



Nebraska State AFL-CIO
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NEWSLETTER

Week ending August 26, 2022

From the Desk of President Martin

Each year, Labor Day signals the end of summer and the approaching school year. But the annual holiday is about so much more than an evening by the pool or grilling in the backyard with friends—it's about honoring the working people and the labor movement who make this day off possible.

Right now, union organizers across the country are fighting not just for dignity and respect on the job, but to ensure our right to vote—a fundamental cornerstone of our country's democracy—is protected.



(2021 SeptemberFest: Salute to Labor Parade, Omaha, NE)

Organizing gives us a chance to have our voices heard—to call out the powerful—at work and at the ballot box. But some politicians and special interests are eroding the right of Americans to vote and have a voice in our elections, and we simply cannot afford to ignore what is unfolding at breakneck speed across this country right now.

Our right to vote gives us the opportunity to elect legislators who will prioritize working families, not corporate billionaires. And contrary to what some may claim, voter suppression laws do nothing to

protect democracy or stop the manufactured crisis of voter fraud. Instead, they create voting barriers that harm historically disenfranchised groups, such as women, minorities, seniors and people with disabilities. These laws do nothing to solve real problems.



Workers are fed up, and we're ready to fight to protect our freedoms, including the right to vote, that are central to America's promise. Today, on Labor Day, tomorrow and every day forward, we must raise our voices and demand a fair democracy for all. This includes electing candidates to office that support working families and all of their issues.

Happy Labor Day to my sisters and brothers who support all workers, ensuring fairness and dignity in the workplace. Happy Labor Day to all workers who are willing to organize and create a better life for themselves and their families.

Messages from AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler

Heading into the election, it's our job to make sure everyone knows about the incredible progress we've made, to break down the details and tell people how they will benefit from what we've achieved with pro-labor leaders in office.

And when I say we, I mean every single one of you. Union members have a critical role to play in this election. We may be the only institution out there that can get through to people and break through the echo chambers.

We won't give up. Not when our brothers, sisters and siblings need us, not when our freedoms are put in jeopardy, and not when our pro-worker majority is on the line. Let's keep fighting and let's keep winning.

Organizing is the model for our Labor 2022 campaign. We're taking those traditional union organizing techniques we know so well—those relational organizing tactics that build on trusted relationships—and bringing them to our political work.

We are getting back to basics, back to those worksites and back to one-on-one conversations. People have never been more polarized, but we know how to break through to them, and we may be the only people who can do it.

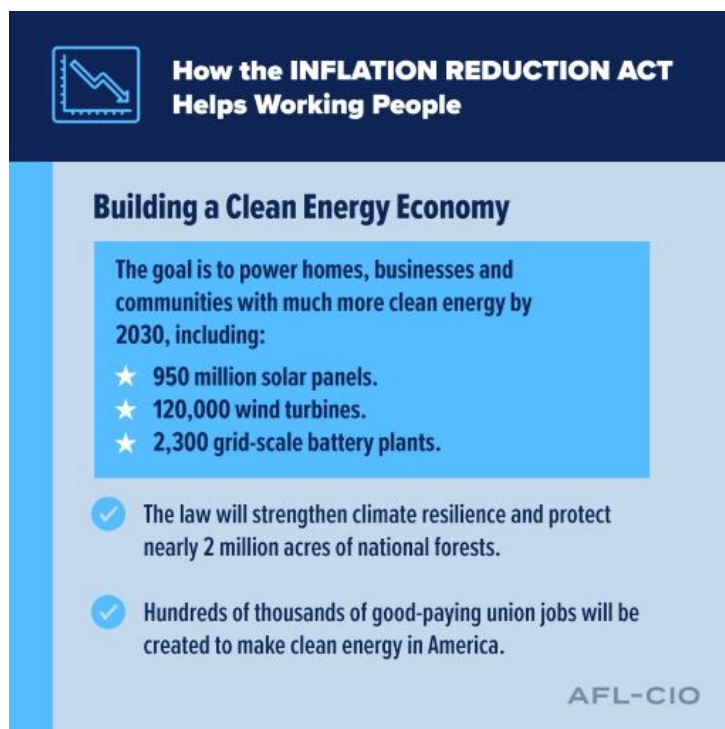
We need to get back to our roots and talk with our members about the issues that they care about, build on that trust and listen to their concerns. We can find common ground and continue making real progress.


Unions are fighting for and winning better policies and better standards for the workers who keep our country going. The bipartisan infrastructure law, the CHIPS Act, the Inflation Reduction Act—each of these laws is a tremendous step forward for working people.

The Inflation Reduction Act is going to help us strengthen our middle class, protect our environment, and cut the costs of prescription drugs and health care premiums. This is a huge win for seniors, for working people and for future generations.

And because we—as a labor movement—fought for the bill to include labor standards and domestic content requirements, it's going to create millions of good-paying, family-supporting union jobs for generations.

