



MICHAEL H. BOLTON, DIRECTOR

#### DISTRICT 2 CONTACT INFORMATION

**USW District 2 Office**  
1244A Midway Road  
Menasha, WI 54952  
(920) 722-7630

**Northern WI & MI Sub-District Office**  
1244A Midway Road  
Menasha, WI 54952  
(920) 722-7630

**Southern WI Sub-District Office**  
1135 South 70th Street, Suite 502  
West Allis, WI 53214  
(414) 475-4560

**Northern MI Sub-District Office**  
503 North Euclid Avenue  
Suite #10 - Euclid Plaza  
Bay City, MI 48706  
(989) 667-0660

**Southern MI Sub-District Office**  
20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300  
Taylor, MI 48180  
(734) 285-0367

#### USW District 2 Council Steering Committee

The District 2 Council By-Laws established a District 2 Council Steering Committee comprised of a rank and file structure. It was set up to assist in the following:

- Development of agenda for Council Conference.
- Planning of the District Council Conference Educational Conferences.
- District 2 strategic planning.
- Determining and assessing educational needs within the District.
- Generating and leading activism and other purposes consistent with the mission and directives of District 2 and the USW.

The elected members of the Steering Committee are listed below by manufacturing sector. If you need to contact a Steering Committee Member, please do so by using the email provided below.

Name	LU#	Sector	Email Address
Ron Pascual	1299	Steel and Related	rpascual@yahoo.com
Don Carlson	59	Paper	dncarlson@znet.net
Robert Desmond	11762	Amalgamated	rdesmond@aol.com
Jesse Edwards	2-232	Automotive Related	Jesse_edwards21919@yahoo.com
Kent Holzing	12075	Chemical & Energy Related	kentholzing@gmail.com
Jackie Anklam	9899	Health Care	jackieanklam_uswlocal2009@yahoo.com
Michael Orvosk	12934	Public	m.orvosk@uswlocal12934.com
Eric Henrichs	1327	Al Large	Eric.henrichs@aflcnc.org
Matthew Gibbons	3965	Al Large	usw2965@gmail.com
Jim Whit	2-145	Allied Industrial	whitjim@yahoo.com



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AFL-CIO-CLC**

**MICHAEL H. BOLTON, Director**  
1244A Midway Rd., Menasha, WI 54952  
(920) 722-7630

Contributors to this issue include:

Lori Gulekunt, Tenny Duncan, Jay McMurren,  
Wisconsin & Michigan State AFL-CIO,  
Alliance for Retired Americans

Articles and photos are welcome and  
should be sent:

Jason Wilcox & Art Kroll, Co-Editors, *District 2 News*  
1244A Midway Rd., Menasha, WI 54952  
d2@usw.org • (920) 722-7630

**OCTOBER 20, 2020, is the deadline for  
submissions for the next issue.**

**UNITED STEELWORKERS**  
**USW**  
UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS  
**DISTRICT 2**

**NEWS**  
**SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE**

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## You Think Your Vote Doesn't Matter?



Kevin Entze is a Washington state police officer who found out how important every vote is 16 years ago. At the time, he was candidate for election to the State House. He lost that contest a by just one vote. Several days after the 2000 vote, Entze found out that a reserve police officer, who pledged to vote for Kevin, forgot to send in his absentee ballot. Entze said, "He left his ballot on his kitchen counter, and it never got sent in."

Sometimes when us working folks take a look at things that are happening in Washington D.C., Madison, and Lansing, it's easy to lose heart and give into the notion that nobody out there is listening so what's the use. But, your voice really does matter. Think not? Then consider this:

In 2016, a Vermont State House election was decided by one vote. Funny thing, the election was a re-match. In 2010, the same two candidates squared off for the same position. The result was a one-vote victory for the other guy.

Also, in 2016, a Vermont State Senate election that saw 7,400 voters cast their ballots was decided by one vote.

