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

Trades Endorse Capito for West Virginia Governor

Earlier this month, West Virginia Building and Construction Trades (WVBCT) leaders released their endorsements for the 2024 primary election (see page 3 for full list).

At the top of the ticket, the WVBCT endorsed Moore Capito (R) for Governor of the state of West Virginia.

Over the past several months, Capito has met with leaders from every craft, discussing the issues faced throughout the industry and finding ways to help develop West Virginia's workforce.

Capito says one of the major pieces of his "A+ Plan" for education is to promote trade programs like construction apprenticeships to help develop the pipeline for skilled labor in the construction industry.

"We believe Moore Capito is the candidate that will best represent our members in the Governor's office," said Chuck Parker, President of the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council.

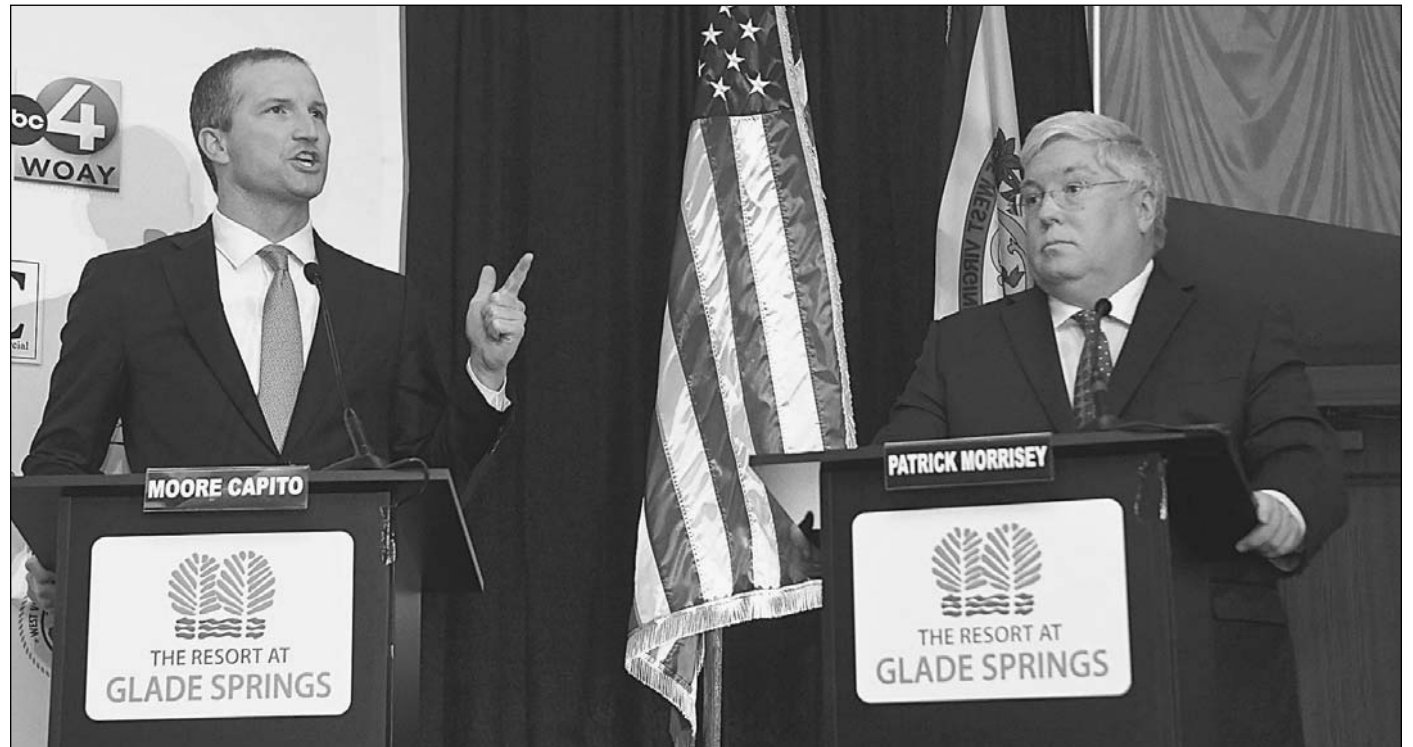
In addition to his support of craft apprenticeship programs, Capito also has a history of supporting our state's

energy economy.

During his time in the legislature, Capito took the lead on multiple

pieces of legislation to promote coal and natural gas, to put the state on a

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Moore Capito (left) speaks during the West Virginia Gubernatorial Debate in Daniels, WV as his opponent Attorney General Patrick Morrissey (right) looks on. The event was sponsored by the WV Building and Construction Trades.

Nicholas County Solar Project Awarded \$129 Million Federal Construction Grant

Earlier this month, Savion Energy was awarded a federal construction grant for \$129 Million to help build an already-planned solar project in Nicholas County.

