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

2020 WV Primary Election

The 2020 primary election brought some big changes, perhaps the most significant was the defeat of Senate President Mitch Carmichael (R-Jackson).

Carmichael lost to republican Amy Grady in a three-way contest that also included former Delegate Jim Butler (R-Mason).

As leader of the Senate Carmichael had upset educators with his anti-education agenda, had angered most union members with his support of Right-to-Work legislation and certainly was no friend of construction workers with his votes to repeal the state prevailing wage law.

Grady, a teacher from Mason County, was unsuccessful in her bid for office in 2018 when she ran as an independent for state senate.

Grady will face democratic nominee Bruce Ashworth from Jackson County, a member of Roofers Local 185.

Several other incumbent republicans lost their bids for re-election, and more than one was beat by labor backed candidates. State Senator Sue Cline (R-Raleigh) lost to David

“Bugs” Stover (R-Wyoming).

Cline was among a handful of republican legislators who were in competitive primary races and had voter education campaigns involving the Building Trades.

“We let voters know her record on key votes like her vote against using E-Verify for those getting electrician licenses in our state,” said Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades.

Similarly, incumbents Delegate Kevan Bartlett (R-Kanawha) and Delegate Daryl Cowles (R-Morgan) lost to labor endorsed candidates.

One labor backed candidate Jason Hough (R-Preston) appears to have lost by only 30 votes at the time the ACT Report went to press.

Late absentee ballots and provisional ballots could change the outcome.

Hough ran against Terri Sypolt (R-Preston) who had a series of votes against construction workers during the recent legislative session.

The votes, which were used in voter education postcards, were about amendments to add drug testing and

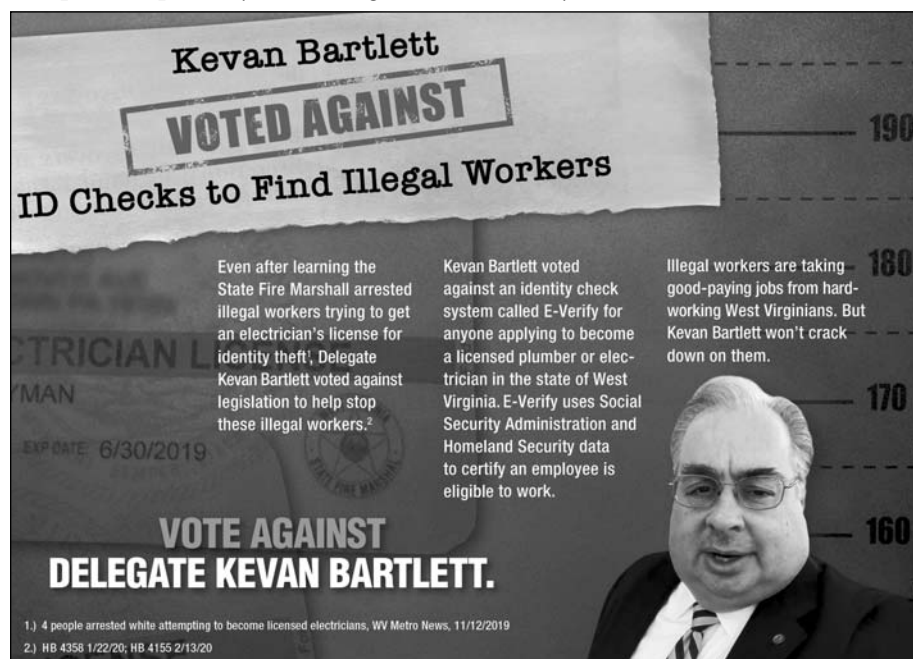
E-Verify to proposed legislation to change electrician, sprinkler fitter and plumbers’ licenses

Labor endorsed candidate Ben Salango beat Stephen Smith in a very competitive primary race for gover-

nor.

Salango (D-Kanawha) will face Governor Jim Justice (R-Greenbrier) in the fall.

Justice easily beat challenger Woody Thrasher. ■



This postcard let voters know Delegate Kevan Bartlett (R-Kanawha) voted twice against using E-Verify to make sure those applying for electricians and plumbers licenses have legal ID's. Voters also got a postcard about Bartlett votes to lower licensing requirements for electricians and against drug testing for plumbers during the most recent legislative session. Bartlett lost the primary election.

Fake Electrician Licenses, ID's are Problem

Illegal craft worker licenses are a growing problem in West Virginia.

A series of incidents point to an increase in illegally licensed electricians and possibly more crafts working in West Virginia.

The most recent incident occurred in Marshall County at a compressor station project for Chevron.

Magistrate Court records show five citations issued on May 27 to workers who did not have West Virginia electricians’ licenses.

