Wisconsin State Legislature

2023–2024 Session

Voting Record

WI
AFL-CIO

Wisconsin State AFL-CIO
6333 W. Bluemound Road
Milwaukee, WI 53213
solidarity@wisaflcio.org

Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Voting Record of the 2023 - 2024

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

	Child Labor Roll-Back	Repeal so-called "Right-to-Work"	Brewers Stadium Repairs	Reciprocal Licensing	Eliminating Rights for Gig Workers	Removing Local Control for School District Projects	Deskilling the Teaching Profession	Worker's Compensation	Reducing U.I. Eligibility	Voucher School Cost Transparency	Medicaid Expansion	Child Care Counts	Building Trades Contracts	Advanced Training Centers	2023-24 Session Percent Right	Cumulative Lifetime Record		Lifetime Percent Right
	SB 436	SB 70, SA 1	AB 438 & 439	SB 135	SB 559	SB 688	SB 608	AB 1073	AB 147	SB 330, SA 9	SB 70, SA 9	SB 70, SA 7	AB 324-326	SB 70, SA 3		Right	Wrong	
Agard, Melissa (D-16)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	87	0	100%
Ballweg, Joan (R-14)	W	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	29%	16	112	13%
Bradley, Julian (R-28)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	14%	3	25	11%
Cabral-Guevara, Rachael (R-19)	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	21%	3	27	10%
Carpenter, Tim (D-3)	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%	223	6	97%
Cowles, Robert (R-2)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	14%	59	173	25%
Felzkowski, Mary (R-12)	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	21%	7	79	8%
Feyen, Daniel (R-18)	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	21%	8	42	16%
Hesselbein, Dianne (D-27)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	91	0	100%
Hutton, Rob (R-5)	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	21%	7	69	9%
Jacque, André (R-1)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	21%	9	88	9%
Jagler, John (R-13)	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	21%	7	82	8%
James, Jesse (R-23)	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	21%	4	36	10%
Johnson, LaTonya (D-6)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	83	0	100%
Kapenga, Chris (R-33)	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	14%	6	78	7%
Knodl, Daniel (R-8)*	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	21%	8	105	7%
Larson, Chris (D-7)	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%	83	2	98%
LeMahieu, Devin (R-9)	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	21%	8	56	13%
Marklein, Howard (R-17)	W	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	29%	13	79	14%
Nass, Steve (R-11)	W	W	W	R	R	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	36%	34	160	18%
Pfaff, Brad (D-32)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	28	0	100%
Quinn, Romaine (R-25)	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	21%	6	53	10%
Roys, Kelda (D-26)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	49	0	100%
Smith, Jeff (D-31)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	54	0	100%
Spreitzer, Mark (D-15)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	74	0	100%
Stafsholt, Rob (R-10)	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	21%	7	50	12%
Stroebel, Duey (R-20)	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	21%	9	78	10%
Taylor, Lena (D-4)*		R	W	W					R	R	R	R	R	R	78%	123	3	98%
Testin, Patrick (R-24)	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	21%	7	43	14%
Tomczyk, Cory (R-29)	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	21%	3	11	21%
Wanggaard, Van (R-21)	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	21%	11	62	15%
Wimberger, Eric (R-30)	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	21%	4	24	14%
Wirch, Robert (D-22)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	173	4	98%

