



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK 'WV STATE BUILDING TRADES' - FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @WVSBT

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

Trades Make Big Gains in WV Statehouse Elections

While the outcome of the Presidential election has taken up much of the national attention, the state elections in West Virginia are a signal of progress for the trades.

The official results show that 55 out of 63 Building Trades-endorsed candidates were victorious in their elections (detailed results on page 3).

Republicans increased their numbers in both the House and Senate. However, every Democratic incumbent protected their seat in the legislature as well.

According to officials at the WV Building and Construction Trades, the outcome of this election was an overwhelming success in terms of building legislative support for the trades.

“Not only did we protect our Democratic and Republican friends who have stood with us in the past, but we also saw more labor-friendly Republicans elected this cycle than we have ever seen before,” said George Capel, Government Relations Director for the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council.

Capel says that this election resulted in great gains for the West Virginia Republican Labor Caucus, an organization which was instrumental in stopping cuts to unemployment

benefits, protecting worker safety laws, and stopping attacks on the WV

Cont. on p. 3>>

Cont. on p. 3>>



Members of the Charleston Building and Construction Trades pose outside the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Headquarters with Delegate Kayla Young (D-Kanawha) and Kanawha County Commissioner-elect Natalie Tennant. The group held a door-knocking day and both candidates were successful in their elections.

Republican Candidates Increase Numbers on Nearly Every Level of Government

After every vote was counted and the 2024 election concluded, the official results show that West Virginia Republicans have increased their margins in virtually every aspect of government.

Aside from certain local city and county races in the state's remaining

democratic strongholds, Republican candidates increased their majorities in the WV House and state Senate as well as sweeping every Congressional and statewide elected race.

In the West Virginia House of Delegates, the partisan split is now 91-9 in favor of Republicans, while

in the West Virginia Senate the split is 32-2.

According to results on the West Virginia Secretary of State's website, on average Republican candidates won their elections with roughly 70% of the vote (average across all elections).

“This is why our work in supporting the West Virginia Republican Labor Caucus is so important,” said George Capel, Government Relations Director for the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council. “Our state's voters have given

Cont. on p. 4>>

WV Building Trades Player of the Week



Week 1: Tayveon Wilson, Huntington High School



Week 2: Noah Vellaithambi, Hurricane High School



Week 3: Easton Pinkerton, Winfield High School



Week 4: Dylan Vance, Mingo Central High School



Week 5: Malakhi Hope, Riverside High School



Week 6: Preston May, Tug Valley High School



Week 7: Avonte Crawford, Huntington High School



Week 8: David Robinson, Jr., Capital High School



Week 9: Dane Hatfield, Herbert Hoover High School



Week 7: Marcus Dean, Cabell Midland High School



Week 8: Leques Strother, Mingo Central High School

The Player of the Week program is a partnership with HD Media Corporation and RSN Sports Network to bring more awareness to trades careers in the WV public school system.

“This is the second year we’ve sponsored this program,” said John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer for the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades. “It provides us with another opportunity to get the word out to young adults about our craft apprenticeship programs.”

Election Results

2024 General Election Endorsements

US Congress

Riley Moore (R) ✓

State Treasurer

Larry Pack (R) ✓

Attorney General

John "JB" McCuskey (R) ✓

State Senate

2nd Chris Rose (R) ✓

5th Ric Griffith (D) ✓

9th Brian Helton (R) ✓

13th Joey Garcia (D) ✓

House of Delegates

1st Pat McGeehan (R) ✓

4th Bill Flanigan (R) ✓

5th Shawn Fluharty (D) ✓

7th Chuck Sheedy (R) ✓

8th David Kelly (R) ✓

9th Trenton Barnhart (R) ✓

12th Vernon Criss (R) ✓

13th Scot Heckert (R) ✓

14th Dave Foggini (R) ✓

15th Erica Moore (R) ✓

20th Sarah Drennan (R) ✓

23rd Evan Worrell (R) ✓

25th Sean Hornbuckle (D) ✓

26th Matthew Rohrbach (R) ✓

27th Michael Amos (R) ✓

28th Ryan Browning (R) ✓

29th ~~Wayne Bug Williamson (D)~~

30th Jeff Eldridge (R) ✓

33rd Jordan Bridges (R) ✓

34th Mark Dean (R) ✓

35th Adam Vance (R) ✓

40th Roy Cooper (R) ✓

43rd Chris Toney (R) ✓

44th Carl Bill Roop (R) ✓

46th Jeff Campbell (R) ✓

47th Ray Canterbury (R) ✓

48th Thomas Clark (R) ✓

49th Stanley Adkins (R) ✓

50th Elliott Pritt (R) ✓

51st Marshall Clay (R) ✓

53rd Tristan Leavitt (R) ✓

54th Mike Pushkin (D) ✓

55th JB Akers (R) ✓

56th Kayla Young (D) ✓

57th Hollis Lewis (D) ✓

58th Walter Hall (R) ✓

59th Andy Shamblin (R) ✓

60th Dana Ferrell (R) ✓

67th Cody Thompson (D) ✓

68th Chris Phillips (R) ✓

70th ~~Shannon Welsh (D)~~

71st Laura Kimble (R) ✓

73rd Bryan Smith (R) ✓

75th ~~Stephanie Tomana (D)~~

76th Rick Garcia (D) ✓

77th Joe Statler (R) ✓

78th ~~Diane Market Gaston (D)~~

79th Evan Hansen (D) ✓

80th John Williams (D) ✓

81st Anitra Hamilton (D) ✓

88th Rick Hillenbrand (R) ✓

90th George Miller (R) ✓

96th Lisa White (R) ✓

97th ~~Lucia Valentine (D)~~

99th Wayne Clark (R) ✓

100th ~~Maria Russo (D)~~

Trades Make Big Gains

Continued from Page 1

Jobs Act over the past three years.

