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The PATH to a MERIT Shop Majority

ALSO INSIDE: MEMBERS ATTEND ABC Michigan State Legislative Day



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EXECUTIVE PERSPECTIVE



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Tom Vitale Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge Western Michigan Chapter ur ability to shape the future of Michigan is at a critical juncture. With 54 merit shop-friendly legislators in the State House, we're just two short of the number needed to halt the influx of detrimental legislation we've witnessed. In 2022, a mere 1,500 more votes could have secured our position at 56, ensuring a promising future for ABC members in Michigan.

ABC of Michigan spent countless hours interviewing candidates, discussing the races in over 60 of the state's 110 state house districts, and has endorsed many candidates while also deciding to let a handful of races play out without an endorsement because several candidates in the race met the requirements to be considered a merit shop champion. ABC Michigan recently released those publicly and you'll find a copy of that guide inside this magazine.

We encourage you to find one of those candidates close to your region, reach out to them, and meet them yourselves. You can also write a check, knock on some doors, and make some phone calls. Never forget how close we were in 2022. One more door, one more phone call, and one more \$20 check might change the outlook for our entire industry.

ABC of Michigan will take a hands-on approach in key districts across the state this election. Opportunities to participate in group door-knocking days will pop up in the late summer and early fall, and it is vitally important for you, our members, to get involved. There is no better way to win a vote than a one-on-one conversation with a voter.

ABC members know the saying, 'Get into politics or get out of business.' Unfortunately, 2023 and 2024 have proven that quote to be truer than ever. Luckily, we have an opportunity to get into politics and get our state back on track.

For the merit shop,

Shane Hernandez



MEMBERS ATTEND ABC Michigan State Legislative Day

The Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of Michigan recently hosted its highly anticipated State Legislative Day on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 in Lansing. This event brought together a diverse group of nearly 100 attendees, including ABC members and lawmakers, for a morning filled with insightful discussions and impactful sessions.









STATE LEGISLATIVE DAY HIGHLIGHTS

The State Legislative Day, provided a unique opportunity for participants to engage with key legislative matters and connect with industry peers. The agenda featured:

Senate Candidate Panel: The event commenced with a dynamic panel discussion involving Senate candidates such as Peter Meijer, Glenn Wilson, and Michael Hoover. Additionally, a lineup of notable US House candidates shared their perspectives on critical issues.

Senate & House Labor Committee Members: Attendees had the privilege of interacting with influential figures like State Representative Tom Kunse and Senator Thomas Albert, who offered valuable insights into labor committee proceedings.

HRCC Update: State Representatives Andrew Beeler and Bill Schuette Jr. provided attendees with updates from the House Republican Campaign Committee, shedding light on important developments within the political landscape.

The day concluded with a lunch, allowing participants to reflect on the day's discussions and forge meaningful connections within the industry.



FOSTERING COLLABORATION AND ADVOCACY

With nearly 100 individuals in attendance, the State Legislative Day served as a platform for constructive dialogue, collaboration, and advocacy within the ABC community. By engaging with legislators, candidates, and industry leaders, attendees gained valuable insights and strengthened their commitment to advancing policies that benefit the construction sector in Michigan.

As ABC members reflect on the enriching experiences from the State Legislative Day, they are poised to leverage the knowledge gained and the connections made to drive positive change and influence decision-making processes affecting the industry.









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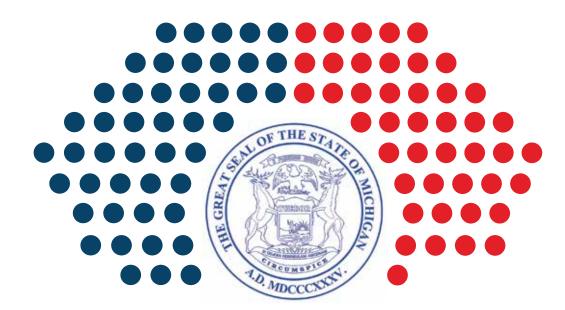


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The PATH to a MERIT Shop Majority

10 DISTRICTS that will **Determine Control of the MICHIGAN HOUSE**





MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Voters will go to the polls **for all seats in the Michigan House of Representatives** **Control of the Michigan House and Senate flipped from Republican to Democrat** in the 2022 election and Governor Gretchen Whitmer won her reelection, giving Democrats their first "trifecta" in 40 years. This shift in power has brought significant change in public policy including the passing of a new prevailing wage law as well as the introduction of bills to repeal the state's ban on project labor agreements, limit the use of independent contractors and reduce the number of on-the-job training opportunities for apprentices.

In 2024, a handful of districts will determine if Michigan continues on an anti-merit shop path or if bipartisanship through divided government will slow the onslaught of legislation negatively affecting ABC of Michigan members.

