

# Badger Lodge News

Newsletter for United Lodge 66, Machinists Union, AFL-CIO

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April 2025

**United Lodge 66**

**Business Meeting**

**April 8th at 7:00 PM**

**1650 S 38th Street**

**Milwaukee, WI 53215**

**414-671-3800**

**All lodge members are encouraged to attend**

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**Office Hours:**

**By appointment only. Call 414-671-3800 or email [lodge66@gmail.com](mailto:lodge66@gmail.com)**

**All Contract issues must be settled by your Business Rep at District 10. See Last Page**

## **2025 Wisconsin State Council of Machinists**

By Jon Zancanaro

The 2025 Wisconsin State Council of Machinists was held in Madison on March 23rd through the 25th. Delegates listened to speeches from various State Representatives, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers and Wisconsin Supreme Court candidate Susan Crawford and went to the Capitol to lobby on workers rights.

The opening remarks were given by District 10 Directing Business Representative Alex Hoekstra. He laid out the agenda and a theme we would hear throughout the conference: we have a tough road ahead of us but we cannot get discouraged nor give up the fight. He then introduced Midwest General Vice President Sam Cicinelli. GVP Cicinelli echoed DBR Hoekstra's sentiments and outlined strategies that the Territory will be employing to help keep up the fight for workers rights.

We heard a campaign speech from Wisconsin Supreme Court candidate Susan Crawford. She thanked us all for our hard work on behalf of the members we represent and outlined her background in labor, her fights against Act 10 and the Right to Work law here in Wisconsin. She also added how the President and his pal Elon Musk are trying to buy the seat and implored us to talk with our friends, families and co workers on the dangers ahead of us should her opponent win.

Other speakers at the conference were Wisconsin State AFL-CIO President Stephanie Bloomingdale, WI 2nd congressional District Representative Mark Pocan, Wisconsin State Assembly from the 64th District Representative and friend of Local Lodge 66 Tip McGuire. Each speaker echoed the sentiments of the tough road ahead for labor under the current administration and noted that we as a group are up for the fight and we will win.

As the conference concluded DBR Hoekstra asked each delegate to go to the state Capitol and lobby our elected officials on 2 major issues: Supporting the Governor's budget and support the Buy Wisconsin, Buy American Legislation.

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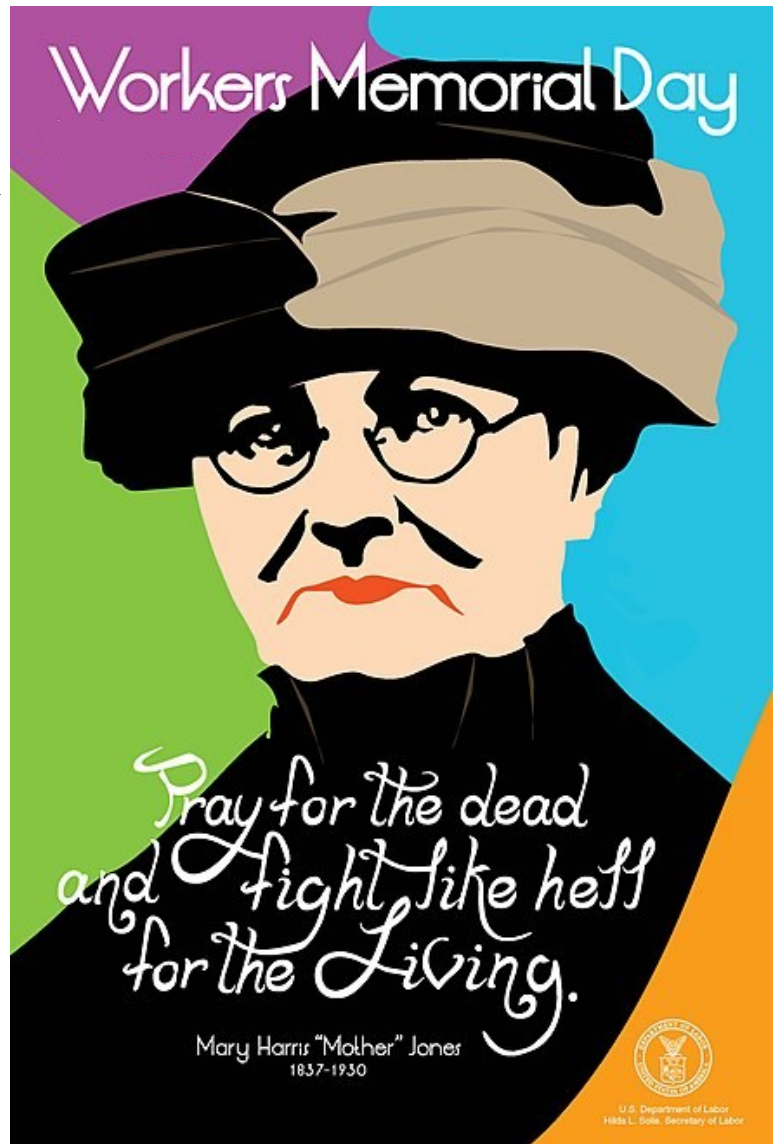
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## Past Sacrifices, Future Victories: Workers Memorial Day