In 2010, the race for a State House seat ended in a tie. A dispute over the election was resolved by the court, which ordered a do-over. During the re-run, the Republican candidate prevailed by just 56 votes.

A 2008 Minnesota election for U.S. Senator saw Democrat, Al Franken, defeat Republican, Norm Coleman, by just 312 votes out of 2.9 million ballots cast.

And, for one of our favorite examples of every vote counts, a 2002 election for county commissioner in Nevada ended in a tie. To break the deadlock, the candidates selected from a deck of playing cards. The individual choosing the highest card would be the winner. Amazingly, both candidates pulled a jack. However, the Democrat was declared the winner because he pulled the jack of spades and the Republican drew the jack of diamonds. How many of you knew a spade beats a diamond?

Yes, every vote counts. INCLUDING YOURS! So, don't be fatalist. The outcome has not already been determined by some unseen or unknown powers. Take the needed steps to vote by absentee ballot, or, show up at the polls on November 3, and cast your ballot in person. Remember, when you don't vote, you are letting someone else decide your future.

**Don't be that guy. VOTE November 3rd.**

**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**

### WISCONSIN AFL-CIO ENDORSED CANDIDATES

#### President

Joe Biden

#### US House

- 1 Roger Polack
- 2 Mark Pocan
- 4 Gwen Moore
- 5 Tom Palzewicz
- 6 Jessica King
- 7 Tricia Zunker
- 8 Amanda Stuck

#### Wisconsin State Senate

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 4 Lena Taylor       | 18 Aaron Wojciechowski |
| 6 LaTonya Johnson   | 22 Robert Wirsch       |
| 8 Neal Plotkin      | 24 Paul Piotrowski     |
| 10 Patty Schachtner | 26 Kelda Roys          |
| 12 Ed Vocke         | 28 Adam Murphy         |
| 14 Joni Anderson    | 30 Jonathon Hansen     |
| 16 Melissa Sargent  | 32 Brad Pfaff          |

#### Wisconsin State Assembly

- |                           |                           |                       |                              |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Kim Delorit Jensen      | 24 Emily Siegrist         | 48 Samba Baldeh       | 74 Beth Meyers               |
| 2 Mark Kiley              | 25 Kerry Trask            | 49 Shaun Murphy-Lopez | 75 John Ellenson             |
| 3 Emily Voight            | 26 Mary Lynne Donohue     | 50 Mark Waldon        | 76 Francesca Hong            |
| 4 Kathy Hinkfuss          | 28 Kim Butler             | 51 Kriss Marion       | 77 Shelia Stubbs             |
| 6 Richard Sarnwick        | 29 John Calabrese         | 52 Julie Schroeder    | 78 Lisa Subeck               |
| 7 Danny Riemer            | 30 Sarah Yacoub           | 54 Gordon Hintz       | 79 Diane Hesselbein          |
| 8 Sylvia Ortiz-Velez      | 31 Elizabeth Lochner-Abel | 55 Dan Schierl        | 80 Sondy Pope                |
| 9 Marisabel Cabrera       | 32 Katherine Gaulke       | 56 Diana Lawrence     | 81 Dave Considine            |
| 10 David Bowen            | 33 Mason T. Becker        | 57 Lee Snodgrass      | 82 Jacob Malinowski          |
| 11 Dora Drake             | 34 Kirk Bangstad          | 62 August Schultz     | 85 Jeff Johnson              |
| 12 LaKeisha Nicole Myers  | 35 Tyler Ruprecht         | 63 Joel K. Jacobsen   | 87 Richard Pulcher           |
| 13 Sara Rodriguez         | 37 Abigail Lowery         | 64 Tip McGuire        | 88 Kristin Lyerly            |
| 14 Robyn Vining           | 38 Melissa Winker         | 65 Tod Ohnstad        | 89 Karl Jaeger               |
| 15 Jessica Katzenmeyer    | 39 Izzy Hassey-Navarez    | 66 Gretchen Neubauer  | 90 Kristina Shelton          |
| 16 Kalan Haywood          | 41 Nate Zimdars           | 67 Chris Kapsner      | 91 Jodi Emerson              |
| 17 Supreme Moore Omokunde | 42 Melisa Arndt           | 68 Emily Berge        | 92 Amanda White Eagle        |
| 18 Evan Goyke             | 43 Don Vruwink            | 69 Brian Giles        | 93 Charlene "Charlie" Warner |
| 19 Jonathan Brostoff      | 44 Sue Conely             | 70 John Baldus        | 94 Steve Doyle               |
| 20 Chris Sinicki          | 45 Mark Spreitzer         | 71 Katrina Shankland  | 95 Jill Billings             |
| 21 Erik Brooks            | 46 Gary Hebl              | 72 Criste Greening    | 96 Josephine Jaynes          |
| 23 Deb Andraca            | 47 Jimmy Anderson         | 73 Nick Milroy        | 97 Aaron Perry               |