The West Virginia Building and Construction Trades (WVBCT) already have a Memorandum of Un-

derstanding with Savion Energy, which explains the construction of the project hinges upon the award of the federal grant.

The MOU explains that if Savion Energy received the grant and elects to build the project, a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) will be triggered

for WVBCT workers to build the project.

The project itself will be built on two former surface mines in Nicholas County, West Virginia. Once built, the solar installation will be capable of producing 250 MW of energy; enough to power 39,000 homes.

Between the federal grant and the investment by Savion Energy, the project is expected to be an approximate investment of more than \$250 million.

"We believe the federal government made the right decision in

Cont. on p. 3>>

Primary Election: May 14

WV AFL-CIO Meets to Make Endorsements for 2024 West Virginia Primary Election

On March 15, the WV AFL-CIO met in Charleston, West Virginia to confirm statehouse candidate endorsements for the 2024 WV Primary Election.

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 West Virginia AFL-CIO state COPE.

The state AFL-CIO 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 West Virginia 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."

All candidates who are running for office had the opportunity to fill out a West Virginia 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-

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

The CLC then made its recommendations based on the questionnaires and interviews and brought them to the state COPE for a vote.

For more information on the state COPE endorsement process, and for a list of candidates who have been officially endorsed by the WV AFL-CIO, log on to wvafcio.org. ■



Josh Sword, President of the WV AFL-CIO, calls the 2024 Primary Committee on Political Education (COPE) meeting to order at the Teamsters hall in Charleston, West Virginia.

Trades Endorse Capito

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path towards energy independence.

As House Judiciary Chairman, Capito helped ensure pass historic tax cuts that returned over \$700 million to hardworking West Virginia families.

Capito says as Governor, he will continue to champion tax cuts by ensuring the elimination of the state income tax.

"Our state is headed into a new

era, and we need a leader who will truly represent our interests," said Parker. "We believe Moore Capito is that leader and the right choice for West Virginia voters."

The West Virginia Primary Election Day is set for Tuesday, May 14.

For more information on Moore Capito's priorities and platform in his race for West Virginia Governor, log on to www.MooreCapito.com. ■

Trades Join Energy Panel Event



Justin Williams (center), Director of the WV Affiliated Construction Trades (ACT), speaks on a panel at the Central Appalachia \$48C Regional Event.

The Qualifying Advanced Energy Project Credit (\$48C) program was established by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The program was expanded with a \$10 billion investment under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to fund projects to promote clean energy manufacturing.

"This was a great event to highlight the manufacturing sector and what the Building Trades crafts offer for their construction or expansion plans in WV," said Williams.

"We have a history of building and maintaining our manufacturing facilities in West Virginia, and we look forward to continuing those relationships and expanding opportunities for our members." ■

Primary Election: May 14

WVBCT 2024 Primary Endorsements

	<u>US Congress</u>	3rd	Dave Cantrell (D)	33rd	Jordan Bridges (R)	67th	Cody Thompson (D)
	Riley Moore (R)		Jimmy Willis (R)	34th	Mark Dean (R)	68th	Chris Phillips (R)
	<u>Governor</u>	5th	Shawn Fluharty (D)	35th	Adam Vance (R)	70th	Morgan Earp (D)
	Moore Capito (R)	6th	Jeffrey Stephens (R)	40th	Roy Cooper (R)	71st	Laura Kimble (R)
	<u>Secretary of State</u>	7th	Chuck Sheedy (R)	43rd	Chris Toney (R)	73rd	Bryan Smith (R)
	Doug Skaff (R)	8th	David Kelly (R)	46th	Jeff Campbell (R)	75th	David Kennedy (R)
	<u>State Treasurer</u>	9th	Trenton Barnhart (R)	47th	Ray Canterbury (R)		Stephanie Tomana (D)
	Larry Pack (R)	12th	Vernon Criss (R)	48th	Thomas Clark (R)	76th	Toby Heaney (R)
	<u>Attorney General</u>	13th	Scot Heckert (R)	50th	Elliott Pritt (R)	77th	Joe Statler (R)
	John "JB" McCuskey (R)	14th	Dave Foggin (R)	51st	Marshall Clay (R)	79th	Evan Hansen (D)
		15th	Erica Moore (R)	52nd	Greg Ingram (R)	80th	John Williams (D)
	<u>State Senate</u>	19th	Debbie Deweese (R)	53rd	Tristan Leavitt (R)	81st	Anitra Hamilton (D)
2nd	Chris Rose (R)	22nd	Aaron Holley (R)	54th	Mike Pushkin (D)	82nd	David McCormick (R)
5th	Joshua Mathis (R)	23rd	Evan Worrell (R)	55th	JB Akers (R)	84th	Justin Hough (R)
	Ric Griffith (D)	25th	Sean Hornbuckle (D)	56th	Kayla Young (D)	88th	Rick Hillenbrand (R)
9th	Brian Helton (R)	26th	Matthew Rohrbach (R)	57th	Hollis Lewis (D)	90th	George Miller (R)
13th	Joey Garcia (D)	27th	Michael Amos (R)	58th	Walter Hall (R)	97th	Lucia Valentine (D)
	<u>House of Delegates</u>	29th	Nate Randolph (R)	59th	Andy Shamblin (R)	99th	Wayne Clark (R)
1st	Pat McGeehan (R)	30th	David "Flimsy" Adkins (R)	60th	Dana Ferrell (R)	100th	Maria Russo (D)