Now, it's our job to make sure people know about our incredible victories.



 **How the INFLATION REDUCTION ACT Helps Working People**

Building a Clean Energy Economy

The goal is to power homes, businesses and communities with much more clean energy by 2030, including:

- ★ 950 million solar panels.
- ★ 120,000 wind turbines.
- ★ 2,300 grid-scale battery plants.

✓ The law will strengthen climate resilience and protect nearly 2 million acres of national forests.

✓ Hundreds of thousands of good-paying union jobs will be created to make clean energy in America.

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“Will of the People” vs. Congressional Actions

NEBRASKA EXAMINER: STEVE CORBIN

AUGUST 18, 2022 4:00 AM



Voters casting ballots. (Mario Tama/Getty Images)

According to the most recent data from Pew

Research Center, National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times and CNN Polls, only 21% of Americans say they trust the government in Washington, D.C., to do what is right. The headline from Dante Chinni's June 10 NBC News article sums it up: "Americans agree on one thing — DC isn't getting the job done."

Thanks to tainted social media, prejudice-laden cable news, biased left- and right-wing think tanks and the disinformation and misinformation provided by politicians and their party, one can only surmise Americans are greatly divided.

The surprising reality is Democrats, Republicans and independents agree on more issues — about 150 — than they disagree.

Here are some examples:

Abortion: Sixty-one percent of Americans think abortion should be legal in all or most cases ([Pew Research Center, June 13](#)).

LGBTQ+: Gallup notes in a [June 2022 report](#) that 70% of Americans support marriage between people of the same sex.

Gun control: Background checks are approved by 89% of the public. Banning assault weapons has 63% support, 64% want to ban high-capacity magazines and 60% want to have a nationwide database to track gun sales ([ABC News, May 27](#)).

Voting: Data for Progress reveals 66% of voters want to prevent state lawmakers from overturning elections, 60% support universal vote-by-mail and a majority want to make it easier to vote ([Sept. 24, 2021](#)).

Health care: Providing Medicare for all Americans to ensure everyone has health care coverage garners 69% support ([The Hill, April 24, 2020](#)).

Cannabis: NORML reveals from its [April 8 research](#) that 68% of Americans support legalizing cannabis, plus 60% favor expunging cannabis-related convictions.

Racial justice: Eighty-six percent of citizens agree that racism is a problem, and 87% believe that books that discuss race or slavery should never be banned ([CBS News, Feb. 22](#)).

Taxes: An Oct. 16, 2021, Vox article notes [71% of voters](#) support raising taxes on the wealthiest 2% of Americans.

The Program for Public Consultation at the University of Maryland released an Aug. 7, 2020, report identifying [nearly 150 issues](#) on which the majority of Republicans and Democrats agree, including:

Social Security: Raising the cap on income subject to the payroll tax to \$215,000 or more.

Poverty programs: Increasing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funding.

Energy and environment: Reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 2% a year and providing tax incentives to promote clean energy.

Government reform: Overturn the Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court and regulate campaign financing.

International trade: The U.S. should continue participating in the World Trade Organization and rejoin the Trans-Pacific Partnership that former President Donald Trump abandoned in 2017.

Federal budget: Roll back the tax cuts from President Trump's disastrous 2017 tax bill, impose a 4% surtax on income over \$5 million and add a 1% surtax on corporate income over \$100 million. Let's face it. Polarization has largely been brought on by political parties wanting to be in control and — let's not forget — ego-driven and power-hungry politicians.

Examine the issues identified above and note if your legislator is going counter to the “Will of the People.” If so, as Peggy Noonan — revered conservative journalist of The Wall Street Journal — stated in her July 27 op-ed, “vote the bums out.” If your legislator's voting record is in accordance with the majority of Americans, do your level best to insure their re-election.

Americans of all political persuasions are together on over 150 issues. But, now — more so than ever — we must have legislators who represent us before their party. For them to do otherwise is a dereliction of duty.

IRONWORKERS LOCAL 21 CLASS OF 2022



Graduating Class of 2022

Left to right standing: Bill Fuller, Jose Montes, Aaron Roys, Jason Edwards, Josh Williams, Shane Spellman, Shawn Jennings, John Gendregske, Josh Ohara, Zac Borrenpohl, Jackson Farris, Edgar Mendez, Bob Grothe, Jason Willey
Left to right kneeling: Nolan Bailey, Andrew Meeker, Jason Paczkowski, Dane Groenke, Tyler Jones, Joe Broich, Mike Robaszekiewicz, Tyler Seals

Congratulations to the 2022 Ironworkers Graduating Class!