The contractor on site, Hartman & Hartman, Inc., was not cited.

“We’ve been watching this project because of all the imported workers,” said Doug Giffin with IBEW Local 141, Wheeling. “We commend the Fire Marshall’s office for enforcing our important licensing law.”

Giffin heard about the enforcement action and contacted ACT to track down the Magistrate records.

Five people were charged with performing electrical work without a

license, some were also charged with obstruction.

The charges show Virginia, Tennessee, and Guatemala addresses for the workers. ACT suspects they are all from Guatemala and Honduras.

In mid-March four workers at the Rockwool plant in Jefferson County reportedly left the project and never returned when asked to present electrician license credentials.

“There were about 50 electricians at the project, most are from out-of-

state and we heard four took off and didn’t come back when the inspectors showed up,” said Rodney Rice, Business Manager for IBEW 307, Cumberland.

“We have to assume they either didn’t have a license or were in this country illegally or both.”

Unfortunately, the problem is not new. In November of 2019, the State Fire Marshall’s office arrested four workers who were taking the electri-

Cont. on p. 4>>

Effective May 1, 2021

Virginia Passes Prevailing Wage and More

The state of Virginia has passed a new prevailing wage law and a series of other laws to improve the construction industry.

HB833/SB8 requires construction workers be paid the prevailing wage

rates already in place for federal projects under the Davis-Bacon Act.

The law applies to all projects valued at more than \$250,000 having any state tax funding.

The measure goes into effect May 1, 2021.

Local governments are given the option of requiring a prevailing wage rate.

Where State agencies are required to use federal Davis-Bacon rates, local governments may choose any meth-

od of determining rates, including Davis-Bacon, collective bargaining rates, or a local survey.

Creating the prevailing wage law was not all the Virginia State Building Trades Council was able to ac-

complish this year.

According to Jason Parker, President of the Council, several other laws were passed that will help create a level playing field in the construction industry.

“With Democratic control of the both the House and Senate and a Democratic Governor for the first time in many years, and a lot of hard work, we were able to make some serious gains”

Jason Parker

President

Virginia State Building Trades Council

As of May 1, 2021, there will no longer be a ban on Project Labor Agreements for State funded projects.

HB358/SB182 allows state agencies and local governments to require PLA's on a case-by-case basis.

“This was a little easier because we had some colossal failures on large tax funded projects and we can show how large private projects often use the PLA tool,” said Parker.

Another area of focus was the abuse of independent contractor classifications and other forms of wage theft.

According to Luke Begovich, a representative for the Eastern Atlantic States Carpenters in both Virginia

and West Virginia, a series of important measures aimed at combatting wage theft were passed.

“Workers in Virginia can now hire their own lawyer and sue if they are not paid properly, they no longer have to rely solely on an underfunded and understaffed DOL,” said Begovich.

HB123/SB838 enables workers to sue for up to triple damages and recover lawyers' fees.

It also holds general contractors liable for unpaid wages on projects worth more than \$500,000.

A bill to improve Responsible Bidding policies also passed.

SB380/HB1201 makes it clear local governments have the option to have bid criteria, such as requiring contractors to participate in apprenticeship programs and benefit plans, as a condition of getting a public construction award.

“With Democratic control of the both the House and Senate and a Democratic Governor for the first time in many years, and a lot of hard work, we were able to make some serious gains,” said Parker. ■



IBEW Local 1340, Newport News members (from left) Jim Avery, Jason Parker, and Jesse Robertson (right) talk with legislative assistant Kennon White during the 2020 Virginia legislative session that proved to be very successful for construction workers.

WV Laborers Take Apprenticeship Applications

The West Virginia Construction Craft Laborers' Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee is accepting applications year round.

Those interested can apply at any WorkForce WV Office between the hours of 8:30 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Friday.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old; have a high school diploma (or equivalent) or pass a test administered by WorkForce; have a valid

driver's license; and be physically able to perform the work of the trade.

A substance abuse test, including random tests, will be required at some point in the process.

Documents such as a copy of a birth certificate, a valid driver's license, transcripts of grades and proof of a high school degree will be requested but at a later date.

The apprenticeship program consists of hands-on classroom training and paid on-the-job training.

The WV Laborers' Training Center in Mineral Wells provides 400 hours of classroom and hands-on training free of charge including meals and lodging.

Apprentices will also learn on the job in their home areas while earning a paycheck, for a total of 4000 hours, approximately two years.

Upon completion of the program apprentices will earn Journeyman status and receive a certificate from the U.S. Department of Labor.

The areas of training provide a wide variety of skills to ensure highly productive workers will have successful careers.

