



EDGE

SPECIAL 2026 MIDTERM
ELECTION ISSUE

What We Can Achieve Together in 2026

Most projects – whether the work involves new commercial or residential construction, or public works, like bridge painting or state or municipal facilities – don't begin when the first worker shows up on the jobsite. They begin months or even years earlier, when someone decides what gets built, where the money will come from, and what standards will apply to the work. Many of those decisions are made right in our communities or in the State Capitol, which is why PDC 30's involvement in governmental affairs matters so much. Learn in this issue how you can help ensure our communities support union construction and working families.

PDC 30 members (left to right) Christina Harms, Dusti Faichney, and Salenna Patton talking with Rockford-based Illinois House member Maurice West (67th District) in the Illinois State Capitol, April 15, 2026. Learn more about PDC 30's annual Springfield visits on page 5.

Message from Ryan Anderson, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer



We see firsthand – in neighboring states and across the nation – the struggles workers face in communities led by elected officials who work against organized labor. That’s why we must hold elected officials accountable when they seek public office and re-election, and all the days in between.

In Illinois, unions set the standards and level the playing field for fair contracting. Illinois’ Prevailing Wage Act ensures workers are paid the highest wage in each county where the work is performed. Laws prevent contractors from misclassifying employees as “independent contractors” to avoid paying overtime, unemployment insurance, workers’ compensation, and

other benefits. When nonunion contractors fail to pay workers what they are owed, state agencies help recover those wages.

These are just a few of the pro-worker protections and practices PDC 30 and other unions rely on to make it harder for contractors who exploit or cheat their workers to operate in our communities.

We know many PDC 30 members have established reliable, sustained employment with good companies – showing up each day, performing high-quality work, and taking on new responsibilities. For these members, the collective bargaining agreement, union-sponsored benefits, and state and local worker protections may operate quietly in the background.

Every election, the policies and protections that make our objectives possible are on the ballot.

For many tradespersons working with the tools of our trade, however, these hard-won protections are essential to developing lasting careers in our trades. The future of our union’s bargaining power, the quality of our training programs, and the stability of our benefit funds depend on bringing new members into the union and keeping them employed.

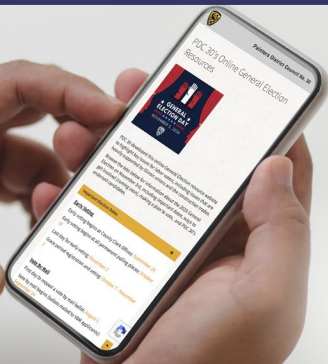
Every election, the policies and protections that make our objectives possible are on the ballot. We do our best to identify and develop political allies. And, many PDC 30 members help this effort, lending their time and voices to organized efforts that educate elected officials – whether they be Democrats, Republicans, or running for non-partisan positions – about our work and the challenges our members face.

You can help us do this work. Regardless of your personal political views and especially if you are curious about how government decisions affect our industry, there is a role for you in our governmental affairs efforts. We can’t let the Democrats we help elect take us for granted, and we know we can reach Republicans with our message of fair pay for hard work, the value of apprenticeships and lifelong learning, our commitment to safe workplaces and meeting our members’ healthcare and retirement needs, and the benefits our employers provide Illinois communities.

In this issue, you can learn more about our priorities, what concerns us about current trends, and opportunities to become more directly involved. With your help, we can build union power and grow our union.

PDC 30’s Election Resource Website

PDC 30 has developed an online election resource website for members! Visit us online to view important information about the Midterm Election on November 3rd, including important dates, ways to vote, ways to get involved, and our complete list of endorsed candidates running in federal, state, and local elections.



Scan the QR code above, or visit pdc30.com/election2026 today!

PDC 30 Election Resources: Now Available Online!

VISIT US ONLINE FOR:

- ★ Important election dates
- ★ Ways to vote in the Midterm Election
- ★ Details on joining PDC 30’s Political Action Team
- ★ A sample ballot to bring to the polls
- ★ Our complete list of endorsed candidates

**ELECTION DAY:
NOVEMBER 3, 2026**

Message from Steve Ettinger, Director of Governmental Affairs



There is a lot of work to be done across North-Central Illinois, and Painters District Council No. 30 should be a big part of it. Our communities are constantly growing and changing. Schools, public buildings, and bridges need to be built and maintained. Businesses are deciding where to invest and expand. All of that means opportunity for skilled tradespeople, and an opportunity to grow our union along with the communities in which we live and work.

