Prevailing wage standards apply on state-funded and locally-owned public works projects through the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act, on federal construction projects through the Davis-Bacon Act, and on most wind and solar developments and electric vehicle charging stations through the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act.

**PREVAILING WAGE LEVELS THE PLAYING FIELD AND STRENGTHENS THE ECONOMY**
- Prevailing wages are local minimum wages for different types of skilled construction work on public projects, ensuring that taxpayer dollars reflect local standards of compensation and craftsmanship.
- Prevailing wage increases hiring of local contractors by 8%.
- Prevailing wages keep more tax dollars and more income in the community where a project is being built, creating additional jobs across all sectors of the economy.

**PREVAILING WAGE BOOSTS PRODUCTIVITY AND IMPROVES SAFETY**
- Prevailing wages promote the hiring, development, and retention of higher-skilled workers.
- Prevailing wages prevent skilled construction worker shortages by boosting investment in apprenticeship training programs and increasing enrollment by 8%.
- Worksite productivity is 14% higher and injury rates are 14% lower in states with prevailing wage standards.

**PREVAILING WAGE PROMOTES LADDERS INTO THE MIDDLE CLASS**
- By stabilizing the wage floor, prevailing wages boost blue-collar construction worker incomes, expand health insurance coverage, increase homeownership, and reduce poverty.
- Prevailing wages deliver pathways into the middle class for veterans, who are more likely to work in construction than non-veterans.
- Prevailing wages promote equal pay for equal work, regardless of racial background or gender identification.

**PREVAILING WAGE IS THE BEST DEAL FOR TAXPAYERS**
- 85% of peer-reviewed research shows that prevailing wages do not increase total construction costs.
- Construction wages and benefits account for a small share of total construction costs (25% in Illinois).
- Prevailing wage standards decrease spending on government assistance programs and increase state, federal, and local tax revenues.

The research is clear and consistent: A strong Illinois is built locally with highly-trained workers.

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