. 63385



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Michael Tyree

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Gary Willimann

2/5/2025

Melvin Lynch

2/9/2025

Robert Lewis Sr.

4/21/2025

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