But, as noted on the cover, most projects don't begin when the first worker shows up on the jobsite. They begin months or even years earlier, when someone decides what gets built, where the money will come from, and what standards will apply to the work. Many of those decisions are made right in our communities or in the State's capital of Springfield, which is why state and local politics matter so much to our union.

We care about getting projects built, but we also care about what kind of jobs they create. We care whether workers are paid a fair wage, whether apprentices have an opportunity to learn a trade, whether the work is performed safely, and whether contractors who do things right have a fair chance to compete. Decisions made by elected officials can affect every one of those things.

A big part of my role is making sure PDC 30 is part of those conversations. That means paying attention to where decisions are being made, building relationships with the people making them, and opening doors for members who want to be involved. We want elected officials to know who we are, understand the work our members do, and know why the issues affecting our trades matter.

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There is real value in elected officials hearing directly from the people who do this work. A legislator can hear about prevailing wage or apprenticeship in a meeting, but it means something different coming from someone who can explain what those things mean on an actual jobsite and for their family. Our members are constituents and neighbors, and they know firsthand what a good construction job can mean to a family and a community.

This is one reason why we travel to the Illinois Capitol to educate elected officials about the work we do and what it means to us. The cover of this Special Edition features a few PDC 30 members who are representing you, our members, in Springfield. While we are grateful for their willingness to spend a day doing this work, and they do it well, this kind of outreach to elected officials is something most members can do, and do well.

Getting involved doesn't require becoming a political expert or spending every weekend working on a campaign. It might mean meeting your state representative at the union hall, sitting down with a local candidate, joining a labor walk, or serving on your Local Union Political Committee (see more on Local Union Political Committees on page 4). It means paying attention to what's happening where you live and work. And, of course, it means voting.

I am optimistic about where PDC 30 is headed. Our union has, for many years, been a reliable and enthusiastic participant in governmental affairs in our state and regions. We have always recognized opportunities to create more work, grow our trades, and bring another generation into good union careers. We can't control every decision that affects our future, but we can pay attention to what's happening in our communities and make sure the interests of our members are represented.

That's what I want to help build: a union that has strong relationships in our communities, members who have opportunities to be heard, and a seat at the table when decisions affecting our future are made.



Steve Ettinger speaking in the Illinois Capitol to State Representative Matt Hanson (83rd District). Hanson is seeking re-election in November.

Make a Plan to Vote!

1. VOTE BY MAIL

Registered voters* may request a vote-by-mail ballot by completing the form specific to your county (in person, by mail, or online). Ballot requests must be made by October 29th (earlier is better). Once you receive the ballot, it must be postmarked and returned no later than November 3rd (earlier is better). Request a Vote-by-Mail Ballot from your County Clerk here:



2. VOTE EARLY

You can vote early in person at designated locations throughout each county beginning October 19th. Early voting ends November 2nd. Find early voting locations and dates in your county here:



3. GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION & VOTING

You can register to vote AND submit your vote from October 7th – November 3rd through the Grace Period Registration program. Two forms of identification with at least one showing your current address are required.



4. VOTE IN PERSON ON NOVEMBER 3RD

Polls are open from 6am – 7pm on Election Day. Each voter must vote at their designated polling place. Find your designated polling place here:



* Register to vote *in person* at County Clerk offices until October 6th OR register to vote online until October 18th here:



YOUR LOCAL. YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR VOICE.

Politics doesn't just happen in Washington D.C. and Springfield. Some of the decisions that can have the biggest impact on our work are made much closer to home.

That's why PDC 30's Local Unions are building their own **Local Union Political Committees**.

These committees will give members an opportunity to pay closer attention to what's happening in their communities, meet the people running for office, and help PDC 30 understand the issues and opportunities developing locally.

WHAT WOULD I ACTUALLY DO?