Workers Memorial day is held on April 28th of each year and has been done so since April 28th, 1989. The date was chosen as it was the anniversary of the signing of the Occupational Safety and Health Act which became law and instituted OSHA in 1970. OSHA allowed for federal governance over health and safety regulations in our workplace.

However, today OSHA is under attack under the current administration. Which leads us to a call to arms of sorts. As we wait and see what may or may not happen to our greatest protection in our workplace we're reminded of the famous quote from Mother Jones: "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living."

We need to remember these words as we celebrate workers memorial day this year. We also need to remember those that gave their greatest sacrifices on the job as we fight for ours now.



### *State Council from previous page*

We went to the capitol and visited offices of each of our State representatives. Unfortunately most of the representatives were back home in their districts and unavailable to speak. We did speak with aides and the treatment we received from aides varied greatly based on which side of the aisle their bosses are on. We did wrap up with a great in person conversation Wisconsin Senate representative from the 22nd district Bob Wirsch. Senator Wirsch is a true friend of labor and spoke with us for over a half hour. He told us stories of his time as a Steelworker at the Brass in Kenosha. He pledged his support on the issues we brought to his attention and told us to call on him if we should ever need him.

Overall the 2025 Wisconsin State Council of Machinists was an informative and great time catching up with our Union constituents from around the state, meeting old friends and making new ones as well. We do have a rocky road ahead of us as the current administration continues to roll out attacks on union workers and workers in general. But if there is one thing we all have learned about the labor movement is that we won't back down from a challenge and when we stand together we will win.

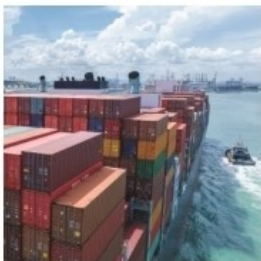


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## Tariffs: How They Work and Potential Economic Effects



*The situation is fluid, and the full impact will depend on how the tariff program plays out — how much is intended as a negotiating tool and how much turns into long-term policy.*

On February 1, 2025, President Trump authorized an additional 25% tariff on all goods entering the United States from Canada and Mexico (except for a lower 10% tariff on energy resources from Canada) and an additional 10% tariff on all goods from China. Nine days later, Trump authorized a 25% tariff on steel and aluminum, effective March 12, which strengthened and elevated tariffs levied by the first Trump administration in 2018.<sup>1</sup> These were the opening salvos in what promises to be a period of aggressive moves that is likely to shake up the global trade environment.

A tariff is a tax on a particular class of imported goods or services that is typically designed to help protect domestic industries from foreign competition. However, the Trump administration is also using tariffs as leverage for other goals. The tariffs on Mexico and Canada — our two largest trading partners — were suspended for a month after both countries promised major initiatives to secure their U.S. borders against the flow of fentanyl and illegal immigrants.<sup>2</sup> Despite these efforts, the tariffs went into effect on March 4. Canada quickly retaliated with 25% tariffs on about \$100 billion of U.S. goods, while Mexico promised to announce retaliation measures on March 9.<sup>3</sup>

On the other hand, China — which exports some of the chemicals used to manufacture fentanyl — immediately responded to the February 1 action by raising its tariffs on selected U.S. exports by 10% to 15%.<sup>4</sup> Trump added another 10% tariff on all Chinese goods, which also went into effect on March 4, and China shot back with new 10%–15% tariffs on U.S. agricultural goods as well as restrictions on certain U.S. companies.<sup>5</sup>