Blank Space - Absent or Not Voting

R - Means Voted Right

W - Means Voted Wrong

* Served Partial Term or on Extended Leave

Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Voting Record of the 2023 - 2024 **WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY**	Child Labor Roll-Back SB 436	Repeal so-called "Right-to-Work" AB 621, ASA 2	Restore Strong Public Sector Union Rights SB 917 ASA 1	Brewers Stadium Repairs AB 438 & 439	UW Student Success & Access Fund SB 70, AA 9	Reciprocal Licensing AB 332	Restore Prevailing Wage SB 70, AA 1	Child Care Counts AB 387, ASA 1	Strengthening Public K-12 SB 70, AA 7	Worker's Compensation AB 1073	Buy American SB 688, ASA 1	Automatic Voter Registration SB 736, ASA 1	Improving Healthcare Access & Affordability SB 70, AA 6	Reducing U.I. Eligibility AB 147	Building Trades Contracts AB 324-326	2023-24 Session Percent Right	Cumulative Lifetime Record Right	Wrong	Lifetime Percent Right
Allen, Scott (R-97)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W		R	14%	7	67	9%
Anderson, Clinton (D-45)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	15	0	100%
Anderson, Jimmy (D-47)	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%	58	1	98%
Andraca, Deb (D-23)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	30	1	97%
Armstrong, David (R-75)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	3	27	10%
August, Tyler (R-32)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	7	95	7%
Baldeh, Samba (D-48)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	31	0	100%
Bare, Mike (D-80)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	15	0	100%
Behnke, Elijah (R-89)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	3	26	10%
Billings, Jill (D-95)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	97	1	99%
Binsfeld, Amy (R-27)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	3	12	20%
Bodden, Ty (R-59)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	13%	2	13	13%
Born, Mark (R-39)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	7	86	8%
Brandtjen, Janel (R-22)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	13%	8	67	11%
Brooks, Robert (R-60)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W		R	21%	7	66	10%
Cabrera, Marisabel (D-9)		R	R	R		R		R		R	R	R		R		100%	31	0	100%
Callahan, Calvin (R-35)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	13%	2	29	6%
Clancy, Ryan (D-19)	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%	14	1	93%
Conley, Sue (D-44)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	30	0	100%
Considine, David (D-81)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	73	1	99%
Dallman, Alex (R-41)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	3	28	10%
Dittrich, Barbara (R-38)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	4	37	10%
Donovan, Bob (R-84)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	3	12	20%
Doyle, Steve (D-94)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	96	3	97%
Drake, Dora (D-11)	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%	30	1	97%
Duchow, Cindi (R-99)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	6	65	8%
Edming, James (R-87)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	7	69	9%
Emerson, Jodi (D-91)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	41	0	100%
Goeben, Joy (R-5)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	13%	2	13	13%
Goyke, Evan (D-18)	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%	92	1	99%
Green, Chanz (R-74)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	13%	2	13	13%
Gundrum, Rick (R-58)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W		R	21%	5	44	10%
Gustafson, Nate (R-55)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	13%	2	13	13%
Haywood, Kalan (D-16)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	40	0	100%
Hong, Francesca (D-76)	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%	29	1	97%
Hurd, Karen (R-68)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	3	12	20%
Jacobson, Jenna (D-43)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	15	0	100%
Joers, Alex (D-79)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	15	0	100%
Johnson, Scott (R-33)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	3	12	20%
Katsma, Terry (R-26)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	7	69	9%
Kitchens, Joel (R-1)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W		W	R	W	W	W	W	R	21%	8	67	11%
Knodl, Daniel (R-24)*														W		0%	5	95	5%
Krug, Scott (R-72)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	9	96	9%
Kurtz, Tony (R-50)	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	14%	3	37	8%
Macco, John (R-88)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	6	69	8%
Madison, Darrin (D-10)	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%	14	1	93%
Magnafici, Gae (R-28)		W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	21%	4	36	10%
Maxey, Dave (R-15)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	3	12	20%
McGuire, Tip (D-64)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	41	0	100%
Melotik, Paul (R-24)*	W	W	W	R		W		W		R	W	W				22%	2	7	22%
Michalski, Tom (R-13)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	3	12	20%
Moore Omokunde, Supreme (D-17)	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%	28	1	97%
Moses, Clint (R-29)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	3	28	10%
Murphy, David (R-56)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	8	80	9%
Mursau, Jeffrey (R-36)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	14	123	10%
Myers, LaKeshia (D-12)	R	R	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	R	R	R	R		100%	37	0	100%
Nedweski, Amanda (R-61)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	3	12	20%
Neubauer, Greta (D-66)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	50	0	100%
Neylon, Adam (R-98)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	13%	5	86	5%
Novak, Todd (R-51)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	13%	11	63	15%
O'Connor, Jerry (R-52)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W		W	R	W	W	W	W	R	21%	3	11	21%
Ohnstad, Tod (D-65)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	92	0	100%
Oldenburg, Loren (R-96)	W	W	W	R	W		W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	21%	5	35	13%
Ortiz-Velez, Sylvia (D-8)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	29	0	100%
Palmeri, Lori (D-54)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	15	0	
Penterman, William (R-37)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	3	20	13%
Petersen, Kevin (R-40)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	8	115	7%
Petryk, Warren (R-93)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	11	92	11%
Plumer, Jon (R-42)		W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	21%	4	39	9%
Pronschinske, Treig (R-92)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W		R	21%	5	54	8%
Ratcliff, Melissa (D-46)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	15	0	100%
Rettinger, Nik (R-83)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	3	12	20%
Riemer, Daniel (D-7)	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%	84	1	99%
Rodriguez, Jessie (R-21)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	7	76	8%
Rozar, Donna (R-69)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	3	28	10%
Sapik, Angie (R-73)	W			W	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	R	8%	1	11	8%
Schmidt, Peter (R-6)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	3	12	20%
Schraa, Michael (R-53)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	13%	6	87	6%
Schutt, Ellen (R-31)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	13%	2	13	13%
Shankland, Katrina (D-71)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	88	1	99%
Shelton, Kristina (D-90)	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%	30	1	97%
Sinicki, Christine (D-20)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	160	1	99%
Snodgrass, Lee (D-57)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	31	0	100%
Snyder, Patrick (R-85)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	5	55	8%
Sortwell, Shae (R-2)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	13%	3	38	7%
Spiros, John (R-86)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	7	80	8%
Steffen, David (R-4)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	13%	5	71	7%
Stubbs, Shelia (D-77)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	39	0	100%
Subeck, Lisa (D-78)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	72	0	100%
Summerfield, Rob (R-67)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	5	55	8%
Swearingen, Rob (R-34)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	7	86	8%
Tittl, Paul (R-25)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	13%	6	87	6%
Tranel, Travis (R-49)	W	W	W	R	W		W		W	R	W	W	W	W		17%	10	87	10%
Tusler, Ron (R-3)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	5	52	9%
VanderMeer, Nancy (R-70)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	7	69	9%
Vining, Robyn (D-14)	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%	39	1	98%
Vos, Robin (R-63)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	10	127	7%
Wichgers, Chuck (R-82)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	13%	4	56	7%
Wittke, Robert (R-62)	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	20%	4	36	10%
Zimmerman, Shannon (R-30)	W		W	R	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W	W		8%	3	46	6%

Blank Space - Absent or Not Voting   R - Means Voted Right   W - Means Voted Wrong   * Served Partial Term or on Extended Leave

Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Voting Record
2023-2024 Wisconsin State Legislature
Summary of Bills

STATE ASSEMBLY

Senate Bill 436
Child Labor Work Permits

(Unfavorable upon Passage) Over 100 years ago, Wisconsin developed a child labor permit system to ensure that employers could not take advantage of children under 18 years old and to ensure that parents had the right to approve work for their children. Since 2011, however, Republicans have repeatedly attempted to roll-back our child labor laws. In 2017, former Governor Scott Walker and the Legislature abolished the right of parents to sign off on their 16- and 17-year olds' work permits through 2017 Wisconsin Act 11. Unfortunately, and not coincidentally, over the last decade we have seen a rise in teens harmed at work and working in hazardous and/or illegal jobs for their age. In 2022, according to the Department of Labor, the number of children employed in violation of child labor laws was up 37% from the previous year and up 283% from 2015.

Despite the evidence that children are being harmed, and even killed at work, Republican politicians continue to efforts to roll back our child labor laws. This session was no different as State Sen. Tomczyk (R-Mosinee) and Rep. Moses (R-Menomonie) introduced this bill, SB 436, which would have eliminated work permits for all children, and in doing so eliminate parents' ability to sign off on employment for their child and receive critical information about their child's job. **The recorded vote of 62-34 was on passage (February 13, 2024). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** SB 436 passed the Legislature; fortunately, it was vetoed by Governor Tony Evers on April 8, 2024 and the bill did not become law.

Assembly Bill 621, Assembly Substitute Amendment 2
Repeal so-called "Right to Work" Law

(Unfavorable upon Chair's Decision to Table Amendment) In 2015, former Governor Scott Walker signed the so-called Right to Work law into state law as 2015 Act 1. In doing so, the failed Walker administration took advantage of a loophole in federal law that allows state law to erode workers' rights by letting workers receive the benefits of a union contract without sharing in the costs of union representation. Despite the name, so-called right to work laws create no job and fail to guarantee any work. In reality, these laws make it more difficult for workers to form strong unions, while lowering wages and reducing access to health and retirement benefits. Research shows that workers in states that have a so-called right to work law are paid on average 3.2% less than similar workers in non-right to work states. Right to Work laws neither create nor improve economic security for any worker; these laws are a political tool for people at the top to increase their own power and wealth.

This amendment, introduced by Rep. Neubauer (D-Racine), proposed repealing 2015 Act 1, removing the prohibition on workers' unions and private sector employers to voluntarily negotiate an agreement that collective bargaining members pay their fair share and also removing the criminal penalty that accompanied the prohibition on such private negotiations. This amendment would have restored strong collective bargaining rights in Wisconsin. **The recorded vote of 62-35 was on the Chair's motion to kill Assembly Substitute Amendment 2 to Assembly Bill 621 (February 22, 2024). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Unfortunately, the chair's decision was upheld and the amendment was tabled.

