



GRIEVANCES AND ARBITRATIONSⁱ

Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council Arbitrations

MARBA received no arbitration demands in the month of September.

Laborers Joint Grievance Committee

The Laborers JGC did not meet in October. The next JGC is scheduled for November 25, 2025, at the Laborers District Council office in Burr Ridge beginning at 9:00 a.m. provided there are any grievances to be heard. The Union will advise the JGC if there are any other grievances set to be heard about two weeks prior to the 25th.

Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee

The Operators JGC did not meet in October. The next JGC is set to meet on November 5, 2025, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Union offices in Countryside. The Union has advised there are five (5) grievances set to go forward.

Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee

The Teamsters JGC did not meet in October. As the JGC has a standing meeting date of the last Thursday of the month, the November hearing will need to be scheduled due to the Thanksgiving holiday, provided there are any grievances set to go forward. Should there be a need for a hearing it will be held at the MARBA offices beginning at 9 a.m.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING/LABOR ISSUES

2026 Bargaining Right Assignment Packets Will Be Distributed Soon

MARBA has agreements with the Laborers District Council and Cement Masons (Local 502 and Local 11) expiring on May 31, 2026. The 2026 Bargaining Rights Packets will be distributed to the MARBA Associations within the next month. Contractors should be on the lookout for those packets as they contain detailed information as to how the bargaining process works and what contractors need to do to maintain their signatory status through their Association and MARBA. If there are questions about the bargaining rights assignment process, please do not hesitate to contact the MARBA office or email Aaron Janik, Executive Director, at ajanik@marba.org.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Illinois Legislature Wraps Up Veto Session with Transit Funding Bill Passage

In the wee hours of the morning on Halloween, the Illinois Legislature passed a bill that would “rescue” the regional transit system consisting of Regional Transportation Authority, Pace, METRA, and the CTA. The bill, entitled Northern Illinois Transit Authority (NITA) Act, approved a \$1.5 billion dollar funding of the agencies. To make up the \$1.5 billion the Act will take approximately \$860 million dollars in motor fuel tax that would otherwise be disbursed to road agencies as well as approximately \$200 million dollars in interest generated on the motor fuel tax. To offset this transfer in motor fuel tax the legislature increased tolls on the Tollway \$0.45 beginning on January 1, 2027. Additionally, the bill authorized a 0.25% increase in sales tax across the RTA area which consists of the northern Illinois six county region: Cook, Lake, DuPage, Will, Kane, and McHenry counties. This additional sales tax increase should create an additional \$1 billion dollars a year over the next 10 years for road and bridge work. The bill also creates a new agency that would be a “stronger” version of the RTA allowing for a universal fare system and coordination of scheduling amongst the local transportation agencies. The bill passed both chambers of the legislature with the support of only Democratic lawmakers.

STATE OF THE ECONOMY

Economic Indicators*

Unemployment Rate	August 4.3%, (July 4.2%), Illinois 4.4% (38 th)
Labor Participation Rate	August 62.3%, July 62.2%, June 62.3%
CPI All Urban Consumers	September 2025 over September 2024 = 3.01% Half 2025 = 2.59
CPI Chicago All Items	September 2025 over September 2024 = 2.87% Half 2025 = 3.62%
CPI Midwest All Items	September 2025 over September 2024 = 3.09% Half 2025 = 2.84%
Union Membership	2024 = 9.9% (Private Sector 5.9%), 2023 = 10.0% (Private Sector 6.0%), 2022 = 10.1% (Private Sector 6.0%)
Union Construction Workers	11.2% (2024), 11.4% (2023), 11.7% (2022), 12.6% (2021)
30 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 10-30-25 6.17% down 0.55% over the prior year. Annual Average 6.90% (24), 6.61% (23), 5.34% (22), 2.96% (21)

15 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 10-30-25 5.41% up 0.58% over the prior year. Annual Average 5.98% (24) 5.93% (23), 4.58% (22), 2.27% (21)
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$64.006 per barrel (as October 30, 2025) \$145.61 per barrel all time high July 2008 \$2.23 per barrel all time low May 1970
Privately Owned New Housing Building Permits	3.7% below revised July rate 11.1% below August 2024 rate
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	8.5% above revised July rate (+/-10.7%) 0.5% below June rate (+/-9.9%)
GDP	Q2 2025 (3 rd) +3.8% Q2 2025 (2 nd) +3.3% Q2 2025 (Adv) +3.0% Q1 2025 -0.6%
DJIA	47,546.62 as of October 27, 2025 (2:30 p.m.) 46,409.45 as of September 30, 2025 (4:00 p.m.) 45,516.86 as of August 29, 2025 (2:45 p.m.)

