



Minnesota State Building & Construction Trades Council November 2020 Newsletter

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Bonding Bill 2020 Signed Into Law

The Building Trades would like to thank Governor Walz, Majority Leader Gazelka, Speaker Hortman and the 164 legislators who voted for the historic \$1.9 billion bonding bill in October. The bonding bill will build safe water infrastructure, schools, roads, bridges and transit, and will keep thousands of Minnesota Building and Construction Trades members working to provide for themselves, their families and their communities.



Minnesota Building Trades Affiliates as well as the Building Jobs Coalition, the Associated General Contractors of Minnesota, AIA of Minnesota, the Minnesota Transportation Alliance, and cities, counties and local leaders all joined together to advocate for this historic capital investment bill.

Learn More:

- [List](#) of Approved Bonding Projects
- [Summary](#) of Other Provisions of the Bill

Election Day 2020

Election Day is Tomorrow, November 3!

The State Building Trades Council has endorsed a number of Federal and State legislative candidates who take positions that align with our mission, vision and goals.



Learn More:

- [State Building Trades Endorsed Candidates](#)
 - [Where Do I Vote?](#)
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National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week is November 9 – 15, 2020. This week is an opportunity to celebrate the more than 10,000 Minnesota men and women who are earning while they learn in 52 union construction apprenticeship programs, and to highlight these successful programs.

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) will host a number of events during Apprenticeship Week. For more information please visit the DLI Apprenticeship Week [Website](#).



Join Women Building Success as they hold their 3rd Annual Apprenticeship Photo Contest. The awards event will be held via Zoom on November 12 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. For more information visit: WomenBuildingSuccess.org.

COVID updates for the Minnesota Construction Industry

Free Testing. The Minnesota Department of Health has introduced a new COVID-19 saliva test that is now available at sites across the state and is also available for in home testing. These tests are free for anyone who believes they need to be tested, whether they are showing symptoms or not. There are also free community testing sites all over the State. For more information visit: [Minnesota Department of Health Saliva Testing](#).

Close Contacts. As of October 21, 2020, the CDC has changed the definition of "close contact" for purposes of COVID-19 contact tracing. Someone is considered to have had close contact if they were within 6 feet of an infected person for a *cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period* starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. A person who has had close contact with a suspected or confirmed infected person should self-quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure.

Resources. We continue to update to the Building Trades [COVID-19 Resources](#)



webpage with information about COVID-19 for union members and contractors.

Building Trades Webinar Series Kicked Off in October

More than 50 people attended Building Trades educational webinars in October. The first hour-long webinar was about Prevailing Wage and was presented by Mike Wilde, and Tim Watkins of the Fair Contracting Foundation. The Labor History webinar was presented by Cassie Williams, of Labor Education Services at the University of Minnesota. We are planning additional webinars about issues important to the Building Trades community. The November webinar schedule will be out soon and can be found here: [MBT Webinars](#). Please send webinar topic ideas to ContactMBT@mntrades.org.

Minnesota State Building and
Construction Trades Council
651.287.9999 | ContactMBT@mntrades.org
www.mntrades.org



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