Election Information

Early Voting: Wednesday, May 1 – Saturday, May 11

Primary Election Day: Tuesday, May 14

Find your Polling Location: www.GoVoteWV.com

A Message from WVBCT Secretary-Treasurer John Epperly

Over the past three years, we have stood together with our allies to fight the proposed cuts to unemployment benefits for workers in West Virginia.

Now, we face one of the most important elections ever to ensure the current standards for unemployment benefits remain intact.

However, the cuts to unemployment benefits aren't the only concern on the ballot this year. Licensing standards, worker safety regulations, and many other important issues will be dealt with in the upcoming legislative sessions.

Because of this, it is important—now more than ever—to vote for the candidates we have endorsed to ensure the best outcomes for the trades.

We ask that you PLEASE VOTE for and support these candidates, so that we can continue to build a coalition to uphold working conditions and benefits for workers in the Mountain State.

Trades Career Day at South Charleston HS



Students of South Charleston High School attend a career day in their gymnasium last month.

More than 150 students from the junior and senior classes attended the Career Day and heard from multiple West Virginia Building and Construction Trades crafts.

Crafts in attendance included Sheet Metal Workers, Carpenters, Laborers, Electricians, Roofers.

"We take every opportunity we can to reach out to young adults about our programs," said Fred Chandler, Business Manager for the Charleston Building and Construction Trades.

"With all of the construction work on the horizon, it's important for us to do all we can to build up the next generation of craftworkers in our industry."

IUPAT Coatings and Corrosion Expo Held

The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 53 (IUPAT DC 53) held their annual Coating and Corrosion Expo at their training center in Weston, West Virginia on April 11.

The event offered a variety of activities to assist those who deal with the effects of corrosion in an industrial setting.

Classes and demonstrations were held and focused on pipeline contractors, the oil and gas industry, paint contractors, coating suppliers, technicians, chemical plant operators, and individuals working in DOT, tanks, bridges, concrete, and refining industries.

Class topics included Corrosion Basics and Fundamentals, Concrete Coatings, Pipeline Coatings, Bridge Assessment/Inspection, Coatings Technologies for Tanks, Protective Coatings Inspection Basics, Coatings for Reducing Bridge Maintenance & Painting Costs, and many other topics.

The annual Expo began in 2013 to promote the IUPAT DC 53 apprenticeship program by bringing together players in the coating industry, which include paint suppliers and many others.

Over the years, it has grown to attract more than 200 attendees, including vendors who provide use-

ful information on topics relating to coatings & corrosion, as well as other industry-related business activities.

In addition to business and industry attendees, state and local public officials were on hand to tour the training site and learn about all the IUPAT 53 has to offer to West Virginia and the entire region.

“Our Expo has the most advanced

training and demonstrations about how to properly deal with corrosion and apply coatings in the region,” said Brian Stanley, Business Manager for the IUPAT DC 53.

For more information on this year’s event and to learn more about the IUPAT DC 53 apprenticeship program and training center, log on to www.ftidc53.org. ■

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Attendees of the 2024 Coating and Corrosion Expo visit vendor exhibits during the event at the Painters DC 53 Training Center in Weston, West Virginia.

Nicholas Co. Solar

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awarding this grant to such a reputable company like Savion Energy,” said Justin Williams, Director of the WV Affiliated Construction Trades (ACT). “I think I speak for all of us when I say we are excited to continue working with Savion to get this fantastic project built.”

While this new project will bring new opportunities for renewable energy, a major priority for Nicholas County Commissions was to make sure coal would not be left out.

“There are three coal mineable coal seams that are still located underground of this former surface mine that is still going to be eligible for mining as time goes on,” Nicholas County Commissioner D. Craig Chapman said. “The three seams that are available are deep, underground mining only.”

For more information on the project, and to learn more about Savion Energy company, log on to www.SavionEnergy.com. ■

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Office Tour at Cabell Huntington Hospital



Members of the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council tour the new 75,000 square foot Medical Office Building, located on the main campus of Cabell Huntington Hospital.

Upon completion, this will be a new state-of-the-art facility, designed to enhance their patients’ experience, offering multiple services including physical therapy, neurology services, physician offices, endoscopy, lab and imaging services.

“We are truly grateful for our continued partnership with the Marshall Health Network,” said John Holbrook, Business Manager for the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council.