DISTRICT PROFILES – TIER I



Representative Jaime Churches

First term Representative, former teacher and union vice president



Rilee Linting

Former Michigan Republican Party Youth Chair, current Motor City Field Representative for Turning Point Action

House District 27

Representative Jaime Churches vs Riley Linting (ABC Endorsed)

2022 Results:

Jaime Churches (D) 50.8%

Bob Howey (R) 49.2%

Region: ABC Southeast MI

District Location: Parts of Wayne County, including Gibraltar, Grosse Ile Township, Riverview, Southgate, Trenton and Wyandotte

Race Outlook: House District 27 is a bluecollar district where Donald Trump will perform well. With a margin of victory of only 1.6% without Trump on the ballot in 2022, this district is sure to be one of the closest races, and one of the best pickup opportunities for a merit shop majority in 2024.

House District 44

Representative Jim Haadsma vs Steve Frisbie (ABC Endorsed)

2022 Results:

Jim Haadsma (D) 52.2%

Dave Morgan (R) 47.8%

Region: ABC Greater MI

District Location: Cities of Battle Creek, Albion, and Springfield, and the townships of Bedford, Pennfield, Convis, Lee, Clarence and Sheridan.

Race Outlook: The 44th House District has been elusive for Republicans who have tried to win the district for the past 3 terms. With that said, Representative Haadsma has faced the same Republican opponent in every election and will be facing a new challenger in 2024. On top of a new, motivated opponent, Donald Trump has performed very well in the 44th House District in the past.



Representative Jim Haadsma

Third term Representative and Chair of the House Labor Committee. Haadsma has worked at McCroskey Law P.L.C. since 1987. He served on the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners from 2009-2016.



Steve Frisbie

40 years at LifeCare Ambulance Service as a paramedic and management and administration. Calhoun County Commissioner for the past 13 years, including Board Chair from 2019-2023.



Representative Kathy Schmaltz

First term Representative. 6 and 11 p.m. news anchor, a writer, and the associate news director of community relations at WILX-TV 10, the NBC affiliate in Lansing, for 14 years



Daniel Mahoney Daniel is currently serving as the Mayor of the City of Jackson.

House District 46

Representative Kathy Schmaltz (ABC Endorsed) vs Daniel Mahoney

2022 Results:

Kathy Schmaltz (R) 54.4% Maurice Imhoff (D) 45.6%

Region: ABC Greater MI and Southeast MI

District Location: City of Jackson, Blackman and Leoni townships, and parts of Grass Lake and Summit townships in Jackson County, as well as the city of Chelsea and Sylvan Township in Washtenaw County.

Race Outlook: The 46th House District is one of the two most likely districts where a merit shop friendly candidate could be unseated by a challenger. Don't be fooled by the 2022 results. After challenger Maruice Imhoff had some serious allegations from his past arise in the campaign, he withdrew from the race and still managed to get over 45% of the vote. This is a true 50/50 district and could become the most expensive House race in the state.

DISTRICT PROFILES TIER 2

House District 28

Representative Jamie Thompson (ABC Endorsed) vs Janise Robinson Region: ABC Southeast MI

House District 31

Representative Reggie Miller vs Dale Binecki (ABC Endorsed) Region: ABC Southeast MI

House District 38

Representative Joey Andrews vs Kevin Whiteford (ABC Endorsed) Region: ABC Western MI

House District 55

Representative Mark Tisdel (ABC Endorsed) vs Trevis Harrold Region: ABC Southeast MI

House District 54

Representative Donni Steele (ABC Endorsed) vs Shadia Martini

2022 Results:

Donni Steele (R) 51.2% Shadia Martini (D) 48.8%

Region: ABC Southeast MI

District Location: City of Bloomfield Hills, Orion Township, a portion of the city of Auburn Hills, and portions of Bloomfield Township and Oakland Township

Race Outlook: The 54th House District will be a rematch of 2022. This bodes well for the incumbent considering 2022 was not a great year for Republicans, but Oakland County is quickly changing and is not a stronghold for Donald Trump. Retaining Representative Steele will prove to be one of the most important races in the state for winning a merit shop majority.



