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 **Advocacy Digest | October 2019**

 **Brad Boycks, Executive Director**

**Bill to Streamline Building Permit Process Awaits Governor Evers’s Signature**

[Assembly Bill 117](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/related/proposals/ab117.pdf) (AB 117) was recently passed by the State Senate on a voice vote. This completes the review of the bill in both houses of the legislature. AB 117 received only positive yes votes which if signed into law, will make sure that those applying for a one-two family building permit will only need to use either an online form or a paper building permit form and the applicant will have greater flexibilities in what paper form they choose to use.

Our most recent lobbying effort to get AB 117 signed into law has been to check in with Governor Evers’ office to provide background on the need for the bill to be signed into law and to provide answers to any questions concerning the bill. To date, we have not received any indication that there are any issues with the proposal. We have also asked for the bill to be signed into law at a public bill signing so members who have worked hard to advocate for passage of this bipartisan proposal can attend the bill signing ceremony.

**Updates in Special Election for the 7th Congressional District**

After rescinding dates announced earlier that conflicted with federal law, Governor Evers recently announced an amendment to [Executive Order 46](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WIGOV/2019/09/23/file_attachments/1290569/Evers_EO46.pdf) with revised dates for nomination paper, the primary election, and the general election for the special election in the 7th Congressional District.

The revised dates for the 7th Congressional District are December 2nd for nomination papers, February 18, 2020 for the primary election, and May 12, 2020 for the special general election.

Currently, there are three announced republican candidates and two democrats looking to replace Sean Duffy in the northeastern Wisconsin congressional district. The GOP candidates include State Senator Tom Tiffany; Veteran and staff member for U.S. Senator Ron Johnson, Jason Church; and Michael P. Opela. Running as democrats are Tricia Zunker, current president of the Wausau School Board and Lawrence Dale who currently resides in Ironwood, Michigan.

Because he was the first to announce before the most recent federal campaign finance report was due, State Senator Tom Tiffany recently reported that he raised $242,000 in three weeks.

**Code Change Submissions**

WBA has been in close contact with leading staff members at the Department of Safety and Professional Services, including DSPS Secretary-designee Crim, to urge the department to hold a meeting of the Uniform Dwelling Code Council (UDC Council). The council last meet on [December 10, 2018](https://dsps.wi.gov/Documents/BoardCouncils/UDC/20181210UDCFullPacketEditable.pdf) and most notably discussed consideration of a change dealing with the code for one- and two- family foundations and that inspection language still not resolved.

We are hoping that several UDC Council members who are WBA members are reappointed by Governor Evers and that the council is called back for meeting before the end of the year.

In anticipation of a future UDC Council meeting, we are asking anyone who has suggested changes to the Uniform Dwelling Code to [submit](https://dsps.wi.gov/Documents/BoardCouncils/CodeChangeProposalForm.pdf) those for consideration online today.

**Call to Action from NAHB: Stop the House's Radical Anti-Business Labor Bill!**

Urge your Representative to Oppose the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act!

Please call or write your Member of Congress and urge them to oppose H.R. 2474, the PRO Act. This organized labor "wish list" bill resurrects bad policies that have previously been rejected by Congress and courts alike, including:

* Stripping employer and employee free choice and privacy in union elections
* Curbing opportunities for independent work and subcontracting
* Eliminating Right-to-Work protections nationwide

The housing affordability crisis will only worsen if Congress promotes misguided policies that force the labor market to contract and inflate the costs of home construction.

[Click here](http://www.capitolconnect.com/builderlink/) to contact your representative today!

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