You don't need to be a political expert. We're looking for members who are willing to learn, ask questions, and bring their own perspective to the table.

Committee members may:

- Meet candidates and elected officials and ask questions about the issues affecting our trades.
- Share what they're seeing and hearing about projects, development, and other issues in their community.
- Talk with other members about what's happening in their community and bring those conversations back to the committee.
- Help identify other members who may want to get involved.

Committees will meet prior to Local Union meetings, and PDC 30's Director of Governmental Affairs will stay in regular contact to share information, answer questions, and help connect members with candidates, elected officials, and opportunities to participate.

WHY LOCAL?

We have members spread across communities throughout North-Central Illinois. No one person sitting in an office can know everything happening in Peoria, Bloomington, Aurora, Joliet, DeKalb, Rockford, and every community in between.

You know your community.

You know when a major project is being discussed. You know when something is changing in your town. You may know the person running for city council, county board, or the state legislature – because they're your neighbor, your kid's coach, someone you went to school with, or someone you see around town.

The goal isn't to turn committee members into political operatives. It's to give interested members a way to learn more about the decisions affecting our trades, have a voice in those conversations, and help us build stronger relationships in the communities where we live and work.

Interested? See below for how to get involved.

INTERESTED?

PDC 30 is looking for people who are curious, engaged in their community, and interested in learning more. You don't need previous political experience.

Let us know that you're interested. We'll help you take it from there.



CONSIDER THIS: What Does Politics Have to Do with Your Job?

PROBABLY MORE THAN YOU THINK! *Here are a few things to think about...*

YOUR PAYCHECK

ILLINOIS PREVAILING WAGE IS STATE LAW.	On covered public works projects, Illinois law requires contractors and subcontractors to pay workers at least the prevailing wage for their trade and locality, including fringe benefits. That protection didn't happen by accident. Laws can be passed, strengthened, weakened, or repealed depending on the people we elect to make them.
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YOUR HOURS

\$50.6 BILLION	That's how much Illinois currently has programmed for transportation infrastructure over the next six years, including \$32.5 billion for roads and bridges. This funding represents projects that have to be built and maintained, and the potential for millions of hours of work across the construction trades.
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THE NEXT GENERATION

10%	On qualifying state-funded public works projects of \$500,000 or more, Illinois has established a goal for registered apprentices to perform 10% of the labor hours in each prevailing-wage classification. The state is also investing more than \$17 million this year in pre-apprenticeship programs designed to prepare nearly 2,000 people for careers in construction and the building trades. Decisions made today help determine whether there is a strong pipeline of skilled tradespeople tomorrow.
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YOUR SAFETY

191 YEARS	At current staffing and inspection levels, it would take federal OSHA an estimated 191 years to inspect every workplace under its jurisdiction once. Federal OSHA had just 618 inspectors in fiscal year 2025, the lowest number in the agency's history. Safety rules matter. So does having enough people to enforce them.
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YOUR VOTE

47 VOTES	That's all that separated the two candidates for Illinois House District 52 in 2024. Nearly 59,000 people voted. The winner was decided by 47 votes. And sometimes the margin is even smaller. In Aurora's 7th Ward aldermanic election in 2025, the difference was just 25 votes.
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WHAT DO WE LOOK FOR IN A CANDIDATE?

These are the issues we talk about when we sit down with candidates asking for our support. We want to know where they stand on prevailing wage, investments that create work, apprenticeship, worker safety, and the other issues that affect our trades.

We don't expect to agree with every candidate on everything. An endorsement means we've asked the questions, looked at their record when they have one, and believe they'll stand with us on the issues that matter to our work.

PDC 30 Members in Springfield

PDC 30 members traveled to the Illinois Capitol in Springfield on April 15, 2026 and joined members of PDC 14 for a "Springfield Day of Action."



Benefits Workshop

PDC 30's Benefits Office is once again holding a comprehensive full-day Benefits Workshop.*

Saturday, November 7, 2026
7:30am – 3:45pm

PDC 30 Headquarters, Aurora

Invitations will be sent to actively working PDC 30 members. Advanced registration is required. May choose one or more sessions to attend. Sessions in English and Spanish.

*Held previously in 2017, 2019, and 2023.