(Left to right Standing: Bill Fuller, Jose Montes, Aaron Roys, Jason Edwards, Josh Williams, Shane Spellman, Shawn Jennings, John Gendregske, Josh Ohara, Zac Borrenpohl, Jackson Farris, Edgar Mendez, Bob Grothe, Jason Willey
Left to right Kneeling: Nolan Bailey, Andrew Meeker, Jason Paczkowski, Dane Groenke, Tyler Jones, Joe Broich, Mike Robaszekiewicz, Tyler Seals)

UA Steamfitters & Plumbers Local Union 464



CONGRATULATIONS to Morgan Shumaker. He was presented The Allyn Parmenter and George Bliss UA Directors of Training Award at the 2022 United Association Apprentice Competition. Brother Shumaker has been recognized as the Apprentice Contestant who demonstrates exceptional leadership and honors the ideals set forth by the standard for excellence.

The Inflation Reduction Act
does not raise taxes
on Americans making less
than \$400,000 a year.



How the INFLATION REDUCTION ACT Helps Working People

Cutting Prescription Drug Costs

Americans pay two to three times more
for prescription drugs than people in other countries.

- ✓ 5 million to 7 million Medicare beneficiaries could see prescription drug costs go down, due to the provision allowing Medicare to negotiate prescription drug costs.
- ✓ 3.3 million Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes get a guarantee that their insulin costs are capped at \$35 for one month's supply.

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CENTRAL NEBRASKA CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL ANNUAL PICNIC

Hotdogs, hamburgers, and drinks
will be provided!

Bring any snacks/drinks you'd like!
We can't wait to see you there!
All family members welcome.

WHEN?

Wednesday,
September 28, 2022
5:30 PM

WHERE?

Stolley Park
2103 W. Stolley Park Rd
Grand Island, NE 68801
Picnic Area next to Kid's Kingdom

Only Action Leads to Success



You're invited to a Birthday Bash

James is turning 34!

Join us as we celebrate James' 34th with some food and fun out in Havelock's favorite pizza spot – The Isles Pub and Pizza!

Suggested donation: \$34

What: Birthday Bash for James Michael Bowers

Where: The Isles Pub and Pizza (6232 Havelock Ave, Lincoln, NE 68507)

When: Thursday, September 1 at 5:30pm

Thank you to our generous hosts and sponsors!

Gold

Airport Authority Board Member Nick Cusick
Richard Dinsmore
Scott Hatfield
Susan Scott

Silver

City Councilman Bennie Shobe
LPS Board of Education Member Connie Duncan
LPS Board of Education Member Dr Bob Rauner
Fmr City Councilman Carl Eskridge
Beth Ann Brooks
Maggie Gossard Thompson
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Meg Mikolajczyk
Lin Quenzer
Joe Shaw
Rodney Vicek

(NOTE: Copied from an on-line invitation.)

Danielle
Conrad
LEGISLATURE

Please join our hosts

Andy Holland, Sara Achelpohl, Ann Ashford,
Carol Bloch, Daniel Gutman, Dianne Logier,
Deb Love, Senator John McCollister,
State School Board Member Deb Neary, RJ & Liz Neary,
Public Service Commissioner Crystal Rhoades,
Hadley Richters, Carol Russell, Annette Smith,
Todd Simon, Regent Barbara Weitz, Katie Weitz, PhD,
Tom & Jennifer Pansing, Jeremy Nordquist, and
Women Who Run Nebraska to support our friend

Senator Danielle Conrad

Candidate for the Nebraska Legislature

Thursday, August 25, 2022
5:30-7:00pm

Andy Holland's Home
726 North 56th Street
Omaha, NE 68132

Hors D'oeuvres, Beer, Wine, and Refreshments Provided
Suggested Donation: \$100

Can't join us? Please donate online at
Conradforlegislature.net

Paid for by Danielle Conrad for Legislature



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS!

Date	Sponsor	Event	Time	Location	City
8/28/2022	Lincoln Central Labor Union	Saltdogs Baseball UNION DAY	1:05pm	Hawks Field at Haymarket Park	Lincoln
9/5/2022	SeptemberFest	Salute to Labor Parade	11:00am	Downtown	Omaha
9/10/2022	IBEW Local 265	Golf Tournament	9:00am	6800 Woodland Hills Dr.	Eagle
9/10/2022	Midwest Nebraska CLC	Solidarity Day	11:00am	Lincoln County Fairgrounds	North Platte
9/17/2022	Omaha Bldg & Construction Trades	22 nd Annual DAD's Day 4 Person Scramble Golf Event	9:00am	Tara Hills Golf Course	Papillion
9/21/2022	NALC Branch 5	MDA Golf Tournament	8:00am	Tregaron Golf Course	Bellevue
9/28/2022	Central NE CLC	Annual Picnic	5:30pm	Stolley Park 2103 W Stolley Park Rd	Grand Island
11/8/2022	General Election	Elections Across the State	8am-8pm CDT	The State of Nebraska	Nebraska

Please share your Local's event highlights with us!

If your Local Union or Central Body had an event or upcoming events that you want shared on in our Newsletter and Calendar of Events, please send them to Lori Meyers, Communications Director/Mobization Coordinator at: comms@neaf-cio.org or call 402-310-1952