### MICHIGAN AFL-CIO ENDORSED CANDIDATES

#### President

Joe Biden

#### US Senate

Sen. Gary Peters

#### US House

Dana Ferguson (1st District)

Rev. Bryan Berghoef (2nd District)

Hilary Scholten (3rd District)

Jerry Hilliard (4th District)

Rep. Dan Kildee (5th District)

State Rep. Jon Hoadley (6th District)

Gretchen Driskell (7th District)

Rep. Elissa Slotkin (8th District)

Rep. Andy Levin (9th District)

Kim Bizon (10th District)

Rep. Haley Stevens (11th District)

Rep. Debbie Dingell (12th District)

Rep. Rashida Tlaib (13th District)

Rep. Brenda Lawrence (14th District)

#### Supreme Court

Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack

Elizabeth Welch

#### Michigan State University Board of Trustees

Rema Vassar

Brian Mosallam (incumbent)

#### University of Michigan Board of Regents

Mark Bernstein (incumbent)

Shauna Ryder Diggs (incumbent)

#### Wayne State University Board of Governors

Shirley Stancato

Eva Garza Dewaelsche

#### State Board of Education

Ellen Cogen Lipton

Jason Strayhorn

#### Michigan State House

Rep. Tenisha Yancey (1st)

Rep. Joe Tate (2nd)

Shri Thanedar (3rd)

Abraham Aiyash (4th)

Rep. Cynthia A. Johnson (5th)

Rep. Tyrone Carter (6th)

Helena Scott (7th)

Stephanie Young (8th)

Mary Cavanagh (10th)

Rep. Jewell Jones (11th)

Rep. Alex Garza (12th)

Tullio Liberati (13th)

Rep. Cara Clemente (14th)

Rep. Abdullah Hammoud (15th)

Rep. Kevin Coleman (16th)

Christopher Slat (17th)

Rep. Kevin Hertel (18th)

Rep. Laurie Pohutsky (19th)

Rep. Matt Koleszar (20th)

Ranjeev Puri (21st)

Richard Steenland (22nd)

Rep. Darrin Camilleri (23rd)

Rep. Nate Shannon (25th)

Rep. Jim Ellison (26th)

Regina Weiss (27th)

Rep. Lori Stone (28th)

Rep. Brenda Carter (29th)

Rep. William Sowerby (31st)

Justin Boucher (32nd)

Olu Jabari (33rd)

Rep. Cynthia Neeley (34th)

Rep. Kyra Bolden (35th)

Robert Murphy (36th)

Samantha Steckloff (37th)

Kelly Breen (38th)

Julia Pulver (39th)

Rep. Mari Manoogian (40th)

Rep. Padma Kuppa (41st)

Nicole Breadon (43rd)

Barb Anness (45th)

Jody LaMacchia (46th)

Rep. Sheryl Kennedy (48th)

Rep. John Cherry Jr. (49th)