7:30am | Check-in and breakfast

8:15am | Health Plan I

How members become and remain eligible, what is covered, and when prior authorization is needed

10am | Health Plan II

How to most effectively use the Health Plan to get the most coverage and best care possible

11:15am | Lunch and retirement planning session

12pm | Pension Plan

How the Pension Plan works; how a pension is earned and paid out; estimating your pension

1:45pm | PDC 30 RSP

How PDC 30's Retirement Savings Plan (RSP) – a 401(k) plan - works

Candidate Spotlight

Both new and familiar faces, each of these candidates brings something unique to the issues that matter to our members. Their backgrounds range from union leadership and legislative experience to local government, education, and small business, giving each a different perspective on the decisions made in Springfield.

Ricky Rivard

Candidate for State Representative | District 65



Ricky Rivard brings a mix of professional and community experience to the race for State Representative in Illinois' 65th District. He works in real estate and higher education and serves as chair of the St. Charles Township 708 Mental Health Board. His campaign focuses on economic security, public education, healthcare, and bringing investment and economic development to the communities he hopes to represent.

The race also puts issues affecting construction workers directly on the ballot. The 65th District is currently represented by Dan Ugaste, whose lifetime Illinois AFL-CIO voting record is 27%. In 2025, Ugaste voted against legislation involving

prevailing wage, worker safety protections, and project labor agreements. Those issues are directly connected to the work performed by PDC 30 members.

Rivard has emphasized the importance of economic development and making sure state investment reaches the communities of the 65th District. Those priorities provide an important contrast in a district where many of labor's priorities have not received support from the current representative.

"I am honored to have the support of my brothers and sisters in labor," says Rivard. "Together, we flip the seat on November 3rd and ensure our working families have someone they can depend on in Springfield."

Michele Clark

Candidate for State Senate | District 33



Michele Clark's background includes experience as a small-business owner and nonprofit leader. She previously operated an early childhood learning center and later served as COO of the Boys & Girls Club of Dundee Township. Her work has kept her closely connected to families, young people, and the challenges communities face in preparing the next generation for successful careers.

Clark has made expanding apprenticeship opportunities part of her campaign. She has called for stronger partnerships among local businesses, trade schools, and universities to give young people more paths to well-paid careers. Registered apprenticeships are already doing exactly that in the building trades. They allow people to earn while they learn, develop valuable skills, and build a career without requiring a traditional four-year college degree.

Developing the next generation of skilled workers affects more than the future of our trades. It strengthens our contractors, creates opportunities for young people, and helps communities build the workforce needed to attract new investment. Clark's focus on apprenticeship and workforce development makes those issues an important part of her campaign for the 33rd District.

"In the General Assembly, I want to bring more trades and apprenticeship programs to Illinois so that anyone willing to work hard can get a good-paying job," shares Clark. "I am excited to work with unions to increase and create apprenticeship programs and strengthen partnerships between local businesses, trade schools, and universities. I know how important labor and our unions are in ensuring that our young adults are equipped with the skills they need to succeed in today's economy, and I am ready to protect and grow these opportunities."



Races We Are Watching Closely

Erica Bray-Parker

Candidate for State Representative | District 47



A longtime high-school civics teacher, who has also served on the Wheaton City Council since 2019, Bray-Parker has a strong record supporting investments in roads, sidewalks, water and sewer systems, and stormwater infrastructure while maintaining city services and managing the costs of those investments. She supports using public investment to strengthen local economic development, including improvements to Wheaton's downtown and transportation infrastructure and efforts to secure outside grant funding for needed projects.

Representative Suzanne Ness

State Representative | District 66



A record that speaks for itself, Ness has served District 66 since 2021, with an Illinois AFL-CIO rating of 88% lifetime voting record. In 2025, she voted with the AFL-CIO position on 100% of tracked legislation, including bills affecting prevailing wage, project labor agreements, worker safety standards, and collective bargaining protections. Experience as a small-business owner and member of the McHenry County Board, her record in Springfield is strong for working people and the building trades.