Senate Bill 917, Assembly Substitute Amendment 1
Restore Strong Collective Bargaining Rights for All Public Sector Workers

(Unfavorable upon Chair's Decision to Table Amendment) Every worker has a right to a collective voice in the workplace through robust collective bargaining, which is a right that is deeply rooted in our American and Wisconsin Constitutional principles. This right for state and local employees was first recognized by the State of Wisconsin in 1959; it endured for 45 years until the failed Scott Walker administration dismantled our rights in 2011 through the infamous Act 10 law. Since then, public employees' collective voice at work has been silenced around issues of safety and working conditions as they have seen their wages fall. For example, Wisconsin teachers have seen a 13% decrease in their pay and 19% decrease in their total compensation since 2010. Unsurprisingly, Wisconsin's local and state employment has fallen to its lowest level in two decades; our public employment has even fallen below national trends and is putting our public services at stake. It is imperative, for our economy and the many public services upon which we all rely, that we restore the full right of state and local workers to collectively bargain.

This amendment, introduced by Representatives Shelton (D-Green Bay), Sinicki (D-Milwaukee), and Cabrera (D-Milwaukee), would have fully restored strong collective bargaining rights to every state and local employee. **The recorded vote of 63-35 was on the Chair's motion to kill Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 917 (February 21, 2024). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Unfortunately, the chair's decision was upheld and the amendment was tabled.

Assembly Bills 438 & 439
Brewers Stadium Bill

(Favorable upon Passage) In April 2001, a new stadium for the Milwaukee Brewers opened, replacing the nearly 50 year-old County Stadium. This new stadium was the result of a funding bill that was signed into law by Governor Tommy Thompson, creating the Southeastern Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District, a public entity. This District had a majority ownership of the Stadium and was responsible for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Stadium. The Stadium was built with a Project Labor Agreement and Union labor. In March 2001, the Milwaukee Brewers signed a 30-year lease, set to expire in 2030. Since March 2001, the Stadium's events, including the many home Brewers baseball games, have brought the State $2.5 billion. In 2022, the Stadium supported 3,000 jobs – many of them union jobs.

Over twenty years after opening day in 2001, the Stadium requires major repairs and renovations. The Brewers conducted an audit, which found the cost topped $428 million. As a majority owner of the Stadium, the District bears the responsibility for these repairs. After months of negotiations, this package of bills was voted on to ensure thousands of workers can continue their jobs at the Stadium, the Brewers will continue to play in Milwaukee for another generation, and more events can be held at the Stadium.

This package of bills restructures the District so that the board members are appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the Assembly, and the Senate Majority Leader. The bills require the Brewers to sign a lease to play at the Stadium through 2050. Finally, the bills structure financing for the needed repairs and renovations: $366 million from the State, $110 million from the Brewers, $67.5 million from Milwaukee County over the course of 27 years, $67.5 million from the City of Milwaukee through an arrangement with the Department of Revenue via the collection of their city sales tax, and a ticket surcharge on non-baseball events held at the Stadium. Through this negotiated package, the District will have the resources to maintain and improve the Stadium as needed and the Brewers will continue to play at the Stadium. **The recorded vote of 72-26 on each bill was on passage (November 14, 2023). A vote in favor is a "right" vote.** Assembly Bill 438, Senate Substitute Amendment 1 & Assembly Bill 439, Senate Substitute Amendment 1 both passed the Legislature and were signed into law by Governor Evers as 2023 Wisconsin Acts 40 and 41.

Senate Bill 70, Assembly Amendment 9
UW Student Success & Access Fund

(Unfavorable upon Motion to Table Amendment) Our University of Wisconsin System is funded with state supported tax revenue so that Wisconsin's working families can have access to world-class higher education opportunities through the many UW programs, colleges, and universities. For decades, the UW System has had 13 four-year universities and 13 two-year colleges to serve students on campus and Wisconsin residents beyond the campus boundaries. After years of attacks by Republican legislators and former Gov. Scott Walker, our public support of our four-year universities has fallen to 43rd in the Nation. The decline in state support has been stark. In 2010, the UW System educated 156,000 students and was funded with $1.6 billion in state taxpayer support, adjusted for inflation. In 2022, the UW System educated 162,000 students and was funded with $1.2 billion in state tax payer support. Over the last two years, this lack of support culminated in the forced layoffs at many UW campuses and the closure of two-year UW colleges in Fond du Lac, Washington, Waukesha, and Richland counties. These layoffs and campus closures will limit access of higher education for middle class Wisconsinites at the hands of irresponsible budget cuts – at a time when our State's surplus was over $7 billion.

This amendment, introduced by Rep. Shankland (D-Stevens Point), to the State Budget, would have created a $30 million fund for campuses to apply for funding when they are experiencing deficit budgets or facing closure. The proposed UW Student Success and Access Fund would have ensured that middle class Wisconsinites around the State could continue to access higher education for years to come, particularly at a time when Republican politicians were choosing to amass a state surplus instead of responsibly funding the UW System. **The recorded vote of 63-34 was on a motion to table the amendment (June 29, 2023). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Unfortunately, the amendment was tabled.

Assembly Bill 332
Reciprocal Licensing

(Unfavorable upon Passage) Since 1882, Wisconsin has issued licenses to a variety of occupations. When the State issues a license, it does so to assure the public of the competence of the license holder. The foundation of Wisconsin's current occupational and professional licensing system is unique training and educational standards set by experts in the field who serve on our credentialing boards, which assures the public that license holders are trained and tested for the job. This foundation of unique training, examination, and experience for various occupations protects both license holders and the public, and serves as the critical link between consumer and worker safety.

Assembly Bill 332, introduced by Rep. Gustafson (R-Neenah) and Sen. Stafsholt (R-New Richmond), runs counter to Wisconsinites' expectation of quality work by trained and tested professionals. This bill sought to require the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), which handles the vast majority of licensing for the State, to indiscriminately hand out professional and occupational licenses to individuals who received their license in another state and even another country, with no requirement to reside in Wisconsin, without regard to any of the educational, apprenticeship, or clinical requirements or standards set by our state's experts who serve on our credentialing boards.

In addition, this bill would have required DSPS to provisionally grant a Wisconsin license immediately upon application to any person who holds a similar license from any state or any county around the world – even if DSPS later discovers the license holder has a limitation on their license, which would cause it to then deny the reciprocal license, but too late for poor or unsafe work product to have occurred. **The recorded vote of 62-35 was on passage (January 18, 2024). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Fortunately, the Senate did not take up the bill before the Legislative Session concluded and so the bill died at the end of Session.

Senate Bill 70, Assembly Amendment 1
Restoring Wisconsin's Prevailing Wage laws

(Unfavorable upon Motion to Table Amendment) Prevailing Wage laws create a fair playing field by setting a wage floor for skilled work on taxpayer-funded construction projects, preventing the underbidding of labor costs. Until 2015, Wisconsin had three prevailing wage laws: one for taxpayer-paid state projects, local projects, and transportation projects. For over 80 years, Wisconsin's prevailing wage laws worked for us: our prevailing wage laws made sure our construction projects are top-quality by using highly-skilled, well-trained workers to complete projects on time and on budget. Our prevailing wage laws created value through good wages for workers, stability for contractors, and safe buildings for citizens. Former Governor Scott Walker used his 2015 and 2017 State budget bills to eliminate our three prevailing wage laws. In the years after this political decision to erase a fair wage for skilled work, a study found that Wisconsin has experienced an average of 6% decreased pay for construction workers, reduced bid competition, and more tax dollars being sent to out-of-state contractors and workers. The study also found that after Scott Walker and the Republican-led Legislature eliminated our prevailing wage laws, private construction CEO pay in Wisconsin grew by an average of 54%.