### Background

Although the U.S. Constitution specifically grants Congress the power to levy tariffs (also called duties), Congress has delegated much of that authority to the President over the last 90 years. This has led to numerous trade agreements that have created a low-tariff, rules-based global trading structure, with tariffs applied on selected products. Over the past 70 years, tariffs have seldom accounted for more than 2% of federal revenue and were just 1.57% in FY 2024. Prior to the recent actions, about 70% of all foreign goods entered the United States duty-free.<sup>6</sup>

### Who pays for tariffs?

Tariffs are collected by U.S. Customs and Border Protection at U.S. ports of entry. The tariff is paid by the U.S. company or individual who imports the goods. Put simply, if a U.S. company imports \$1 million of foreign steel with a 25% tariff, that steel costs the company an additional \$250,000 for a total of \$1.25 million.

The U.S. company might then absorb all or part of the additional cost or pass it to consumers who buy products made from the steel. Alternately, the foreign steel exporter might lower its prices in order to maintain access to the U.S. market, in which case the U.S. company would still pay the 25% tariff, but the total price would not rise by the full 25% over the pre-tariff price.

The other factor in this equation, which is the traditional purpose of tariffs, is that the U.S. importer might buy steel from a U.S. manufacturer, thus avoiding the extra tax. The questions then are: 1) Will the U.S. manufacturer raise its price because it no longer has to compete with cheaper foreign imports? 2) Will there be enough U.S.-manufactured steel to meet demand?



## Lessons from round one

There have been numerous studies of the 2018-19 tariffs, which were not as restrictive as the new program but offer some possible answers to these questions. Almost all of the steel and aluminum tariff costs were passed directly to U.S. companies in the form of prices that rose by about 22% and 8% respectively. However, many foreign producers received exemptions from the tariffs, and U.S. steel and aluminum production — which represented more than two-thirds of the U.S. market before the tariffs — grew moderately to meet demand, rising by an annual average of \$2.8 billion over the period from 2018 to 2021. Even so, companies that had depended on cheaper imported metal struggled, and overall production of goods that use steel and aluminum decreased by an annual average of \$3.4 billion.<sup>7</sup>

U.S. importers also bore near the full cost of the broader tariffs on Chinese goods but generally passed only part of the costs to consumers.<sup>8</sup> However, a separate tariff on washing machines added \$86 to the retail price of a washing machine and \$92 to the price of a dryer, ultimately costing consumers over \$1.5 billion.<sup>9</sup> Broadly, a 2024 analysis found that the 2018–19 tariffs (many continued by the Biden administration), combined with retaliatory tariffs by other countries, reduced U.S. gross domestic product by a little more than 0.2% and cost about 169,000 full-time jobs.<sup>10</sup>

## Reciprocal tariffs and de minimis suspension

Trump has also ordered a study of reciprocal tariffs, which would set tariffs based dollar-for-dollar on the tariffs each country charges on U.S. goods, as well as nontariff trade barriers. As with most issues related to tariffs, there are differing opinions on this. At best, reciprocal tariffs could lead to negotiating lower tariffs and removing barriers that prevent U.S. businesses from operating in a foreign country. At worst, they could lead to a global trade war, with ever-increasing tariffs and barriers.<sup>11</sup>

Along with the 10% tariff on Chinese goods, Trump excluded China from the de minimis provision of U.S. customs law that exempts goods valued at less than \$800. This would make cheap goods from Chinese online retailers, which are often shipped directly to consumers, subject to existing tariffs plus the new 10% tariff. The exclusion was suspended on February 7 to give the U.S. Postal Service and Customs and Border Protection time to develop a plan to collect the tariffs.<sup>12</sup> It's unclear how this change will affect consumer prices, but processing could slow delivery times.<sup>13</sup>

## Inflation

Most economists believe that tariffs cause inflation, and President Trump admitted there might be short-term price increases. The potential for tariff-driven inflation is of particular concern in the current economy; two recent surveys show a significant decline in consumer confidence due to inflation fears.<sup>14–15</sup> The full economic impact will depend on how the tariff program plays out — how much is intended as a negotiating tool and how much turns into long-term policy. For now, it would be wise to maintain a steady course and keep an eye on further developments.