"It goes without saying that we partner with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle. However, building support within the Republican Labor Caucus gives us a lot of hope for the future."

The new numbers in the 100-member House of Delegates chamber are 91-9 in favor of Republicans. In the 34-member Senate, the split is 32 Republicans to 2 remaining Democrats.

The two Democratic seats in the WV Senate are now held by Senator Mike Woelfel (D-Cabell), who was not up for reelection this cycle, and incoming Senator Joey Garcia (D-Marion) who won the seat of now former Senator Mike Caputo.

Interestingly, Senator Garcia's uncle, now Delegate Rick Garcia (D-Marion), won Senator Joey Garcia's

old House seat that he vacated to run for Senate.

Delegate Rick Garcia is the only non-incumbent Democrat to win an election to the House of Delegates this cycle.

Now that the election is over, Capel believes it is time to focus on the upcoming legislative session, which begins on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

"We look forward to working with our friends in the legislature, who have been with us for years, and also to developing new relationships with incoming lawmakers as well," said Capel.

"Preparations are already underway so we can hit the ground running this session. As always, we will do everything we can to support all our crafts to ensure there is a bright future for the trades." ■

Wheeling Parking Garage Completed



Earlier this month, a new fully automated 6-story parking structure located at the corner of Market and 11th streets in Downtown Wheeling officially opened to the public.

With 290 spaces, the facility also has charging stations for electrical vehicles as well as bicycle parking.

The ground level of the parking structure has 10,000 square feet of street level retail and commercial space available for lease.

The project was completed in roughly two and a half years, with an original groundbreaking ceremony for the project held in April 2022.

The Mills Group served as the project architect; Walter P. Moore, parking consultant; CMTA, MEP; Hays Landscaping Architecture Studio, civil engineer; Carl Walker Construction, contractor; and Western Alliance Bank, financing.

Wheeling Nailers Hold Union Appreciation Night for Trades at Wesbanco Arena

On Saturday, November 2nd the Wheeling Nailers hockey team held Union Appreciation Night at Wesbanco arena on the team's opening

night of the 2024-2025 season.

The event was host to a sold-out crowd, with 1200 tickets being purchased for members of the trades.

At the beginning of the event, Kyle Kull, Field Representative for Laborers Local #1149, and Eric Starkowicz, Executive Director of the Ohio Valley Construction Employers Council, performed the ceremonial puck drop

work and amazing skills you provide for our local contractors in the valley!"

The event was held to showcase union support in the greater Wheeling area, which has a long history



Kyle Kull, Field Representative for Laborers Local #1149, and Eric Starkowicz, Executive Director of the Ohio Valley Construction Employers Council, perform the ceremonial puck drop at the Wheeling Nailers Union Appreciation Night. The event was held at Wesbanco arena in Wheeling, West Virginia on November 2nd.

Republican Candidates

Continued from Page 1

en Republicans a mandate to govern. It is imperative for us to work with them—and everyone on both sides of the aisle—to advance our cause and show once and for all that supporting the trades is not a partisan issue.”

The West Virginia Republican Labor Caucus, referenced by Cappel, was formed in 2021 with only 10 members in the state legislature. According to their Executive Director, former West Virginia House of Delegates member Guy Ward (R-Marion), their numbers have grown significantly since that time.

“As far as we can tell, it seems as if we have picked up 10 new members after the 2024 election,” said Ward. “We’re still trying to wrap our heads

around the results and get everyone on the same page. However, we expect to have approximately 40 members in the House and Senate during the upcoming legislative session.”

Ward says that this growth is part of a larger trend of Republicans beginning to work with labor unions to enact policies that support working families on the national level.

“What’s happening in Charleston is reflective of what is happening on the national scene,” said Ward. “I think we will see start to see more labor-supporting Republicans going forward.”

For more information on the results of the 2024 election, log on to www.SOS.WV.gov. ■

 Like Us on Facebook!
“WV State Building Trades”

 Follow us on Twitter!
@WVSBT

Affiliated Construction Trades
600 Leon Sullivan Way
Charleston, WV 25301
(304) 345-7570
www.actwv.org



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 1374
Charleston, WV 25301

to start the game.

Also, members of trades unions were asked to stand and be recognized while a statement from Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades President Eran Molz (IUOE 132) was read over the PA system.

“We are so proud of our building trades,” said Eran Molz, Business Manager for the Upper Ohio Valley Building and Construction Trades Council. “This night is for you and your families and for all the hard

with the labor movement, and spread awareness of the benefits of a career in the skilled trades.

“Nearly every lifelong resident of the area has a friend or family that is a union member,” said Kyle Kull, representative for the Laborers 1149 in Wheeling, West Virginia. “Events like these give the public a better idea of who we are, and that awareness will undoubtedly lead to more people considering the trades as a career choice.” ■

CALL or TEXT

988

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

24/7