This amendment, introduced by Rep. Sinicki (D-Milwaukee) would have restored our three prevailing wage laws as they were before 2015. **The recorded vote of 63-33 was on a motion to table the amendment (June 29, 2023). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Unfortunately, the amendment was tabled.

Assembly Bill 387, Assembly Substitute Amendment 1
Child Care Counts Program

(Unfavorable upon Motion to Table Amendment) Wisconsin's working families need – and our entire economy depends on– affordable, high-quality child care. However, our child care industry is broken: it is unaffordable, often unavailable, and depends on paying child care workers low wages. The cost of daycare for an infant in Wisconsin is unaffordable: on average, working parents pay $13,572 per year – more than the in-state tuition at any UW campus. According to CBS news, Wisconsin is considered a child care desert as there is only one spot available at a child care center for every three children. Despite the high cost of tuition, child care centers' budgets are extremely precarious and depend on paying very low wages: the average hourly wage for an early childhood care worker was $13.78 in 2023. Not surprisingly, childcare centers struggle to retain staff with a statewide turnover rate of 40%.

In response to an already-frayed industry navigating the pandemic, the State of Wisconsin instituted the Child Care Counts program in 2020 with federal pandemic funding to issue payments to childcare centers to stay open and retain or recruit staff. Over the last four years, $650 million in payments have been given to 4,248 childcare centers and 22,000 childcare workers, ensuring the care of over 113,000 young children in Wisconsin. Once federal dollars run out, and if the State takes no further action to bolster this critical industry, it is estimated that over 2,000 childcare centers in Wisconsin will close affecting the care of 87,425 children and their working parents across the State. In response, Governor Tony Evers proposed making the Child Care Counts program permanent in his 2023-25 State Budget, only to have the Republican Legislature reject his proposal and opt to do nothing.

This amendment, introduced by Rep. Billings (D-LaCrosse), would have authorized the State Department of Children and Families to continue the Child Care Counts stabilization program by issuing payments to child care providers to enable them to stay open, recruit and retain staff, and provide high quality care to young children. In total, the proposal was $340 million over two years to stabilize the child care industry for the benefit of young children, their working parents, and our economy. **The recorded vote of 61-35 was on a motion to kill Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 387 (September 14, 2023). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Unfortunately, the amendment was tabled.

Senate Bill 70, Assembly Amendment 7
Strengthening Our Public K-12 Schools

(Unfavorable upon Motion to Table Amendment) After eight years of significant defunding under the former Scott Walker administration, with an $800 million cut to schools in Scott Walker's first budget alone, Governor Tony Evers' first two budgets began to turn the tide on state funding of Wisconsin's public K-12 schools. In 2019 and 2021, Governor Evers utilized his powerful veto pen to stabilize state support of our public schools after the Republican-led Legislature gutted his proposals to boost public school funding in each of his first two budgets. Heading into the 2023-24 school year, the historical cuts combined with inflation over the past decade put every public school at a disadvantage.

Governor Tony Evers proposed his 2023-25 Biennial Budget to correct the educational shortfall that Wisconsin schools have experienced: in 2023 we spent 36.6% of our general tax revenue on our public schools, down from 43.1% in 2003. Therefore, in his Budget, Gov. Evers proposed a necessary and significant increase to our public K-12 school funding by increasing the current budget by $2.6 billion, while pausing the growth of unaccountable voucher schools. As part of his proposal, $1 billion was for special education to ensure that school districts had the resources to accommodate all students' learning needs. Unfortunately, the Republican-led budget committee completely disregarded Governor Evers' proposed education budget.

This amendment, introduced by Rep. Shelton (D-Green Bay), to the State Budget bill would have echoed Governor Evers proposal by strengthened our public K-12 schools with an additional $2.6 billion for our public schools, representing just 37% of the $7 billion surplus the Legislature amassed. **The recorded vote of 63-34 was on a motion to table the amendment (June 29, 2023). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Unfortunately, the amendment was tabled. However, Governor Evers was able to utilize his powerful partial veto pen to ensure that school districts received more funding than what the Republican-led Legislature passed as part of the State Budget bill.

Assembly Bill 1073
Worker's Compensation

(Favorable upon Passage) Over a century ago, Wisconsin became the first state to pass a constitutionally-valid workers compensation law. This law created a nationally-renowned system whereby injured workers receive prompt treatment, compensation, and an incentive to return to work at the conclusion of the healing period. In an effort to maintain the overall stability of the worker's compensation system without regard to partisan changes in the legislative or executive branches of government, the Legislature created the Workers Compensation Advisory Council to advise the Legislature on the development and administration of the worker's compensation law. The Workers Compensation Advisory Council is comprised of representatives from labor and management. Council members meet regularly to study, vet, and ultimately ensure that recommended changes are good for the entire system: workers, employers, and insurers. The Council's recommended changes are brought to the Legislature as an agreed-upon bill. The Legislature introduces, reviews, and passes the agreed-upon bill because legislators trust that the Council's members have an excellent understanding of the system and have trust in the Council's process.

This legislative session, the Council brought two Agreed-Upon bills to the Legislature. While both bills were supported by labor and management, the Republican-led Legislature chose only to hold a vote on one bill, AB 1073. **The recorded vote of 97-0 was on passage (February 22, 2024). A vote in favor is a "right" vote.** AB 1073 passed the Legislature and was signed into law as Wisconsin Act 213.

Senate Bill 688, Assembly Substitute Amendment 1
Buy American

(Unfavorable upon Motion to Table Amendment) When state and local governments purchase products, those products should be manufactured in the United States to the greatest extent possible. Similarly, when our tax dollars are used for public infrastructure projects, there should be a requirement that all contractors utilize materials that are manufactured in the United States, to the greatest extent possible. A strong "Buy American" procurement policy will create quality jobs here at home, which will in turn strengthen and fuel our middle-class economy. This amendment, offered by Rep. McGuire (D-Kenosha), was a requirement for the State Department of Administration and any local municipality unit to purchase products that are manufactured in America, to the greatest extent possible. **The recorded vote of 64-35 was on a motion to kill Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to SB 688 (February 20, 2024). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Unfortunately, the amendment was tabled.