Topics include pipelaying, mason tending, instrument reading, environmental remediation and more.

For more information visit their web site www.wvcccl.org or to receive a free brochure send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: West Virginia Laborers' Training Center, P.O. Box 6, Mineral Wells, WV 26150. ■

'20 Primary Results

Bold = Building Trades member

1st Congressional District

David McKinley (R) ✓

Governor

Ben Salango (D) ✓

State Treasurer

John Perdue (D) ✓

Attorney General

Isaac Sponaugle (D) ✓

Supreme Court

~~Richard Neely~~

Joanna Tabit

Secretary of State

Natalie Tennant (D) ✓

State Auditor

Mary Ann Claytor (D) ✓

Agriculture Commissioner

Bob Beach (D) ✓

State Senate

1st Randy Swartzmiller (D) ✓

2nd Josh Gary (D) ✓

4th **Bruce Ashworth (D)** ✓

5th Bob Plymale (D) ✓

7th Rupie Phillips (R) ✓

Ralph Rodigerio (D) ✓

8th **Glenn Jeffries (D)** ✓

9th David 'Bugs' Stover (R) ✓

10th Bill Laird (D) ✓

11th Denise Campbell (D) ✓

~~John Pitsenbarger (R)~~

12th Doug Facemire (D) ✓

13th Mike Caputo (D) ✓

14th David Childers (D) ✓

15th ~~Kenneth Mattson (R)~~

16th Pete Dougherty (D) ✓

17th Andrew Robinson (D) ✓

House of Delegates

1st Jack Wood (D) ✓

2nd **Phillip Diserio (D)** ✓

3rd Shawn Fluharty (D) ✓

Erikka Storch (R) ✓

4th Christian Turak (D) ✓

Lisa Zukoff (D) ✓

5th Dave Pethtel (D) ✓

7th ~~Kerry Murphy (R)~~

10th Vernon Criss (R) ✓

Trish Pritchard (D) ✓

Luke Winters (D) ✓

11th Mark Pauley (D) ✓

13th **Scott Brewer (D)** ✓

14th ~~Brian Scott (R)~~

15th Tess Jackson (D) ✓

16th Mark Bates (R) ✓

17th Sean Hornbuckle (D) ✓

Chad Lovejoy (D) ✓

Matthew Rohrbach (R) ✓

18th **Paul Ross (D)** ✓

Evan Worrell (R) ✓

19th Ric Griffith (D) ✓

~~Tom Jarrell (D)~~

20th Nathan Brown (D) ✓

21st Mark Dean (R) ✓

22nd Joe Jeffries (R) ✓

Zack Maynard (R) ✓

23rd Rodney Miller (D) ✓

24th Timothy Tomblin (D) ✓

25th Tony Paynter (R) ✓

26th Ed Evans (D) ✓

27th Tina Russell (D) ✓

28th Ryne Nahodi (D) ✓

30th Mick Bates (D) ✓

31st Chris Toney (R) ✓

32nd ~~Randy Halsey (D)~~

Mark Hurt (D) ✓

Margaret Staggers (D) ✓

34th Brent Boggs (D) ✓

35th Kathy Ferguson (D) ✓

~~Patti Hamilton (D)~~

Doug Skaff Jr. (D) ✓

Rusty Williams (D) ✓

36th Amanda Estep-Burton (D) ✓

Larry Rowe (D) ✓

37th Mike Pushkin (D) ✓

39th Dana Ferrell (R) ✓

42nd David "Woody" Holmes (D) ✓

Cindy Lavender-Bowe (D) ✓

Jeff Campbell (D) ✓

43rd Bill Hartman (D) ✓

Cody Thompson (D) ✓

44th Robin Cutlip (D) ✓

45th ~~Gary Connell (R)~~

47th Ed Larry (D) ✓

48th Robert Garcia (D) ✓

Richard Iaquina (D) ✓

Josh Maxwell (D) ✓

~~Robin Righter (D)~~

49th Mike Mannypenny (D) ✓

50th Michael Angelucci (D) ✓

Joey Garcia (D) ✓

Guy Ward (R) ✓

51st Barbara Fleischauer (D) ✓

Evan Hansen (D) ✓

Rodney Pyles (D) ✓

Danielle Walker (D) ✓

John Williams (D) ✓

52nd ~~Justin Hough (R)~~

53rd Cory Chase (D) ✓

58th George Miller (R) ✓

60th Brad Noll (D) ✓

61st Jason Barrett (D) ✓

62nd Debi Carroll (D) ✓

63rd Daniel Bennett (D) ✓

65th Sammi Brown (D) ✓

66th Storme Frame (D) ✓

67th John Doyle (D) ✓

Union Contractor Takes on Resort Project

Matheny & Sons General Contracting, LLC is currently building perhaps the biggest hotel/conference/resort project in the state in Milton, just east of Huntington, WV.