- 1) The White House, February 1 and 11, 2025
- 2) CBS News, February 3, 2025
- 3, 5) CNN Business, March 5, 2025
- 4) AP News, February 4, 2025
- 6) Congressional Research Service, January 31, 2025
- 7) U.S. International Trade Commission, May 2023
- 8) National Bureau of Economic Research, October 2019
- 9) University of Chicago, April 2019
- 10) Tax Foundation, February 13, 2025
- 11, 14) *The Wall Street Journal*, February 13, 2025
- 12) CNBC, February 7, 2025
- 13) AP News, February 5, 2025
- 15) CNN Business, February 25, 2025



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# **Senior's Corner: Medicare, Medicaid Cuts Would Force Half of Patients to Delay Care: Poll**

*from Newsweek.com*

Half of those on Medicare and Medicaid would have to delay or skip their medical treatments if the programs face major cuts under the Republican House budget, according to a new Everly Health survey. The polling of 1,000 U.S. adults found more than 60 percent of Americans are worried about Medicare and Medicaid cuts under the new budget.

The Republican House budget asks the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which oversees Medicaid and Medicare, to cut \$880 billion in spending over the next decade. More than 72 million people across the country were covered by Medicaid last year, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. And Medicare, which serves seniors, is responsible for the health coverage of at least 66 million Americans.

The House budget calls for \$2 trillion in spending cuts. While none of that is specified for Medicare or Medicaid, the budget does outline that the House Energy and Commerce Committee would need to make the \$880 billion in cuts over the next decade. The health care programs account for a bulk of the committee's funding. While Trump has promised there will not be cuts to Medicaid or Medicare, an analysis by The New York Times found the committee would be \$600 billion short even if it cuts everything besides health care. In the Everly Health survey, half of those on Medicare and Medicaid would have to delay or skip their medi-

cal treatments if the programs faced major cuts.

Kevin Thompson, finance expert and founder/CEO of 9i Capital Group, told Newsweek: "Given the massive cuts to entitlement spending and reform, it's clear why there's concern. An \$880 billion reduction to a program that was previously assured as 'untouchable' is alarming—especially since the details haven't been fully presented. People should be concerned not just about this program but about potential cuts to others in the future."

Low-income families would likely face difficult choices in navigating their health care if the cuts take effect. "Seniors and people with disabilities who depend on long-term care services would be left scrambling. And kids might lose access to the very care that gives them a healthy start in life," Ryan said, adding that health insurance premiums would also likely increase. If the cuts to Medicaid and Medicare are approved, Thompson said, underserved, rural communities and older adults are most vulnerable, as they already have more limited health care access and telehealth options. "Initially, I thought these cuts were unlikely, but the growing push from Republicans to pass their tax bill suggests otherwise," Thompson said. "It's possible these cuts will be packaged subtly—like reducing state funding through block grants and adding more barriers to program accessibility. Medicaid, being a significant cost factor, is likely to face the most pressure."

## **Upcoming Events and Important Dates:**

<p><b>Milwaukee Area Labor Council Delegate Meeting</b>   <b>Wednesday, April 2nd</b>  <b>at 6:30 PM</b>   <b>Milwaukee Labor Temple</b>   <b>633 S. Hawley Rd.</b>   <b>Milwaukee, WI</b></p>	<p><b>District 10 Business Meeting</b>   <b>Monday, April 7th</b>   <b>At 7 PM</b>   <b>Satellite Meeting @ Lodge 66</b>   <b>1650 S. 38th Street</b>   <b>Milwaukee, WI</b></p>	<p><b>Lodge 66 Business Meeting</b>   <b>Tuesday, April 8th</b>   <b>at 7 PM</b>   <b>Local Lodge 66</b>   <b>1650 S. 38th Street</b>   <b>Milwaukee, WI</b></p>	<p><b>Deadline to submit articles for the next</b>   <b>Badger Lodge News is</b>   <b>April 21st</b>   <b>Submit articles by email:</b>   <b>lodge66@gmail.com</b></p>
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**District 10 Office Directory:**

107 Warren St. Suite 2 Beaver Dam,  
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Call 920-219-4919 followed by the ex-  
tension for you Business Rep

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- Nick Bednarek . . . . . 3
- Jeremy Terlisner . . . . . 6
- Todd Humleker . . . . . 5
- Joe Terlisner . . . . . 7
- Hunter Scott . . . . . 8
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