Senate Bill 736, Assembly Substitute Amendment 1
Automatic Voter Registration

(Unfavorable upon Chair's Decision to Table Amendment) For years, Wisconsin's voter registration and voting process was among the best in the nation. In 1996, we were ranked 4th out of 50 states for the ease of our voting process. Since that time, particularly during the failed Scott Walker era, the Legislature passed laws enacting barriers to voting. In 2022, Wisconsin was considered among the worst in the country for registering to vote and voting: we ranked 47th out of 50 states. Our current voter registration process is slow and cumbersome for voters to complete and for election officials to process. In addition, because our current registration form is static, Wisconsin does not have a process in which the voter's address can be updated without individual voters completing yet another form. Fortunately, there is a better way to register eligible voters that is more accessible, will increase the accuracy of voter data, and will save time for voters and money for the state: automatic voter registration. To date, nearly half of the 50 states and the District of Columbia have implemented an automatic voter registration system that registers eligible voters who interact with a state agency like the Department of Transportation, with information provided to the state agency, cross-checked to ensure eligibility, and updated anytime the voter has contact with the governmental agency, unless the individual requests to opt-out of this system.

This amendment, introduced by Rep. Snodgrass (D-Appleton) and Rep. Anderson (D-Beloit), would implement an automatic voter registration system to make sure each and every eligible voter in Wisconsin has the full opportunity to vote. This Amendment would have required the Department of Transportation to work with the Elections Commission to implement voter registration for all eligible voters who come to the DMV for a driver's license or identification card. Once an eligible voter requests a driver's license or ID card at the DMV, the DOT securely will transfer the individual's information relative to voter registration purposes to the Election Commission. The Election Commission then would verify that the voter is eligible to vote, would add the voter to the voter registration list, and continue to would maintain the voter registration list as it currently does under law. The DMV would also securely upload address changes or conflicts that would deem the voter ineligible, saving time and resources. **The recorded vote of 64-35 was on a motion to kill Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to SB 736 (February 20, 2024). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Unfortunately, the chair's decision was upheld and the amendment was tabled.

Senate Bill 70, Assembly Amendment 6
Improving Affordability and Expanding Access to Health Care

(Unfavorable upon Motion to Table Amendment) In 2013, and every year thereafter, Wisconsin had the opportunity to expand Medicaid, known as BadgerCare in Wisconsin. At the time, former Governor Scott Walker and Rep. Robin Vos turned their back on affordable healthcare for thousands of Wisconsinites and denied our state billions in federal dollars. From 2016-2023, if Wisconsin had expanded Medicaid and accepted the federal dollars that would have come with that decision, we would have saved $2.1 billion. Wisconsin is now just one of 10 states that has refused to expand Medicaid; we are the very last state in the Midwest to expand Medicaid and accept the federal dollars.

This Amendment, introduced by Rep. Riemer (D-Milwaukee), to the Republican Budget would have improved the affordability and expanded access to health care by finally accepting federal dollars to expand Medicaid for Wisconsinites. By passing this amendment, legislators would have allowed Wisconsin to receive over a billion dollars from the federal government to expand BadgerCare to nearly 90,000 Wisconsinites. **The recorded vote of 63-34 was on a motion to kill Assembly Amendment 6 to Senate Bill 70 (June 29, 2023). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Unfortunately, the amendment was tabled.

Assembly Bill 147
Reducing Eligibility for Unemployment Insurance

(Unfavorable upon Passage) Wisconsin was the first state in the nation to create and enact unemployment benefits for workers who became unemployed through no fault of their own. Wisconsin's 1932 law became the model that other states quickly followed. Since then, Wisconsin's unemployment has received many updates; traditionally most have gone through the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council, which is comprised of experts from labor and management. Under current law, and for purposes of this bill, workers are not eligible to receive unemployment insurance when they are terminated for misconduct, which is defined by state law.

This bill, AB 147, introduced by Rep. Armstrong (R-Rice Lake) and Sen. Wimberger (R-Green Bay), would have further reduced an unemployed worker's eligibility for unemployment insurance by broadening the definition of misconduct to include accidental damage to employer property and also a single violation of the employer's social media policy. This bill did not go through the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council. In less than three weeks, this bill was introduced and passed by the Republican-led Assembly. **The recorded vote of 60-35 was on passage (April 25, 2023). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Assembly Bill 147 passed the Legislature. Fortunately, it was vetoed by Governor Tony Evers on August 4, 2023 and did not become law.

Assembly Bills 324-326
Wisconsin Building Trades' 2022-2023 Collective Bargaining Agreements

(Favorable Upon Passage) These bills reflect the ratification of the Wisconsin Building Trades' Collective Bargaining Agreements. The Wisconsin State Building Trades Negotiating Committee represents three units with the State of Wisconsin: Building Trades at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Wisconsin System, and the State of Wisconsin, each of which needed to be passed separately by the Legislature. Each of these bills had a **recorded vote of 94-0 on passage (June 21, 2023). A vote in favor is a "right" vote.** Fortunately, the bills also passed the Senate and were signed into law as Wisconsin Acts 23, 24, and 25.

Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Voting Record
2023-2024 Wisconsin State Legislature
Summary of Bills

STATE SENATE

Senate Bill 436
Child Labor Work Permits

(Unfavorable upon Passage) Over 100 years ago, Wisconsin developed a child labor permit system to ensure that employers could not take advantage of children under 18 years old and to ensure that parents had the right to approve work for their children. Since 2011, however, Republicans have repeatedly attempted to roll-back our child labor laws. In 2017, former Governor Scott Walker and the Legislature abolished the right of parents to sign off on their 16- and 17-year olds' work permits through 2017 Wisconsin Act 11. Unfortunately, and not coincidentally, over the last decade we have seen a rise in teens harmed at work and working in hazardous and/or illegal jobs for their age. In 2022, according to the Department of Labor, the number of children employed in violation of child labor laws was up 37% from the previous year and up 283% from 2015.

Despite the evidence that children are being harmed, and even killed at work, Republican politicians continue to efforts to roll back our child labor laws. This session was no different as State Sen. Tomczyk (R-Mosinee) and Rep. Moses (R- Menomonie) introduced this bill, SB 436, which would have eliminated work permits for all children, and in doing so eliminate parents' ability to sign off on employment for their child and receive critical information about their child's job. **The recorded vote of 21-11 was on passage (October 17, 2023). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** SB 436 passed the Legislature; fortunately, it was vetoed by Governor Tony Evers on April 8, 2024 and the bill did not become law.

Senate Bill 70, Senate Amendment 1
Repeal so-called "Right to Work" Law

(Unfavorable upon Motion to Table) In 2015, former Governor Scott Walker signed the so-called Right to Work law into state law as 2015 Act 1. In doing so, the failed Walker administration took advantage of a loophole in federal law that allows state law to erode workers' rights by letting workers receive the benefits of a union contract without sharing in the costs of union representation. Despite the name, so-called right to work laws create no job and fail to guarantee any work. In reality, these laws make it more difficult for workers to form strong unions, while lowering wages and reducing access to health and retirement benefits. Research shows that workers in states that have a so-called right to work law are paid on average 3.2% less than similar workers in non-right to work states. Right to Work laws neither create nor improve economic security for any worker; these laws are a political tool for people at the top to increase their own power and wealth.

