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A Division of the WV State Building Trades, AFL-CIO | Chuck Parker, President | John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer | Steve White, Director

# Kentucky Lawmakers Cut Unemployment Benefits

Last month, Kentucky lawmakers passed HB 4, which will cut unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 12 weeks for most of the state's workers and 16 weeks for workers in construction.

The bill was vetoed by Governor Andy Beshear, but the legislature overrode the veto and passed the bill despite the opposition from their state's top executive.

Earlier this year, a similar proposal (SB 2) ran in the West Virginia legislature.

After passing the full Senate and the House Finance Committee, it never received a vote of the full House of Delegates as time ran out and the bill did not become law.

However, this type of legislation is expected to return in future legislative sessions, as the push to cut unemployment benefits by national anti-worker organizations gets stronger and continues to hit red states across the country.

The Kentucky Center for Economic Policy said the passage of this type of legislation in the state will push many Kentuckians into lower paying

jobs and even poverty in some cases. This is partly due to the way the duration of benefits is calculated.

Similar to the proposal offered in West Virginia earlier this year, the bill uses the statewide unemployment rate to determine the length of

time benefits can be paid to a beneficiary. For instance, at 4.5% statewide unemployment, beneficiaries would be paid benefits for 12 weeks.

However, if the unemployment rate increases to 5%, then beneficiaries would receive unemployment

compensation for 13 weeks.

However, the statewide unemployment rate tends to be much lower than other, more rural areas in other parts of the state.

In recent years, Magoffin County, **Cont. on p. 3>>**



Members of UA Local 625 and the Charleston Building Trades meet with Guy Ward (R-Marion) about the WV proposal to cut unemployment benefits. With the help of Delegate Ward, who was opposed to the bill, WWSBT members were able to stop it from becoming law in West Virginia, but a similar proposal recently passed in Kentucky.

# Details Surrounding Federal Infrastructure Funds from Bi-Partisan Bill Still Pending

It has been almost five months since the bi-partisan federal infrastructure bill was signed into law and questions are still swirling around

when and how the funds will be deployed in our state.

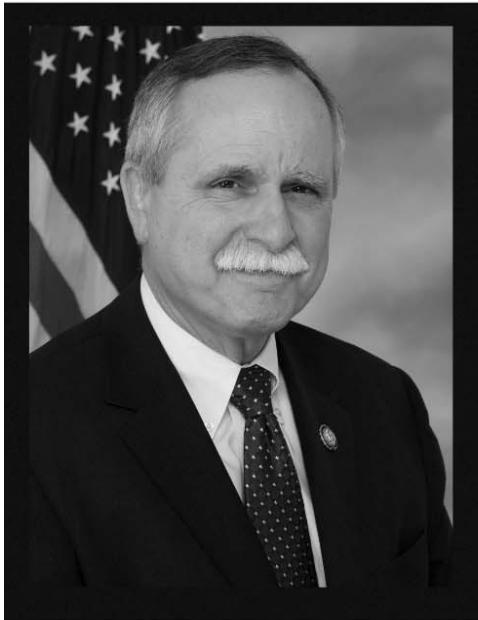
Over \$6 billion in funding is coming to West Virginia for roads,

bridges, water and sewer, mine reclamation, broadband, and other areas of infrastructure. However critical guidance documents have, for the

most part, not been completed leaving many waiting for important details.

**Cont. on p. 2>>**

# Facts to Consider: McKinley vs. Mooney



- Voted over two dozen times to protect federal project labor agreements & prevailing wage
- One of only thirteen House Republicans to vote for federal infrastructure bill, bringing \$6 billion and new jobs to WV
- Led the successful effort to protect the registered apprenticeship system in the construction industry
- Voted in 2020 and 2021 against imposing federal Right-to-Work laws in the private sector
- Chairman of Building Trades Caucus in DC

## McKinley



## Mooney

- Voted numerous times to strip Davis Bacon wages away from federal infrastructure projects
- Voted against bi-partisan infrastructure bill and opposed bringing new funds and jobs to his people in WV
- Under investigation by Congress Ethics Office for improper use of campaign funds for personal vacations & luxury meals
- Voted against National Apprenticeship Act, and voted to dismantle apprenticeships
- Refuses to meet with Building Trades members

## WVSBT Meets with WV Reps on Capitol Hill



Representatives from the West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades meet with Senator Joe Manchin at his office in DC during a trip to the North American Building Trades Union (NABTU) 2022 Legislative Conference.

WVSBT representatives also met with Senator Shelley Moore Capito and Congressman David McKinley to thank them for their votes on the bi-partisan infrastructure bill and to get answers regarding the details of how the much-needed funds will be dispersed within our state.

The conference included various practical workshops aimed at addressing different policy areas including multiemployer pension and health issues, recruiting veterans and women to the trades, implementing apprenticeship readiness programs, federal legislative affairs, and others.

For more information on the 2022 NABTU Legislative Conference, log on to [www.NABTU.org](http://www.NABTU.org).