Rep. Tim Sneller (50th)

Rep. Donna Lasinski (52nd)

Rep. Yousef Rabhi (53rd)

Rep. Ronnie Peterson (54th)

Felicia Brabec (55th)

Will Garcia (57th)

Julie Rogers (60th)

Christine Morse (61st)

Rep. Jim Haadsma (62nd)

Dr. Sandra Hofman-Kingston (64th)

Nancy Smith (65th)

Abigail Wheeler (66th)

Rep. Kara Hope (67th)

Rep. Sarah Anthony (68th)

Rep. Julie Brixie (69th)

Karen Garvey (70th)

Rep. Angela Witwer (71st)

Lily Cheng-Schulting (72nd)

Rep. David LaGrand (75th)

Rep. Rachel Hood (76th)

Bob Smith (77th)

Chokwe Pitchford (79th)

Stephanie Armstrong-Helton (83rd)

Brian Hosticka (91st)

Rep. Terry Sabo (92nd)

Muhammad Rais (93rd)

Demond Tibbs (94th)

Amos O'Neal (95th)

Rep. Brian Elder (96th)

Celia Young-Wenkel (97th)

Sarah Schulz (98th)

John Zang (99th)

Bethany McGill-Rizer (101st)

Dan O'Neil (104th)

Renee Richer (108th)

Rep. Sara Cambensy (109th)

Janet Metsa (110th)



**President**



### *Where They Stand*

**JOE BIDEN**

**DONALD TRUMP**

#### **SOCIAL SECURITY**

**Favors Expanding Social Security Benefits**

YES

NO

**Favors Making the Wealthy Pay Their Fair Share**

YES

NO

**Will End Social Security in 2023 by Terminating the Payroll Tax**

NO

YES

#### **PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES**

**Favors Allowing Medicare to Negotiate Lower Drug Prices**

YES

NO

#### **MEDICARE**

**Favors Expanding Medicare to include Vision, Dental and Hearing**

YES

NO

**Favors Free Wellness Exams and Preventive Screenings for Beneficiaries**

YES

NO

**Favors Reopening the Prescription Drug Doughnut Hole**

NO

YES

[www.RetiredAmericans.org](http://www.RetiredAmericans.org)

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**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**



**President**



### Where They Stand

**JOE BIDEN**

**DONALD TRUMP**

#### HEALTH CARE

**Supports Repealing the Affordable Care Act**

**NO**

**YES**

**Supports Protections for People with Pre-existing Conditions**

**YES**

**NO**

#### LONG TERM CARE

**Favors Allowing 600,000 Seniors to Receive Care at Home, Not in an Institution**

**YES**

**NO**

**Will Increase Safety in Nursing Homes**

**YES**

**NO**

The stakes are high. To learn how to cast your ballot in your community, visit [vote.org](https://vote.org).

#### Sources

1a. ("Social Security, taxes, health care, and working past retirement age: What Biden's platform wants to do for Americans over 50," Marketwatch, August 25, 2020)

1b. ("Eliminating payroll tax could deplete Social Security by 2023, chief actuary warns," CNN, August 24, 2020)

2a, 3a ("Medicare coverage could expand under a Biden presidency," CNBC, August 22, 2020)

2b. ("Trump draws ire after retreat on drug prices pledge," The Hill, November 24, 2019)

3b. ("Medicare in the 2021 Trump Budget," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, February 13, 2020)

3c. ("Healthcare," joe Biden.com, August 27, 2020)

3d, 4. ("Trump administration takes aim at ObamaCare in Supreme Court brief," Fox News, June 26, 2020)

5a. ("Caregiving," joe Biden.com, August 27, 2020)

5b. ("The Trump Administration's Medicaid Block Grant Guidance: Frequently Asked Questions," Center on Budget February 6, 2020) 5c. ("Joe Biden Would Eliminate Elder Care Waiting Lists for Medicaid If Elected," Newsweek, July 21, 2020)