This amendment, introduced by Sen. Agard (D-Madison), to the State Budget bill proposed repealing 2015 Act 1, removing the prohibition on workers' unions and private sector employers to voluntarily negotiate an agreement that collective bargaining members pay their fair share and also removing the criminal penalty that accompanied the prohibition on such private negotiations. This amendment would have restored strong collective bargaining rights in Wisconsin. **The recorded vote of 22-11 was on a motion to kill Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 70 (June 28, 2023). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Unfortunately, the amendment was tabled.

Assembly Bills 438 & 439
Brewers Stadium Bill

(Favorable upon Passage) In April 2001, a new stadium for the Milwaukee Brewers opened, replacing the nearly 50 year-old County Stadium. This new stadium was the result of a funding bill that was signed into law by Governor Tommy Thompson, creating the Southeastern Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District, a public entity. This District had a majority ownership of the Stadium and was responsible for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Stadium. The Stadium was built with a Project Labor Agreement and Union labor. In March 2001, the Milwaukee Brewers signed a 30-year lease, set to expire in 2030. Since March 2001, the Stadium's events, including the many home Brewers baseball games, have brought the State $2.5 billion. In 2022, the Stadium supported 3,000 jobs – many of them union jobs.

Over twenty years after opening day in 2001, the Stadium requires major repairs and renovations. The Brewers conducted an audit, which found the cost topped $428 million. As a majority owner of the Stadium, the District bears the responsibility for these repairs. After months of negotiations, this package of bills was voted on to ensure thousands of workers can continue their jobs at the Stadium, the Brewers will continue to play in Milwaukee for another generation, and more events can be held at the Stadium.

This package of bills restructures the District so that the board members are appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the Assembly, and the Senate Majority Leader. The bills require the Brewers to sign a lease to play at the Stadium through 2050. Finally, the bills structure financing for the needed repairs and renovations: $366 million from the State, $110 million from the Brewers, $67.5 million from Milwaukee County over the course of 27 years, $67.5 million from the City of Milwaukee through an arrangement with the Department of Revenue via the collection of their city sales tax, and a ticket surcharge on non-baseball events held at the Stadium. Through this negotiated package, the District will have the resources to maintain and improve the Stadium as needed and the Brewers will continue to play at the Stadium. **The recorded vote of 26-7 on each bill was on passage (November 14, 2023). A vote in favor is a "right" vote.** Assembly Bills 438 & 439 passed the Legislature and were signed into law by Governor Tony Evers as 2023 Wisconsin Acts 40 and 41.

Senate Bill 135
Reciprocal Licensing

(Unfavorable upon Passage) Since 1882, Wisconsin has issued licenses for a variety of occupations. When the State issues an occupational license, it does so to protect the public welfare in assuring a basic level of competence of the license holder. The foundation of Wisconsin's current occupational and professional licensing system is the unique training and educational standards set by experts in the field who serve on our credentialing boards, which assures the public that license holders are trained and tested for the job. This foundation of unique training, examination, and experience for various occupations protects both license holders and the public, and serves as the critical link between consumer and worker safety.

Senate Bill 135, introduced by Sen. Jacque (R-DePere), runs counter to Wisconsinites' expectation of high-quality work by licensed, trained, and tested professionals. This bill sought to require the Department of Safety and Professional Services, which handles the vast majority of licensing for the State, to indiscriminately hand out professional and occupational licenses to individuals who received their license in another state without regard to any of the educational, apprenticeship, or clinical requirements or standards set by our state's experts who serve on our credentialing boards. The bill's likely effect would be lesser-trained workers providing a lower quality product, driving down wages for Wisconsin professionals, and increasing safety risks for consumers and workers alike. **The recorded vote of 22-11 was on passage (September 14, 2023). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Fortunately, the Assembly did not take up the bill before the Legislative Session concluded and so the bill died at the end of Session.

Senate Bill 559
Eliminating Employee Rights for Gig Drivers

(Unfavorable upon Passage) The rights and protections to which employees are entitled, from worker's compensation to overtime pay to unemployment insurance and everything in between, are the product of many years of struggle by the labor movement. The emergence of the gig economy has created a situation that many employers have abused to misclassify workers as independent contractors, depriving those who work in the gig economy of many important and hard-fought employment rights. Specifically, multinational app-based corporations like DoorDash and InstaCart have been going state to state in an effort to pass laws for their corporations to evade providing basic employment protections for their driver workforce, laws that would deem gig workers in their industry independent contractors and not employees.

Currently, our Worker's Compensation Act includes a decades-old test to determine whether an injured worker is an employee, and therefore eligible for worker's compensation, or is an independent contractor and therefore ineligible for worker's compensation. If a worker is classified as an independent contractor and is hurt on the job, then the injured worker is on their own to receive treatment and of course does not receive any benefits for lost wages. Taxpayers would be on the hook when a misclassified worker gets hurt on the job and cannot return to work, and is forced to rely upon state benefits. Similarly, our Unemployment Insurance Law has a separate, long-standing test that applies to every worker in every industry to determine whether a worker is an employee, and eligible for unemployment insurance, or is an independent contractor and therefore ineligible for unemployment benefits. Workers classified as independent contractors are not able to receive unemployment benefits, and would rely on taxpayer-paid state benefits as a safety net.

Senate Bill 559, introduced by Sen. Julian Bradley (R-Franklin), proposed to permanently classify every app-based driver in Wisconsin as an independent contractor via enacting a unique legal test for this one industry, in order to eliminate thousands of Wisconsin workers' essential rights. **The recorded vote of 21-11 was on passage (January 16, 2024). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Fortunately, the Assembly did not take up the bill before the Legislative Session concluded and so the bill died at the end of Session.

Senate Bill 688
Removing Local Control for School District Construction Projects

(Unfavorable upon Passage) Wisconsin has 421 separate public school districts, each governed by an elected school board. While state law governs educational criteria, such as the minimum number of instructional hours, state law rightfully leaves local decision-making to the elected school board on matters such as the maintenance and construction of its own educational facilities. Each of our districts has specialized and unique buildings, needs, and priorities that are best identified and set by citizens at the local level. Each elected school district utilizes various criteria to ensure the best construction product for their students, staff, and communities. This bill, introduced by Sen. Stroebel (R-Saukville), attacked the local control of our school districts by prescribing a one-size fits all process for awarding construction bids at the local level. **The recorded vote of 20-12 was on passage (February 20, 2024). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** SB 688 passed the Legislature but subsequently was vetoed by Governor Tony Evers on March 29, 2024 and did not become law.

Senate Bill 608
Deskilling the Teaching Profession

(Unfavorable upon Passage) Wisconsin teachers have seen a 13% decrease in their pay and 19% decrease in their total compensation since 2010. This drastic pay cut is at odds with the highly skilled profession of teaching, which requires at minimum a bachelor's degree, completion of a teacher preparatory program, clinical experiences, and a specialized license within the teaching field, depending on the age and needs of the student population the teacher serves. It is no surprise that the significant loss of pay has caused a shortage of teachers in Wisconsin. In April 2024, the State Department of Public Instruction released a study finding that our teacher shortage is driven by teacher retention. After years of study and preparation, nearly 40% of new teachers leave the state or profession after six years.

