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

Wins, Losses for Labor in 2022 Primary Election

The 2022 primary election brought both wins and losses for labor endorsed candidates. These included the defeat of Congressman David McKinley by Alex Mooney and the victory of WV Republican Labor Caucus Chairman Delegate Evan Worrell (R-Cabell) among many others.

During the primary election, much of the trades' attention was focused on Republican races to gain labor-friendly nominees heading into the general election in November.

“This year’s primary election was much different from those in the past due to the recent legislative re-districting effort...”

Congressman McKinley faced an uphill battle against Alex Mooney, who was endorsed by former Presi-

dent Donald Trump following McKinley’s vote in favor of the bipartisan infrastructure bill late last year.

McKinley has been a strong supporter of the Building Trades, serving as the chairman of the Congressional Building Trades Caucus during his time in office. Conversely, Mooney has not been a friend to the trades,

refusing to meet with WWSBT delegations every year during his tenure.

This year’s primary election was much different from those in the past due to the recent legislative re-districting effort, undertaken following the 2020 census.

For the first time, state House of Delegates candidates faced off in 100

single-member districts.

In the newly formed House district in Barboursville, Evan Worrell (R-Cabell) was victorious in his race against challenger Jodi Biller.

Worrell has been under fire from members of his own party due to his founding of the first Republican La-

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Gary McCallister (left) and Jeremy Jeffers (right), from the Carpenters, speak to a voter in Barboursville, WV while volunteering for Evan Worrell (R-Cabell). Worrell won his primary election race on May 10.

Long Ridge Energy Showcases World’s First Clean Hydrogen-Burning Power Plant

On April 22, Long Ridge Energy held their Power Plant H2 Commissioning Event to showcase the world’s first carbon-free, hydrogen-fueled

power plant in Hannibal, Ohio. The event was symbolically held on Earth Day to promote clean energy production.

The \$600 million, 485-megawatt plant was built by the Kiewit Corporation at the former Ormet Aluminum smelter plant site, using union

construction labor.

According to the Long Ridge website, the plant is “the first purpose-

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Clearway Energy Holds Ribbon-Cutting Event, \$200 Million Black Rock Wind Farm

On May 6, Clearway Energy Group held a ribbon-cutting event, celebrating the completion of the company's 115 MW, 29-turbine wind farm in Grant and Mineral counties. The Black Rock Wind Farm will increase West Virginia's wind generation capacity by 15% and have the ability to power more than 55,000 homes.

Constructed in 2021, Clearway Energy entered into a project labor agreement with the North Central

WV Building and Construction Trades to build the \$200 million Black Rock wind farm project.

"Clearway is a great partner for labor in the state of West Virginia," said Chuck Parker, President of the West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council. "The Black Rock project paid local union construction workers good wages and good benefits, and the money stayed here in West Virginia."

While Black Rock provides clean,

low-cost and reliable power to West Virginia homes and businesses, Clearway is also operating under Power Purchase Agreements with Toyota Motors North America and American Electric Power.

Clearway also announced the creation of The Black Rock Community Benefit Fund during the event, promising to contribute more than \$133,000 to local nonprofits in 2022, and \$50,000 every year thereafter.

In late 2021, Clearway Energy also completed their \$128 million repowering of the Pinnacle Wind Farm in Mineral County. The company replaced the blades, turbines, and towers at the 23-turbine site. With the completion of the Black Rock Wind Farm, the recent repowering of Pinnacle and the acquisition of Mount Storm (formerly NedPower), Clearway Energy is now the largest owner-operator of wind farms in WV. ■



Chuck Parker, Business Manager for the International Union of Operating Engineers 132, speaks at the ribbon-cutting event for the Black Rock Wind Farm in Grant and Mineral counties on May 6th.

Long Ridge Energy

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built hydrogen-burning power plant in the United States and the first worldwide to blend hydrogen in a GE H-class gas turbine.

The plant utilizes a GE 7HA.02 combustion turbine, which can burn between 15-20% hydrogen (by volume) initially, with the capability to transition to 100% hydrogen over time."

Representatives from Long Ridge say the plant will be good for both the environment and the local community, as the project employed up to 500 local, skilled union craft-la-

borers at the peak of its construction and continues to employ about 20 for ongoing, regular maintenance of the facility.