5d. ("The White House Says Nursing Home Regulations Are Too Tough," NPR, November 30, 2019)

[www.RetiredAmericans.org](https://www.RetiredAmericans.org)

**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**

### Your Vote Does Count! - a Message from Michael Bolton - Page 1 of 2



MICHAEL H. BOLTON, DIRECTOR

For those of you voting for the first time, or for those of you who recently committed to getting involved in our District 2 political program -- DON'T LOSE FAITH! The debacle you witnessed from Cleveland on September 29 was a train wreck, but it wasn't an accident. The debate went exactly the way Trump planned it to go. Why?

The President is down by 9% in most national polls. Also, voting is underway in several states and the number of returned ballots is running above the 2016 levels. Most pundits acknowledge that by-mail and early voting tends to favor Democrats. Add to that, the fact that over the past nearly four years, the President has done little to reach out to new voters; and has continually played to his base. Considering these factors, the only real alternative available to Trump to win re-election is voter suppression. In this election, every voter that stays home on Election Day is really voting for Trump.

Look at the assault he is waging on voting by mail. It's a fraud. It's rigged. It's corrupt. We all know this is not true. Trump is aiming his remarks at first voters and those new to the process. His goal is to make you feel like, "What's the use in sending in my ballot? It's just going to get thrown out."

His debate performance was gaged to reach the same conclusion. While Joe Biden tried to get his message out, it was difficult with all the interruptions. In the eyes of a lot of viewers, Trump's antics made both candidates look bad. And, Trump is relying on that, causing voters to say, "Both of these guys are jerks, why should I waste my time voting for either one?" That, brothers and sisters, is the Trump re-election strategy. So, don't let it get you down. Instead, get mad and get motivated to go out and do more to ensure that Joe Biden is our next president.

So, the debate was just another episode of the insanity happening in Washington and it surprises no one. Trump is all show man. For years, he has tried to paint a self-portrait of himself as the guy with a Midas touch - everything he touches turns to gold. But, as the recent *New York Times* article on the President's taxes reveals, the President is over \$400 million in debt. And, the payments are coming due.

He used that same bluster to paint himself as the new savior of the American worker. Remember that? He pledged to become "a voice for the voiceless". He did that by pushing the right populist buttons with the middle class. He was going to tear up all of America's trade agreements and re-negotiate new ones. He was going to get tough on China and cut taxes, which would result in millions of industrial jobs returning to the United States.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 is Trump's one and only legislative accomplishment of his presidency. That's correct - just one law in four years. The tax cuts for workers were meager and temporary. The cuts also included eliminating some deductions workers used every year while filing their taxes. Weren't we surprised how much our refunds went down the following year? The tax cuts for the wealthy and big corporations were much larger and permanent. But, that's okay Republicans said, the saved tax dollars would be used to pay higher wages, increase investments in companies to improve productivity and create new jobs. Don't forget those lower tax rates would cause companies that had moved off shore to return home to the U.S.A.

How did all that work out for us? The tax cuts have increased the federal deficit by \$1.3 trillion, which is causing Congressional Republicans to retreat to their usual mantra -- it's time to cut Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and any other safety net that benefits workers.

As far as raising wages and increasing investments, management, instead, used the savings to buy back company stock, which increased the company's value and led to higher compensation for executives.

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## "GO BUILD OUR UNION!"



### Your Vote Does Count! - a Message from Michael Bolton - Page 2 of 2

Jobs? During the debate, Trump said that 700,000 industrial jobs have returned to the U.S. Where did that come from? His own Department of Labor says that 300,000 jobs have been outsourced during the Trump presidency. However, the Economic Policy Institute finds that those are just the number of workers who were able to prove they lost their jobs to trade in order to qualify for trade adjustment assistance. The real number of jobs lost is closer to the 700,000 number that Trump quoted.

