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STATEWIDE POLL CONFIRMS CLEAR PUBLIC, REPUBLICAN SUPPORT FOR PRESERVING PREVAILING WAGE LAW

(MADISON, Wis.) – A statewide poll paints a revealing picture of support for Wisconsin’s Prevailing Wage law, a law established to set a minimum, fair wage for state-funded construction projects. The poll found that an overwhelming 60% of Wisconsin voters support the Prevailing Wage law, and even a majority of republican voters, 52%, support it. The poll comes in advance of state republican legislators’ consideration of a full repeal of the Prevailing Wage law.

“Every peer-reviewed, reliable study comes to the same conclusion – repealing this law will hurt Wisconsin’s working men and women, local economies, in-state contractors, and veterans and, in the end, doesn’t save taxpayers a dime,” said Tom Schaitel, a WIIN officer and board member, who is also the Chief Operating Officer of KS Energies.

The poll, which surveyed 600 likely voters, was conducted May 30-June 1 by Public Opinion Strategies, a respected national public policy polling firm with nearly three decades of experience collecting and analyzing polling data in Wisconsin.

Last budget cycle the republican-led legislature passed a partial repeal of the Prevailing Wage law for all locally-funded projects. The change took effect in January 2017 and an economic review of municipal project “awards” found that in the first four months of 2017 there has been a 53% increase in contract awards going to out-of-state contractors over the same time period in 2016.

Construction workers and their respective trade organizations invest more than \$30 million annually of their own money on apprenticeship training programs, accounting for 95% of construction apprenticeship funding in this state. “This money is leaving the state,” said Schaitel. “Our workers lose jobs, our communities lose money and our training programs for skilled construction workers – the envy of the nation – go unfunded.”

Public Opinion Strategies poll documents:

- Memo on the poll <http://www.tdawisconsin.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/TDA-Poll-Memo.pdf>
- Poll slide deck <http://www.tdawisconsin.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/TDA-Poll-Slide-Deck.pdf>

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