"We are proud to have had a hand in building this plant," said Eran Molz, President of the Upper Ohio Valley Building and Construction Trades Council. "The Long Ridge plant has been good for the local community, and it is now a worldwide leader in clean energy. This is a great example of the good that can be done when industry and local workers team up." ■

WV AFL-CIO Bell Ringing for Workers Memorial Day



Josh Sword, President of the WV AFL-CIO speaks at the 34th annual Workers Memorial Day Observance Ceremony at the WV State Capitol on April 28th. This year's event was held in person for the first time since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Workers Memorial Day is a day set aside nationwide by unions to remember workers who died on the job. During the ceremony, a bell is rung for every worker who lost their life on the job throughout the year.

This year, B.B. Smith, retired member of Boilermakers 667 and President of Marshall-Wetzel-Tyler Labor Council, rang the bell while Paul Breedlove, Business Manager for UA 625 and Vice President of the Kanawha Valley Labor Council read the names of the 15 individuals who lost their lives on the job.

"My hope is that one day we will not have this ceremony, and we will not have to read a single name of an individual who has passed away as a result of their occupation," said Sword. "However, until that day the WV AFL-CIO will continue the fight to protect our workers as they go out to provide for their families."

Endorsed Candidates

Building Trades Primary Election Results

U. S. House of Representatives	17th	Morgan Hurlow (R)	55th	Greg Childress (D)✓	78th	Jeffrey Budkey (D)✓
2nd District David McKinley (R)	18th	Johnnie Wamsley (R)	56th	Kayla Young (D)✓	79th	Evan Hansen (D)✓
State Senate	21st	Theresa "Tess" Jackson (D)✓	57th	Doug Skaff (D)✓	80th	John Williams (D)✓
1st	23rd	Evan Worrell (R)✓	58th	Walt Hall (R)✓	81st	Danielle Walker (D)✓
2nd	24th	Carl Eastham (D)	59th	Andrew Shamblin (R)✓	82nd	Katie Fallon (D)✓
3rd	25th	Sean Hornbuckle (D)✓	60th	Dana Ferrell (R)✓	86th	Bradley "BJ" Rinard (D)
5th	26th	Matthew Rohrbach (R)✓	63rd	Kevin Carpenter (D)✓	87th	David Boden (D)✓
6th	27th	Chad Lovejoy (D)	67th	Cody Thompson (D)✓	88th	Rick Hillenbrand (R)*
7th	28th	Josh Booth (R)*	69th	Ron Watson (D)✓	90th	George Miller (R)✓
Chad McCormick (R)	29th	David Thompson (D)✓	71st	Laura Kimble (R)✓	93rd	Zondria Landsdowne (D)✓
8th	30th	David "Flimsy" Adkins (R)✓	72nd	Derek McIntyre (D)✓	95th	Debi Carroll (D)✓
9th		Deidra Roberts (D)✓	73rd	Mike Manypenny (D)✓	96th	Ronald Wenger (D)✓
10th	31st	Jill Barker (R)	74th	Guy Ward (R)	97th	Philip Wenner (D)✓
11th	32nd	Rodney Miller (D)✓	75th	Stephanie Spears Tomana (D)✓	99th	Debra Cornwell (D)✓
13th	33rd	Jordan Bridges (R)✓	76th	Joey Garcia (D)✓	100th	Susan Benzinger (D)✓
14th	34th	Mark Dean (R)✓	77th	Bengy Swanson (D)✓		
17th	35th	Adam Vance (R)✓				
House of Delegates	36th	Ed Evans (D)✓				
1st	37th	Skip Crane (D)✓				
2nd	38th	Tina Russell (D)✓				
3rd	41st	Greg Shamblin (R)				
4th	43rd	Chris Toney (R)✓				
5th	44th	Toney Martin (D)✓				
6th	45th	Joseph Golden (D)				
7th	46th	Paul Detch (D)✓				
10th	47th	Heather Hill (D)✓				
11th	50th	David "Elliot" Pritt (D)✓				
	52nd	Larry Rowe (D)✓				
12th	53rd	Jim Barach (D)✓				
14th	54th	Mike Pushkin (D)✓				

Bold = Building Trades Member

* = Results Pending Due to One Vote Difference ■

Primary Election

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bor Caucus last year.

Anti-labor Republicans spent more than \$100,000 opposing Worrell in hopes of defeating him.

However, Worrell decisively won his race against a challenger hand-picked by Republican leaders.