House District 58

Representative Nate Shannon vs Ron Robinson (ABC Endorsed) Region: ABC Southeast MI

House District 62

Representative Alicia St. Germaine (ABC Endorsed) vs Michelle Levine-Woodman Region: ABC Southeast MI



Representative Donni Steele

First term Representative. She worked as an associate broker, assistant manager, property manager, and realtor at Partridge & Associates — a local independent real estate firm. Later, she became part owner of Coldwell Banker Shooltz Realty in Oxford



Shadia Martini

Shadia attended the University of Michigan and received her M.B.A. in 1996. She now owns her own real estate brokerage, construction company, and medical spa, all operating in southeast Michigan

House District 83

Tommy Brann (ABC Endorsed) vs Representative John Fitzgerald Region: ABC Western MI

House District 103

Representative Betsy Coffia vs Lisa Trombley (ABC Endorsed) Region: ABC Western MI



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BUSINESS NEWS



Keep Construction Workers Gafe in the Heat

BY RYAN BUTLER

Heat is the enemy when it comes to construction labor. Enduring the hot days of summer can be brutal for workers in thick gear, doing physical labor. It can be the cause of serious injury, accelerated fatigue, decreased productivity and more.

he heat is the enemy when it comes to construction and industrial labor. Enduring the hot days of the summer can be brutal for workers in thick gear, doing physical labor. It can be the cause of serious injury, accelerated fatigue, decreased productivity and more.

While you can't necessarily see the heat or humidity, this invisible enemy takes a toll on employees at every level of the construction industry. For example, heat injuries can make a drastic monetary impact. Employers spend \$220 billion annually on injuries and illnesses related to heat. Keeping workers safe from the heat also results in higher productivity levels. Higher productivity is more cost efficient.

Even though heat injuries happen so frequently, they are 100% preventable. Simple implementation of new practices to promote heat acclimatization, the process of the body adapting to its hot environment to maintain performance, and emerging PPE technology could be the difference in saving money, time and workers. Some recommendations at jobsites to promote heat safety and acclimatization include, but are not limited to the following.

Gradually increase the workload: This is especially important within the first few weeks that work starts back up. As workers flood to jobsites in hordes after quarantine, they must allow for proper heat acclimatization before rushing into things. The first few days in the heat prove to be especially dangerous for those not properly acclimatized, so increasing work incrementally, as well as slowly adding more clothing layers, is an effective strategy for heat safety.

Taking more breaks: It is important that these breaks are taken in a cooler location with fluids for hydration available. Ultimately, it may seem like workers aren't being as productive if they are taking frequent breaks, but this is not true, as these breaks are important in the heat acclimatization process and on really hot, humid days. A rested worker will be much more efficient than a worker struggling in the heat.

Hydrating properly: Workers need to be drinking water frequently, whether on a break or not. OSHA and NIOSH recommend workers drink eight ounces every 15 minutes throughout the work day.

Lighter uniform: While it may be difficult to require a lighter uniform on the job due to occupational hazards, using lighter clothing in the first few weeks back on the job will allow for more sweat to evaporate, which will help to keep core body temperature lower during work. Be aware of the elements: Check the weather frequently throughout the day and plan accordingly, as the risk of injury can increase not only with temperature, but humidity levels and radiative heat loads.

Many of these practices are recommended by governing bodies of worker health and safety such as OSHA. Unfortunately, as of now, only three states, California, Minnesota and Washington, have OSHA standards set in place. That being said, the majority of workers are operating in extreme environments without the proper protection or training.

Source: www.constructionexec.com/article/ keep-construction-workers-safe-in-the-heat New technology enables supervisors at jobsites to monitor their workers in a live view while also being able to alert them if they're overexerting themselves in the heat. Since each individual reacts to the intense heat in a different manner, using smart personal PPE devices is an effective way to keep track of each worker's health in the heat.

This is possible through devices that track workers' physiological responses like core body temperature and heart rate. If each worker is using a device, their chances of getting injured from the heat are far lesser. If heat exhaustion is suspected (based on raised core body temperature and heart rate), a supervisor could alert the worker to stop work and cool off/replenish fluids. In the wake of COVID-19, certain devices may be implemented to provide continuous fever monitoring.

Since 2020 is projected to be the hottest year on record, it is of utmost importance that industrial workers are staying safe in the heat. Billions of dollars are spent fixing these catastrophic heat injuries that really shouldn't be happening at all. Heat injuries and illnesses can and should be prevented at a much higher rate. These simple solutions could do just the trick.





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ABC'S GREAT LAKES BAY REGIONAL FUNDRAISER

To Benefit MAKE-A-WISH MICHIGAN Raises \$30,000

BC Greater Michigan Chapter hosted its Great Lakes Bay Regional Fundraiser to Benefit Make-A-Wish Friday, April 21 at the Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center, Midland. Approximately 240 guests joined the community in honoring children bravely facing their health challenges.

Craig Lang of Garber Chevrolet Midland served as the event's honorary chair and enjoyed the power of gifting hope and granting wishes.

"My wife Lori and I have been supporting MAW for a very long time. We are thrilled ABC Greater Michigan make this organization one of their big efforts every year. It's a great way to touch children with critical illnesses to make their wishes come true," Lang said.

This year's event raised \$30,000 for Make-A-Wish Michigan. A wish granting helps kids look past their limitations, families overcome anxiety and entire communities experience more joy. Most importantly, wishes can improve a child's quality of life.