Jared Ploger

Candidate for State Senate | District 42



Ploger brings experience representing union members as a teacher and president of Valley View Council Local 604 of the American Federation of Teachers. He has also served on the Oswego Community Unit School District 308 Board of Education. Collective bargaining, wages, benefits, and workplace representation are regular subjects of his work. His campaign priorities include supporting workers, investing in public education, addressing household costs, and investing in local communities.

Pre-apprenticeship Programming Continues at the NCIFTI



The HIRE 360 IL Works Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship Program was an 8-week pre-apprenticeship funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity and held at PDC 30's NCIFTI this summer. Building on its pre-apprenticeship programming experience and strong relationships within Illinois' workforce development community, the NCIFTI was chosen to partner with HIRE 360 to facilitate a cohort that graduated June 2, 2026. The program covered opportunities available within all building trades; four graduates have thus far been placed with PDC 30 signatory employers.



PDC 30 Ballot Guide Election Day: November 3, 2026

Note: PDC 30's list of preferred candidates is based on a thoughtful and consistent review process. We meet directly with candidates to learn about their priorities, review how they've voted on issues affecting working people, and evaluate their responses to surveys on jobs, wages, and worker protections. Taken together, this helps us identify candidates who most closely align with our values as a union and who we believe are best positioned to deliver strong outcomes for our members. In some races, you may notice that we have not identified a preferred candidate. This is because: a) more than one candidate in the race aligns with our values, or b) the candidates in that race did not meet our standards for support. In those cases, we encourage you to learn more about the candidates and make the choice that's right for you.

US Senate (statewide)

✓ Senator: Juliana Stratton

IL Executive (statewide)

✓ Governor: JB Pritzker
✓ Lt. Governor: Christian Mitchell
✓ Attorney General: Kwame Raoul
✓ Secretary of State:
Alexi Giannoulias
✓ Treasurer: Michael Frerichs
✓ Comptroller: Margaret Croke

US Congress (by District)

✓ 1st - Jonathan Jackson
✓ 2nd - Donna Miller
✓ 3rd - Delia Ramirez
✓ 4th - Patty Garcia
✓ 6th - Sean Casten
✓ 8th - Melissa Bean
✓ 9th - Daniel Biss
✓ 10th - Brad Schneider
✓ 11th - Bill Foster
✓ 14th - Lauren Underwood
✓ 15th - Jennifer Todd
✓ 17th - Eric Sorensen

IL State Senate (by District)

✓ 15th - Napoleon Harris III
✓ 17th - Elgie Sims, Jr.
✓ 21st - Laura Ellman
✓ 23rd - Suzy Glowiak Hilton
✓ 24th - Seth Lewis
✓ 26th - Nabeela Syed
✓ 33rd - Michele Clark
✓ 36th - Mike Halpin
✓ 39th - Don Harmon
✓ 42nd - Jared Ploger

IL State House (by District)

✓ 7th - Emanuel Chris Welch
✓ 29th - Thaddeus Jones
✓ 34th - Cleopatra Cowley
✓ 41st - Janet Yang Rohr
✓ 42nd - Lynn LaPlante
✓ 43rd - Anna Moeller
✓ 45th - Martha Deuter
✓ 46th - Diane Blair-Sherlock
✓ 47th - Erica Bray-Parker
✓ 48th - Jennifer Sanalitto
✓ 49th - Maura Hirschauer
✓ 50th - Barbara Hernandez

IL State House, *continued*

✓ 52nd - Maria Peterson
✓ 56th - Michelle Mussman
✓ 65th - Ricky Rivard
✓ 66th - Suzanne Ness
✓ 67th - Maurice West
✓ 68th - Dave Vella
✓ 70th - Veronica Garcia-Martinez
✓ 77th - Norma Hernandez
✓ 81st - Anne Stava
✓ 82nd - Nicole La Ha
✓ 83rd - Matt Hanson
✓ 84th - Saba Haider
✓ 91st - Sharon Chung
✓ 92nd - Jehan Gordon-Booth
✓ 97th - Jessica Dixon Heitman

Judicial (by District)

✓ 3rd Appellate: Margaret "Peggy"
O'Connell

**Scan the QR code
to connect to
PDC 30's election
resource website.**



Cut this page out to help you cast votes for labor-friendly candidates.