"Worrell's victory shows his choice to talk to Labor was not a mistake but the smart way to govern," said John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer for the West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades. "We hope to help Worrell grow the Republican Labor Caucus."

Another notable House race was that of Republican challenger Andy Shamblin, who defeated the current House Majority Caucus Chair Diana Graves (R-Kanawha) in one of the

biggest upsets of the 2022 primary election.

"I want to thank our members who volunteered their time," said Fred Chandler, Business Manager for the Charleston Building Trades Council. "Our efforts paid off in Shamblin's race, and if he wins in November, we will have a new friend in the House of Delegates."

A review of labor endorsements for the general election will take place in mid-June when the State COPE (Committee on Political Education) meeting will be held.

For full results of the 2022 primary election held on May 10, and other information surrounding the new legislative districts, log on to www.govotewv.com. ■

Charleston Trades Attend Career Days



Eric Sharp (front right), Construction Market Representative for the Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust, and Jerry Scarbro (back right), Director of Servicing for IUPAT DC 53, speak with interested apprenticeship applicants on April 26 at the George Washington High School Career Quest Day in Charleston, WV.

Across the state, the trades have been making a concerted effort to reach out in the community to find the most qualified apprentice applicants.

"With \$6 billion in federal infrastructure funds coming to West Virginia over the next five years, it is important that we find the best and the brightest future tradesmen and women to ensure we are prepared," said Fred Chandler, Business Manager for the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council. "Because Davis Bacon wage rates are required, we have an excellent chance of getting much of this work."

Members of the Charleston Building and Construction Trades also recently attended career days at Riverside HS, Herbert Hoover HS, Sissonville HS, and South Charleston HS.

\$100 Million Investment PSC Approves FirstEnergy Proposal for 50 MW of Solar Power at Five Locations

On April 21, the WV Public Service Commission (PSC) approved a proposal by the Monongahela Power Company and the Potomac Edison Company, two subsidiaries of FirstEnergy, resulting in the green light to build five utility-scale solar energy projects that together would cost \$100 million and have the nameplate capacity of 50 megawatts of power.

The five projects will be built in Monongalia County at the Ft. Martin Power Station; Tucker County near Davis along Route 93; Berkeley County at the Paul Smith Ash Site;

Brooke County at the Wylie Ridge Substation; and Marion County at the Rivesville Power Station Ash site.

In their application to the PSC, FirstEnergy committed to using local union construction workers for all five projects.

Because of this, the WV SBT intervened in the case, supporting the initiative.

The proposal, originally submitted to the PSC in November of 2021, is the result of legislation passed in 2020, authorizing both FirstEnergy and American Electric Power to

build up to 200 megawatts of solar power in 50 megawatt increments.

The law states that once the company sells 85% of the power from their first 50 megawatts of solar, they

lar site goes into service on January 1, 2024. However, they also proposed a Voluntary Renewable Electricity Rider, which would be offered on a first-come, first-served based for cus-



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Painters DC 53 Holds Day of Action



Members of the Painters District Council 53 refurbish the exterior of The Healing House in Charleston, West Virginia last month as a part of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) annual Day of Action volunteer activities.

The Healing House is dedicated to creating a safe environment for women who have been impacted by trauma in their lives. The center offers counseling, financial literacy, and workforce readiness training to women in the Kanawha Valley. It also has residential living space for young women in need.

"We look forward to giving back to our community," said Brian Stanley, Business Manager for IUPAT DC 53. "The Healing House offers great services to people in the Charleston area, and we are proud to help support their mission."

Members of IUPAT DC 53 worked with Sherwin Williams and Sun Belt rentals, who provided the supplies, to restore the facility.

will be permitted to build an additional 50-megawatt project, and so on up to the cap of 200 megawatts.

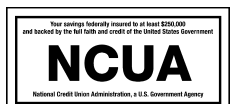
However, the PSC added conditions, requiring the company to sell 85% of the first 50 megawatts before they can even break ground on the project.

The Companies proposed to recover the costs of the project through a Renewable Electricity Surcharge, projected to begin once the first so-

tomers who wish to opt in to help offset the cost of the project for all First Energy customers.

According to a Commission Order, sent out by the PSC, the construction timeline is staggered through 2025 to accommodate different in-service dates for the five sites. However, the PSC notes that "high demand may necessitate accelerating construction and in-service dates." ■

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