Instead of proposing ideas to boost teacher retention and pay to reasonably address the teacher shortage, Sen. Knodl (D-Germantown) and Rep. Dittrich (R-Oconomowoc), introduced this bill that would issue provisional teaching licenses to paraprofessionals who have none of the education or expertise to teach children independently, relying solely on the approval of the school district and school principal. More specifically, this bill would allow an educational worker known as a teacher's assistant or paraprofessional who has worked as such for three years, whose qualifications include an associate's degree or two years of any college but do not include a bachelor's degree, and who has enrolled in a teacher preparatory program but has yet to complete any portion thereof, to receive a license to independently teach children for a period of five years. **The recorded vote of 21-11 was on passage (February 20, 2024). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Senate Bill 608 passed the Legislature. Fortunately, it was vetoed by Governor Tony Evers on March 29, 2024 and did not become law.

Assembly Bill 1073
Worker's Compensation

(Favorable upon Passage) Over a century ago, Wisconsin became the first state to pass a constitutionally-valid workers compensation law. This law created a nationally-renowned system whereby injured workers receive prompt treatment, compensation, and an incentive to return to work at the conclusion of the healing period. In an effort to maintain the overall stability of the worker's compensation system without regard to partisan changes in the legislative or executive branches of government, the Legislature created the Workers Compensation Advisory Council to advise the Legislature on the development and administration of the worker's compensation law. The Workers Compensation Advisory Council is comprised of representatives from labor and management. Council members meet regularly to study, vet, and ultimately ensure that recommended changes are good for the entire system: workers, employers, and insurers. The Council's recommended changes are brought to the Legislature as an agreed-upon bill. The Legislature introduces, reviews, and passes the agreed-upon bill because legislators trust that the Council's members have an excellent understanding of the system and have trust in the Council's process.

This legislative session, the Council brought two Agreed-Upon bills to the Legislature. While both bills were supported by labor and management, the Republican-led Legislature chose only to hold a vote on one bill, AB 1073. **The recorded vote of 31-1 was on passage (March 12, 2024). A vote in favor is a "right" vote.** AB 1073 passed the Legislature and was signed into law as Wisconsin Act 213.

Assembly Bill 147
Reducing Eligibility for Unemployment Insurance

(Unfavorable upon Passage) Wisconsin was the first state in the nation to create and enact unemployment benefits for workers who became unemployed through no fault of their own. Wisconsin's 1932 law became the model that other states quickly followed. Since then, Wisconsin's unemployment has received many updates; traditionally most have gone through the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council, which is comprised of experts from labor and management. Under current law, and for purposes of this bill, workers are not eligible to receive unemployment insurance when they are terminated for misconduct, which is defined by state law.

This bill, AB 147, introduced by Sen. Wimberger (R-Green Bay) and Rep. Armstrong (R-Rice Lake), would have further reduced an unemployed worker's eligibility for unemployment insurance by broadening the definition of misconduct to include accidental damage to employer property and also a single violation of the employer's social media policy. This bill did not go through the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council. **The recorded vote of 22-11 was on passage (June 7, 2023). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Assembly Bill 147 passed the Legislature. Fortunately, it was vetoed by Governor Tony Evers on August 4, 2023 and did not become law.

Senate Bill 330, Senate Amendment 9
Cost of Voucher School Transparency

(Unfavorable upon Motion to Table Amendment) Each of Wisconsin's 421 public school districts are operating on razor-thin budgets. In the spring of 2024, over 100 school districts went to referendum, asking taxpayers for additional revenue. There are a variety of reasons for school districts' precarious budgets; most date back to 2011 when former Governor Scott Walker starved public school districts of necessary funding and expanded unaccountable voucher schools.

Under the Scott Walker law that created the Racine and State of Wisconsin unaccountable voucher systems, each public school district pays out of its own coffers, by way of a reduction in state funding, for every voucher a resident child receives to attend an unaccountable private school. Taxpayers are in the dark as to how much of their tax dollars are going to private, unaccountable voucher schools. Currently, taxpayers' property tax bills are required to list the amount of their tax dollars that contribute to their local school district; taxpayers have no similar information supplied to each tax payer as to how much is being siphoned off to unaccountable voucher schools. For example, according to the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau budget research reports, Racine lost $28.9 million in the 2022-23 school year in required payments to unaccountable voucher schools, Green Bay lost $8.6 million, Appleton lost $4.8 million, Wisconsin Rapids lost $2.1 million, LaCrosse lost $1.5 million, and the list goes on for nearly every school district across our state. Taxpayers should be afforded this information on an annual basis.

This amendment, offered by Senators Larson and Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) would require property tax bills to include the amount that local school districts are losing in state aid because of the mandate that the cost of the voucher be borne by local school districts. **The recorded vote of 22-11 was on a motion to kill Senate Amendment 9 to SB 330 (June 14, 2023). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Unfortunately, the amendment was tabled.

Senate Bill 70, Senate Amendment 9
Improving Affordability and Expanding Access to Health Care

(Unfavorable upon Motion to Table Amendment) In 2013, and every year thereafter, Wisconsin had the opportunity to expand Medicaid, the program we know as BadgerCare. At the time, former Governor Scott Walker and Rep. Robin Vos turned their back on affordable healthcare for thousands of Wisconsinites and denied our state billions in federal dollars. From 2016-2023, if Wisconsin had expanded Medicaid and accepted the federal dollars that would have come with that decision, we would have saved $2.1 billion. Wisconsin is now just one of 10 states that has refused to expand Medicaid; we are the very last state in the Midwest to expand Medicaid and accept the federal dollars.

This Amendment, introduced by Sen. Agard (D-Madison), to the Republican Budget would have improved the affordability and expanded access to health care by finally accepting federal dollars to expand Medicaid for Wisconsinites. By passing this amendment, legislators would have allowed Wisconsin to receive over a billion dollars from the federal government to expand BadgerCare to nearly 90,000 Wisconsinites. **The recorded vote of 22-11 was on a motion to kill Senate Amendment 9 to Senate Bill 70 (June 28, 2023). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Unfortunately, the amendment was tabled.

Senate Bill 70, Senate Amendment 7
Child Care Counts Program

(Unfavorable upon Motion to Table Amendment) Wisconsin's working families need – and our entire economy depends on– affordable, high-quality child care. However, our child care industry is broken: it is unaffordable, often unavailable, and depends on paying child care workers low wages. The cost of daycare for an infant in Wisconsin is unaffordable: on average, working parents pay $13,572 per year – more than the in-state tuition at any UW campus. According to CBS news, Wisconsin is considered a child care desert as there is only one spot available at a child care center for every three children. Despite the high cost of tuition, child care centers budgets are extremely precarious and depend on paying very low wages: the average hourly wage for an early childhood care worker was $13.78 in 2023. Not surprisingly, childcare centers struggle to retain staff with a statewide turnover rate of 40%.