What about the promise to get tough and reign in China? He promised on day one of his presidency to label China a currency manipulator. A currency manipulator is a country that uses artificial methods to hold down the value of its money. This practice makes the nation's products cheaper on foreign markets and drives up the price of products coming into the country. Trump did not label China a manipulator on day one. In fact, he waited until August 5, 2019. Then, five months later, on January 14, he reversed that decision.

In reality, other than engage in an ill-advised trade war with China, the Trump administration has done little to "get tough with China". He increased tariffs on Chinese products entering the U.S., which led to China placing tariffs on many of our exported products. As a result, American farmers are suffering through huge losses and our deficit is climbing as the President sends increased aid to the heartland to offset losses brought on by the trade war. By the way, China has not paid one penny in tariffs. But, you and I have through higher prices for Chinese goods.

Trump has made a lot of pledges to U.S. workers and has disappointed them with those he has broken or simply did not follow through with.

The most heartbreaking is regarding a promise the President made with his commitment to seniors and future retirees when he said he would preserve Social Security. He is breaking that promise by implementing an executive order that has created a "payroll tax holiday". For some workers it is a voluntary holiday, for others (like federal employees), it is not. The payroll tax is a 6.2% deduction from our pay to fund Social Security and the holiday extends until January 1, 2021. At that time, workers are required to re-pay the taxes the order had forgiven. To accomplish this, for the first four months of 2021, a total of 12.4% will be deducted from each worker's pay. However, Trump has said if he is "victorious on November 3", he will forgive the amount owed from the 2020 holiday and extend the holiday permanently. If that happens, the fund that pays disabled Americans' benefits will run out by mid-2021; and the portion that pays regular benefits will be broke by mid-2023. If those are the actions of our working class savior, I'd hate to see what our enemies have planned for us.

There is only one way to end this; and that is to vote. Please take the time to vote by-mail or in-person. Election Day is the one day of the year that everyone holds the same power.

That power is in your vote. Don't let that power go to waste - **VOTE!**

# YOUR VOTE MATTERS



**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**

### You Think Your Vote Doesn't Matter?

## Your Vote is Your Power. USE IT!

You've heard it said before: Your vote is your power. But, only if you actually take the time to cast your ballot. When you stay at home instead of participating in our democratic process, you are actually voting for the other guy. You are helping the guy that is going to work against your best interests get elected. And, really, there is no excuse for that. Voting is easy.

First, you have to register. To vote in the November 3rd General Election in Wisconsin, the deadline for registering by mail is October 14. Michigan by mail

registrations must be received by October 20. Both the Badger and Wolverine states have same day registration, which means you can register in person right up to and including election day. You can check your registration status by going to the Steelworkers website and follow the prompts.

Next, you have to decide whether you are voting by mail or in person. If you are going to the polls to cast your ballot, all you really need to do is make sure that you have a valid driver's license or state issued ID.

Voting by mail is easy and it is secure. And, during these nerve racking coronavirus times, it may even be a little safer for your health. If you are going to vote by mail, please consider the following to ensure that your vote is counted. Note: the same rules apply to early in-person voting at your local clerk's office.

In Michigan, in-person voting takes place from September 21 until November 2. Wisconsin early voting dates and times vary by county. Check with your County Clerk for more information.

You can also vote by mail in both states. However, in Michigan, ballots *postmarked* later than November 3rd will not be counted. Whereas in Wisconsin, absentee ballots must be *received* by your municipal clerk no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 3, 2020.

That's just about everything you need to know to cast your vote and make sure it counts. However, you can get additional information by visiting the Steelworkers website and clicking the "click here to explore voting information by state" icon. That will take you to a map where you can click on your state to review the voting rules for you.

You now have the information needed to become a registered voter and to take advantage of the in-person and vote by-mail systems. All you need is a friendly reminder to get out to vote. So, consider yourself reminded.

Please vote on or before November 3rd. Your vote is your power. Be sure to **USE IT!**