ABC sponsored a Wish Family from Mt. Pleasant. Parker, 12, has a genetic disease called cystic fibrosis, which has no cure. Parker has had many surgeries and hospital stays in his young life. He is required to have daily treatments that include chest percussion therapy and he takes many medications every day to maintain his health. Despite his challenges, Parker is a very happy, caring and intelligent young man. He and his family will head to Hawaii in June as Parker's wish was to go to the Mauna Kea Observatory.

Next year's event is set for April 19, 2024, at the Great Hall. 🂐



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25,000 sq ft Building Gerves as SECOND PERMANENT SEMCA CAMPUS

he Southeast Michigan Construction Academy officially opened the doors to the trade school on February 29. The grand opening ceremony hosted more than 250 people interested in seeing the state-of-the-art facility and exploring their career options in construction.

School staff was joined by Westland City officials, including council members, Westland deputy mayor James Godbout and Wayne/Westland schools superintendent Dr. John Dignan to celebrate the beginning of a new era of construction.

"When I walked in the door today, my breath was taken away. It's unbelievable how this facility has turned out," Dignan said. "The best things in this community, region and state were built by men and women in the skilled trades. The kids and young adults in our communities are going to have opportunities to have access to starting careers right away and honor the blue-collar history that is Westland, Michigan." The school was open to the public for tours and to learn about the different skilled trades programs offered. SEMCA instructors set up throughout the shop to showcase electrical, carpentry and welding, and answer any questions future students may have about the field.

For one budding construction professional, he was encouraged by his father to attend the grand opening and see what career possibilities lie ahead for him.

"I graduated from high school last year and knew college wasn't my path, but wasn't sure what was my calling," said Westland teen A.J. Miller. "I came out here today to see the new school and talk with the instructors. I have a lot of people in my family who work in construction, so it's a familiar subject, but I would like to learn more about each specific trade. It's great that there's different stations set up so I can see the tools and materials, and also talk with people who work in those fields. After today, I can definitely see a potential future for me here."



The new Westland campus will accommodate approximately 300 new students annually. This is in addition to the main campus in Madison Heights, which also accommodates 300 students annually and the satellite locations in Lapeer, Holly and Monroe. "The great thing about SEMCA is that we are open to all comers. We don't require incoming students to take an entrance exam and we don't have a waiting list," said SEMCA president & CEO Keith Ledbetter.

Greg Sizemore, the vice president of health, safety, environment and workforce development from ABC National mentioned to guests that the nation is facing a shortage of skilled workers and that organizations like SEMCA are working to solve the problem.

"We're all here tonight to celebrate the opening of this facility, but also because communities like Westland welcomed the trade school with open arms," Sizemore said. "Southeast Michigan is doing the heavy lifting and solving the shortage. We need to add 500,000 men and women to the workforce, and it's getting done right here in this zip code."

We want to thank D.J. Maltese Construction for their hard work transforming this building and a special shoutout to Independence Commercial Construction, Third Coast Electric, and Expert Heating and Cooling as the specialty-contractors on the project. We couldn't have done this without you!

Enrollment for all SEMCA locations will open in early May for the fall semester. Anyone interested in enrolling employees in classes or learning more about what SEMCA has to offer, is encouraged to visit semcaschool.org.

Article originally posted at abcsemi.mynewscenter.org 琴

Staff poses at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new campus.





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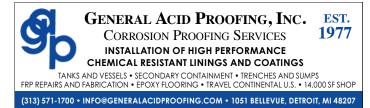
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MARCO ISLAND

ABC Western Michigan Chapter HOSTS ANGLER CLASSIC



ABC Western Michigan members gathered June 6 at Fisherman's Landing in Muskegon for their 3rd Annual Angler Classic where they hosted a recordbreaking 65 teams.







Congratulations to Cliff and Erick from Triangle Associates for coming in the top spot! Their five fish collectively weighed in at and impressive 16.61 pounds.

And shoutout to the Big Bass winners, Mike and Aaron from MacAllister! They caught the biggest bass, weighing 5.13 pounds (two years in a row!)

The Angler Classic supports the ongoing programming, scholarships, and materials needed to train the next generation of construction professionals at the West Michigan Construction Institute — the official training provider for the merit shop.

You can learn more and get involved in next year's classic by visiting abcwmc.org. 🛤

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CONTRIBUTORS

PUBLISHER Shane Hernandez shernandez@abcmi.com

MANAGING EDITOR Breanna George bgeorge@abcmi.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN Sally Bancroft Bancroft Graphics www.bancroftgraphics.com

PRINTING Bradford Printing www.bradfordprinting.net

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Wm. Molnar Roofing, Inc	.23
Zinger Sheet Metal	.21







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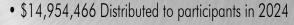
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