In response to an already-frayed industry navigating the pandemic, the State of Wisconsin instituted the Child Care Counts program in 2020 with federal pandemic funding to issue payments to childcare centers to stay open and retain or recruit staff. Over the last four years, $650 million in payments have been given to 4,248 childcare centers and 22,000 childcare workers, ensuring the care of over 113,000 young children in Wisconsin. Once federal dollars run out, and if the State takes no further action to bolster this critical industry, it is estimated that over 2,000 childcare centers in Wisconsin will close affecting the care of 87,425 children and their working parents across the State. In response, Governor Tony Evers proposed making the Child Care Counts program permanent in his 2023-25 State Budget, only to have the Republican-led Legislative Joint Finance Council reject his proposal and opt to do nothing.

This amendment to the Budget bill was introduced by Sen. Agard (D-Madison) and the entire Senate Democratic caucus, would have authorized the State Department of Children and Families to continue the Child Care Counts stabilization program by issuing payments to child care providers to enable them to stay open, recruit and retain staff, and provide high quality care to young children. In total, the proposal was $340 million over two years to stabilize the child care industry for the benefit of young children, their working parents, and our economy. **The recorded vote of 22-11 was on a motion to kill Senate Amendment 7 to Senate Bill 70 (June 28, 2023). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Unfortunately, the amendment was tabled.

Assembly Bills 324-326
Wisconsin Building Trades' 2022-2023 Collective Bargaining Agreements

(Favorable Upon Passage) These bills reflect the ratification of the Wisconsin Building Trades' Collective Bargaining Agreements. The Wisconsin State Building Trades Negotiating Committee represents three units with the State of Wisconsin: Building Trades at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Wisconsin System, and the State of Wisconsin, each of which needed to be passed separately by the Legislature. Each of these bills had a **recorded vote of 33-0 on passage (June 28, 2023). A vote in favor is a "right" vote.** Fortunately, the bills also passed the Assembly and were signed into law as Wisconsin Acts 23, 24, and 25.

Senate Bill 70, Senate Amendment 3
Expanding Advanced Training Centers at the WTCS

(Unfavorable upon Motion to Table Amendment) Each year, Wisconsin's 16 Technical Colleges that comprise the Wisconsin Technical College System educate over 274,000 students. There are two areas that are in need of an advanced training centers: the forestry and paper sector and emergency medical services sector.

In response, Governor Tony Evers' proposed State Budget included funding for two key training centers to meet both sectors' workforce needs. He set aside $250,000 annually to support an Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship Program at Mid-State Tech College in Wisconsin Rapids to strengthen the paper industry and meet the workforce's needs. This Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship program could have assured Wisconsin as our country's epicenter for paper production into the future. Papermaking in Wisconsin is one of our state's oldest industries and is critical to our economy, but it has been in decline due to the closure of mills and the inability to transition to new paper products. This Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship Program would have assisted the sector by revitalizing and strengthening our paper industry, while creating high-wage jobs.

In addition, in response to the dire need in the Emergency Medical Technicians workforce, Gov. Evers allocated $2.5 million for the WTCS' Madison College to create a regional emergency medical services training facility in Baraboo, Wisconsin. This facility would have trained more EMTs to assist Wisconsinites who face critical emergencies. Over the last ten years, the number of ambulance patients nearly doubled but the number of EMTs only increased by 5%. This has resulted in 41% of EMS agencies being short staffed and having to rely on neighboring communities having to cover their emergencies.

Unfortunately, the Republican-controlled Joint Finance Committee in the Legislature scrapped both training centers' funding before it was voted on by the entire Legislature. This amendment to the State Budget was introduced by Senator Agard (D-Madison) and the Democratic caucus and would have restored Gov. Evers' proposal for the Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship Program at Mid-State Tech College in Wisconsin Rapids and the EMT Training Center through Madison College in Baraboo. **The recorded vote of 22-11 was on a motion to kill Senate Amendment 3 to Senate Bill 70 (June 28, 2023). A vote in favor is a "wrong" vote.** Unfortunately, the amendment was tabled.

Governor Tony Evers' Veto Stopped Dangerous Bills

The Wisconsin State Legislature, led by extreme Republican politicians and backed by their wealthy special interests, passed dozens of bills that would have been harmful to working people, our families, and communities. Fortunately, Governor Evers used his veto to strike down these harmful bills. Below is a short list of some of the areas in which Governor Tony Evers used his veto to ensure that our rights were not diminished by the bills advanced by extreme Republican politicians. In each instance, the Democrats in the Legislature protected the veto.

Veto to stop the rollback of child labor laws: Senate Bill 436 have eliminated work permits for all children, and in doing so eliminate parents' ability to sign off on employment for their child and receive critical information about their child's job.

Veto to secure public K-12 budget authority: Senate Bill 70 would have insufficiently funded our public K-12 schools for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years. Through Governor Evers' line-item veto of the State Budget, he has provided public school districts with a moderate increase to their budgets each year; an annual budgetary certainty that our public school districts have not seen the 2009-10 school year.

Veto to protect unemployment benefits: Assembly Bill 147 would have reduced an unemployed worker's eligibility for unemployment insurance by broadening the definition of misconduct to include accidental damage to employer property and a violation of the employer's social media policy. Assembly Bills 149 & 150 would have made unemployed workers perform more duties, added employer reporting requirements, and increased DWD investigation requirements all to limit individuals from receiving UI benefits.

Veto to ensure safety in our building review: Senate Bill 186 would have created another pathway for building code review without giving its agency, the Department of Safety and Professional Services, the funding to effectuate the bill. In addition, the bill created exceptions for certain plumbing plans from being examined by State experts for code compliance.

Veto to protect current standards for voting at nursing homes: Assembly Bills 570 & 572 would have created a host of barriers as to how citizens who reside in nursing homes cast their ballots.

Veto to ensure strong licensing for healthcare providers: Assembly Bill 541 would have allowed out-of-state mental health care providers without a Wisconsin-issued license to provide telehealth services to patients in Wisconsin, even if their training or experience does not meet the standards of our own expert credentialing boards or our state's existing mental health provider compact with other states. Senate Bill 158 would have allowed newly-graduated healthcare providers a preliminary credential before our state's expert credentialing boards conducted a background review.

Veto to protect the right to vote, free from interference: Assembly Bill 543 would have reduced the distance between voters and election observers, creating an opportunity for the intimidation of voters and the interference of critical work done by election workers.

Veto to ensure teacher training and preparedness: Senate Bill 608 would have deskilled the teaching profession by issuing provisional teaching licenses to non-teacher educational assistants who have none of the education or expertise to teach children independently, relying solely on the approval of the school district and school principal. to receive a license to independently teach children for a period of five years.

Veto to protect local control at local school districts: Senate Bill 688 would have prescribed a one-size fits all process for the awarding construction bids by every one of Wisconsin's 421 locally-elected public school boards.