

# MILWAUKEE AREA LABOR COUNCIL

*American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations*

*SERVING MILWAUKEE, OZAUKEE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES*

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Contact: Pam Fendt, President  
414-659-3803

633 South Hawley Road  
Suite 110  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53214  
Phone (414) 771-7070  
Fax (414) 771-0509  
[www.milwaukeeclabor.org](http://www.milwaukeeclabor.org)

## **Governor Tony Evers Takes Action Against Worker Exploitation With Executive Order**

**Madison, Wisconsin** — Governor Tony Evers signed an Executive Order Monday that gives the state tools to investigate and take action against employers that misclassify workers as independent contractors. “This is a major step for workers in Wisconsin,” said Pam Fendt, President of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council. “It strengthens Wisconsin’s ability to go after employers who exploit workers and break the rules.”

Misclassification allows contractors to avoid paying unemployment taxes, worker’s compensation, and other costs, at the expense of the employee. Not only are these employers cheating working people out of pay and benefits for an honest day’s work, they are cheating the taxpayers of Wisconsin. Misclassifying workers means the state loses out on the taxes that employers SHOULD be paying on these workers.

The misclassification of workers is far too common among certain unscrupulous contractors in the construction industry. “Employee misclassification affects hundreds of workers in Wisconsin. When an employee is wrongly classified as an “independent contractor” both the state and the worker suffer. The creation of this task force will create stronger protections for our state’s workers,” said Dan Bukiewicz, President of the Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council.

It is refreshing to see this Administration work towards leveling the playing field for all Wisconsin employers. Wisconsin’s economic growth should be built on a basis of quality and integrity and this measure takes a strong and important step.

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*Organizing for economic and social justice in the workplace and community*

### OFFICERS

Pam Fendt  
President  
Laborers Local 113  
[pam@milwaukeeclabor.org](mailto:pam@milwaukeeclabor.org)

Mark Pelzek  
Vice President  
AFSCME Local 47  
[mark@milwaukeeclabor.org](mailto:mark@milwaukeeclabor.org)

Scott Redman  
Secretary  
Plumbers Union Local 75  
[sredman@plumbers75.com](mailto:sredman@plumbers75.com)

Ross M. Winklbauer, Sr.  
Treasurer  
USW Local 1343  
[rwinklbauer@usw.org](mailto:rwinklbauer@usw.org)