*Due to the government shutdown the September figures relating to unemployment labor force participation rate, etc. are not yet released.

JANIK'S J.D. – AN UPDATE ON LABOR/CONSTRUCTION LEGAL ISSUES
AARON JANIK- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARBA

National Labor Relations Board Still Without Quorum

The National Labor Relations Board has been in flux for several months. There is currently only one (1) Board member, David Prouty. Member Gwynne Wilcox has been out of office after being removed from her position by President Trump in January 2025. Wilcox is in the process of litigating removal. The Supreme Court has held her removal will be allowed to remain in effect while her case works its way through the system. Member Marvin Kaplan had his term expire at the end of August. Two additional seats have been vacant for quite some time. In order for the Board to have a quorum allowing it to conduct business three (3) members must be present. There are currently two (2) individuals that have been nominated by President Trump to fill two of the seats that are currently open, James Murphy and Scott Mayer.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions (HELP) Committee recently advanced Murphy's nomination to the full Senate for consideration by a vote of 12-11. Mayer also had a hearing in front of the HELP Committee at the same time as Murphy; however, Mayer's nomination was not

advanced to the Senate for consideration. Mayer's hearing in front of the HELP Committee had some contentious moments with some of the Republican members and the Committee decided not to advance his nomination. It is unclear if the Committee will hold a vote on whether to send his nomination to the full Senate for consideration. If the Committee does not move his nomination forward it is unclear who President Trump may consider in Mayer's place. The HELP Committee, in advancing Murphy's nomination, also advanced President Trump's nomination for NLRB General Counsel, Crystal Carey, to the full Senate. The NLRB General Counsel is currently being filled in an acting capacity by William Cowen. Cowen has served at the NLRB in a variety of roles for decades. It remains to be seen when votes on Murphy and Carey will take place. Should Murphy be confirmed by the Senate the Board will have two members, still one short of a quorum.

With all of that as a backdrop, the government shutdown has temporarily ceased NLRB operations, mainly those related to case handling (i.e. investigating unfair labor practices and conducting routine elections). The backlog of cases that need to be resolved is continuing to grow. It remains to be seen exactly when the NLRB will have a quorum so it can address the backlog of cases that are building up during the government shutdown and since the removal of Member Wilcox.

UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EVENTS

UCA ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY AND CASINO NIGHT

FEELING LUCKY???? IF SO, JOIN THE UCA AS IT HOSTS ITS HOLIDAY PARTY AND CASINO NIGHT

DATE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

TIME: 6:00 P.M. REGISTRATION/BAR OPEN/7 P.M. CASINO FLOOR OPENS

LOCATION: THE EMPRESS

EAST LAKE STREET 200

ADDISON, IL

COST: \$190.00 PER PERSON, SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

CONTACT: LAUREN BARNETT LAUREN@UCA.ORG OR CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 4 12:00 P.M.	MARBA BOARD MEETING (MARBA)
NOVEMBER 5 8:30 A.M.	OPERATING ENGINEERS JGC (COUNTRYSIDE)
NOVEMBER 6 8:00 A.M.	BAC FUNDS MEETING (ELMHURST)
NOVEMBER 7 8:00 A.M.	IFEBP ANNUAL MEETING (HAWAII)
NOVEMBER 14 8:00 A.M.	FEDERAL RESERVE ADVISORY COUNCIL (CHICAGO)
NOVEMBER 18 11:00 A.M.	UCA EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM (CHICAGO)
NOVEMBER 25 9:00 A.M.	LABORERS JGC (BURR RIDGE)
TBD 9:00 A.M.	TEAMSTERS JGC (MARBA)

¹ Information for MARBA Matters was obtained from the following sources: BNA Construction Labor Reports, Crain's Chicago Business, Northwest Times of Indiana, Chicago Tribune, and Sun-Times, CDQ, and the BLS, as well as various websites and other publications.

Did You Know?

A sports equinox occurred on October 27, 2025, with all four major sports playing on the same day.