The 108-room resort called The Grand Patrician is located at the former Morris Memorial Hospital for Crippled Children, built in 1936.

The project first got underway in late 2017 and began mostly with non-union contractors.

Matheny & Sons came in as a union plumbing subcontractor a year after the project started but was given additional responsibilities after they proved to be a qualified contractor.

"Around the start of this year we reached out to various Trades because we knew to take on large projects like this, we needed quality, skilled labor," said Steve Matheny, owner of Matheny & Sons.

Currently there are around 60 union craft workers on the project including Carpenters, Plumbers,

Iron Workers, Electricians and Cement Finishers. Peak employment should be around 120.

The hotel is only one phase of a much bigger resort that will include a conference center, wedding chapel, golf course, townhouses and more.

The total investment is reported to be in the range of \$120 million.

"This is big deal for this area," said Randell May, Service Representative for the Carpenters.

"We have 15 carpenters working here now including four apprentices and the number will increase, and with all the other crafts on the job that's a lot of hours and paychecks."

May said the project is not entirely union but he hopes as more contracts are let more union contractors will be successful. "This started out without us and now we are happy to be involved and show what we can do."

Matheny knows the value of a union workforce.

"Yes, we pay more per hour than

in the residential sector but we get a lot more done per hour with skilled workers," said Matheny.

"I can just hand them the prints and know they will get the job done," said Matheny.

"And having the ability to increase

and decrease the workforce as we need is of great value too."

According to Matheny the first phase should be complete in mid-2021, adding "I'm proud to be a part of it and thrilled local workers are building this project." ■



Steve Matheny (left) of Matheny & Sons General Contractors talks with Randall May of the Carpenters in front of the new 108 room resort called The Grand Patrician in Milton.

Local Workers at WVU Hospital Expansion Pump \$81 Million into the Local Economy

The new \$150 million WVU Women and Children's Hospital addition in Morgantown is not only critical infrastructure but a big boost to the local economy.

A report from Marshall University shows the use of local union construction workers on the project will create a \$48 million payroll, when those wages are spent in the local economy, an additional \$34 million in economic activity is generated.

Additional value will come beyond the combined \$81 million construction worker impact through

non-construction activity such as material sales, transportation, architectural and engineering services, and management functions.

"Our members are proud to be building this expansion in their own community and the payback from local hiring is significant," said Natalie Stone, Executive Director of the North Central WV Building Trades.

"The report highlights the often-overlooked economic value from using local construction workers on local projects," said Stone.

Employment of craft workers

should peak at around 550 workers. The total craft manhours are estimated at 880,000.

The new 155-bed, nine-story WVU Women and Children's Hospital will include a 25-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, a 61-bed

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, a 39-bed Pediatric Acute Care Unit, a 30-bed Obstetrical Unit, a medical office building, an expanded pediatric emergency room, and more.

The facility is scheduled for completion in early 2021. ■



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Local union construction workers are building the nine-story WVU Women & Children's Hospital in Morgantown, which is boosting the local economy.

Fake Licenses

Continued from Page 1

cian license exam in Charleston. The workers, who said they were from the Richmond, VA area, were charged with falsifying their applications.

This information was brought to the attention of legislators during the recent legislative session. The electrician, plumbers and sprinkler fitter licensing laws all came under attack and attempts by ACT to add an ID checking system called E-Verify, to prevent workers with fake ID's or no ID's, from getting a license failed. The problem extends to other states.

A June 2 online post by lawyers with the corporate firm Steptoe & Johnson entitled "Employers Beware of Fraudulent Specialty Contractor Licenses" talks about "a trend of foreign workers from Guatemala and Honduras working illegally at natural gas pipeline construction sites in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and North Carolina, but while using a false address and while in possession of fraudulently obtained West Virginia specialty licenses for electrical and explosives contractor work." ■

Affiliated Construction Trades

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SATURDAY JUNE 20TH

9 A.M. TO NOON

Hosted by The Parkersburg Area Labor Council & Other Unions
and the Parkersburg/Marietta Building Trades Council.

DROP OFF @ 3100 DUDLEY AVE.



We will be collecting canned and non-perishable food items from our members to help restock the Mid Town Family Resource Center. It is a program of the Children's Home Society of WV and serves families in need throughout the greater Parkersburg area from their pantry located at 1717 St. Mary's Avenue.

For more information call 304-991-6890 or 304-424-6443.

Visit and like "Parkersburg Area Labor Council" on Facebook!