## Infrastructure Funds

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While the \$3.7 billion of roads and bridges funding will be deployed through the WV Department of Transportation, there are still many unanswered questions as to how the other areas of funding will be distributed and when they will be available.

For example DEP will oversee more than \$145 million per year for 15 years directed at mine reclamation, significantly more than is currently being spent. Currently projects are in the \$500,000 range but it is hard to see how the new funding can be effectively spent with projects of that small a scope. A similar issue is found with gas well plugging funds.

In addition to the guaranteed funding, there are billions in “discretionary funding” made available, which will allow states to compete for grants in many categories including mega projects, additional road and bridge funding, flood mitigation, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and more.

How local communities can apply for these funds, and the criteria with which they will be judged is still to be written.

Recently, representatives from

the WV Building and Construction Trades visited DC to speak with West Virginia’s representatives about these issues directly on Capitol Hill.

“There is a lot of interest in apprenticeship, and rightfully so,” said John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades. “So any state or local government applications for additional infrastructure funds better include something about apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship. And we heard there will be language to encourage local hiring and project labor agreements as part of the criteria to judge each grant application.”

Each agency overseeing the funds is expected to have the details published by June so states and local communities can start the process of applying for funds.

“We are encouraging state and federal lawmakers to work together to ensure this funding will be distributed effectively,” said Epperly.

“We have a great opportunity. However, it is an opportunity that could be lost if the funds aren’t deployed, and our state is required to send them back.” ■

## Primary Election: May 10

# Building Trades Primary Endorsements List

<b>U. S. House of Representatives</b>	6th	Charlie Reynolds (R)	35th	Adam Vance (R)	71st	Laura Kimble (R)
2nd District David McKinley (R)	7th	Lisa Zukoff (D)	36th	Ed Evans (D)	72nd	Derek McIntyre (D)
<b>State Senate</b>	10th	J. Morgan Leach (D)	37th	Skip Crane (D)	73rd	Mike Manypenny (D)
1st Randy Swartzmiller (D)	11th	Bob Fehrenbacher (R)	38th	Tina Russell (D)	74th	Guy Ward (R)
2nd Eric Hayhurst (D)		Harry Deitzler (D)	41st	Greg Shamblin (R)	75th	Stephanie Spears Tomana (D)
3rd John Kelly (R)	12th	Vernon Criss (R)	43rd	Chris Toney (R)	76th	Joey Garcia (D)
5th Mike Woelfel (D)	14th	Kevin Siers (R)	44th	Toney Martin (D)	77th	<b>Bengy Swanson (D)</b>
6th Sabrina Grace (R)	17th	<b>Morgan Hurlow (R)</b>	45th	Joseph Golden (D)	78th	Jeffrey Budkey (D)
7th Ron Stollings (D)	18th	Johnnie Wamsley (R)	46th	Paul Detch (D)	79th	Evan Hansen (D)
<b>Chad McCormick (R)</b>	21st	Theresa "Tess" Jackson (D)	47th	Heather Hill (D)	80th	John Williams (D)
8th Rich Lindsay (D)	23rd	Evan Worrell (R)	50th	David "Elliot" Pritt (D)	81st	Danielle Walker (D)
9th Mick Bates (R)	24th	Carl Eastham (D)	52nd	Larry Rowe (D)	82nd	Katie Fallon (D)
10th Stephen Baldwin (D)	25th	Sean Hornbuckle (D)	53rd	Jim Barach (D)	86th	Bradley "BJ" Rinard (D)
11th Bill Hamilton (R)	26th	Matthew Rohrbach (R)	54th	Mike Pushkin (D)	87th	David Boden (D)
13th Barbara Fleischauer (D)	27th	Chad Lovejoy (D)	55th	Greg Childress (D)	88th	Rick Hillenbrand (R)
14th William JR Keplinger (R)	28th	Josh Booth (R)	56th	Kayla Young (D)	90th	George Miller (R)
17th Sam Wood (D)	29th	David Thompson (D)	57th	Doug Skaff (D)	93rd	Zondria Landsdowne (D)
<b>House of Delegates</b>	30th	David "Flimsy" Adkins (R)	58th	Walt Hall (R)	95th	Debi Carroll (D)
1st Pat McGeehan (R)		Deidra Roberts (D)	59th	Andrew Shamblin (R)	96th	Ronald Wenger (D)
2nd Ronnie Jones (D)	31st	Jill Barker (R)	60th	Dana Ferrell (R)	97th	Philip Wenner (D)
3rd <b>Phillip Diserio (D)</b>	32nd	Rodney Miller (D)	63rd	Kevin Carpenter (D)	99th	Debra Cornwell (D)
4th Erikka Storch (R)	33rd	Jordan Bridges (R)	67th	Cody Thompson (D)	100th	Susan Benzinger (D)
5th Shawn Fluharty (D)	34th	Mark Dean (R)	69th	Ron Watson (D)		<b>Bold = Building Trades Member ■</b>

## State COPE

# WV AFL-CIO Meets in Charleston to Make Endorsements for 2022 Primary Election

On March 19, the WV AFL-CIO met in Charleston, West Virginia to confirm statehouse candidate endorsements for the 2022 WV Primary Election, set for May 10.

Delegates to the state Committee On Political Education (COPE) brought their recommendations from the local Central Labor Councils (CLCs) around the state to submit them for a vote of the entire body before being officially endorsed by the WV AFL-CIO.

The state COPE is made up of 75 delegates from across the state, and candidates had to receive at least a 2/3rds majority vote to receive an endorsement.

"We work closely with the WV AFL-CIO and typically agree on most endorsements.

"However, certain candidates weren't originally recommended for

an endorsement that we felt should be on that list," said Chuck Parker, President of the WV State Building and Construction Trades.

"When that happened, our members stood up and voiced our opinions to make sure they got labor's support."

For the first time ever, candidates from all 100 newly formed House of Delegates districts were considered for an endorsement.

All candidates who are running for office had the opportunity to fill out a WV AFL-CIO questionnaire.

If they did so, the candidate was invited to have an interview with their local CLC, which helped CLC members to get a better idea of who the candidate was as a person before recommending an endorsement of their campaign.

The CLC interviews covered is-

ues that are important to the labor movement such as local hiring, prevailing wage, the repeal of right-to-work, unemployment, apprenticeship programs, safety regulations, licensing, and issues for other unions as well.

The CLC then made its recom-

mendations based on the questionnaires and interviews and brought them to the state COPE for a vote.

The WV AFL-CIO state COPE committee will reconvene again during the month of June in Charleston, WV to confirm endorsements for the 2022 general election. ■

## KY Unemployment

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a rural county in eastern Kentucky, has had an unemployment rate upwards of 30% at times, while the statewide rate has averaged around 6%.

"While unemployment is low in the western end of our state, it is very high in the eastern end. Kentucky is not a one size fits all state, but this bill is a one size fits all bill," said Chad

Mills, Director of the Kentucky State Building and Construction Trades. "The law will affect our members when there is a downturn in the economy.

"As we all know, construction workers are often the first to feel a downturn in the economy and the last to reap the rewards of an uptick in the economy." ■

# Iron Workers 787 Accepting Apprentices

The Iron Workers Local 787 Joint Apprenticeship Committee will be accepting applications for the Iron Workers Apprenticeship Program during regular business hours, Monday thru Friday (except holidays), from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

The apprenticeship program usually takes three years to complete. Apprentices earn while they learn with on-the-job training and attend unpaid classroom sessions.

Upon completion an apprentice will have learned all aspects of the trade including structural steel placement, welding, reinforcing rods, ornamental and more.

You must fill the application out in person at the Iron Workers 787, 303 Erickson Blvd., Parkersburg, WV.

Bring copies of related documents described below.

The following are the minimum requirements. Lack of any one of these will automatically disqualify the applicant.

- Must be at least 18 years old (Proof required).
- Must be capable of doing work of the Iron Worker trade.
- Must be a High School Graduate or have equivalent certificate (GED/TASC).
- Must have a valid Driver's License.
- Must score a passing grade on the TABE test given by Workforce.
- Must live in the jurisdictional area of Iron Workers Local 787 for at least one (1) year

previous to applying.

If selected for the Apprenticeship Program the candidate must submit to and pass the Substance Abuse Test offered by the Parkersburg-Marietta Contractors and Trades Educational and Development Fund. The Iron Workers Local 787 JAC will pay the cost of the test.

son, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Nicholas, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Putnam, Raleigh, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Upshur, Webster, Wirt, Wood, and Wyoming Counties, and the southern portion of Randolph County.

No Applicant will be rejected be-

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## IUPAT Holds Coating & Corrosion Expo



Over 150 guests attended the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) 2022 Coating and Corrosion Expo on April 6th.

The Expo was held in person at the FTI Training Center in Weston, WV for the first time since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vendors representing over 40 different contractors, supply firms, and government agencies as well as experts from the coating and corrosion field were on hand to showcase the latest technology the industry has to offer. Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in free classes to learn more about the prevention and mitigation of corrosion. Other class topics included bridges, concrete coatings, fireproofing, and sandblasting.

For more information on this year's event, visit the Coating and Corrosion News page on Facebook.

The jurisdictional area covered by Local 787 is as follows:

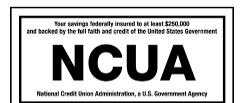
**OHIO:** Athens, Meigs, Morgan, Noble, and Washington Counties.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Boone, Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Greenbrier, Jack-

cause of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex. Iron Workers Local 787 will take affirmative action to provide equal opportunities in apprenticeship.

For more information go to <https://ironworkers787.org/> ■

  
Union Trades  
Federal Credit Union



[www.uniontradesfcu.com](http://www.uniontradesfcu.com)

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toll free (888) 524-1421

210 Tennessee Avenue  
Charleston, WV 25302  
(304) 344-0194  
toll free (877) 593-6093

1955 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Huntington, WV 25703  
(304) 523-7284  
toll free (855) 355-7284

177 29th Street, Wheeling, WV (304) 232-0181