



UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

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Union Carpenters and Allies Hold Events Across the United States and Canada to Protest Employer Tax Fraud and Worker Abuse in Construction, April 6–18

Washington, D.C. — The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC) announced that its regional affiliates will hold Days of Action events April 6–18, 2026, to educate the public and protest widespread construction employer tax fraud and abuse of workers in the United States and Canada.

Details of the events can be found at StopTaxFraud.net/StandUp.

State and federal tax losses reach at least \$10 billion a year due to schemes used by perpetrators of fraud and abuse. Many employers deliberately misclassify workers as independent contractors or pay them off the books to avoid paying employment taxes.

A 2023 [national study](#) gives evidence of the toll that tax fraud takes. Using conservative estimates, the study found that up to 2.1 million construction workers, or 19 percent, are misclassified as independent contractors or paid off the books. Workers are deprived of \$1.9 billion in overtime wage theft, and working families suffer a \$5.1 billion tax increase because crooked employers shift their own responsibility to pay employment taxes onto their workers' backs. In addition, workers' compensation insurers lose \$5 billion to employer premium fraud.

In addition, according to a [study](#) by the Economic Policy Institute, a typical construction worker who is paid as an independent contractor can expect to lose as much as \$19,526 per year in income and benefits compared with what they would have earned as a W-2 employee.

Other fraud schemes include using shell companies and shady banking practices, laundering money, refusing to pay overtime, labor trafficking, child labor, and falsifying workers' compensation data to avoid paying premiums. Immigrant workers are especially vulnerable to abuse and often fear standing up for their rights.

Tax fraud is a scourge in Canada as well. According to a recent study, Ontario alone loses up to \$3.1 billion a year in federal and provincial taxes and Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB) premiums. Nationwide, Statistics Canada indicates the underground economy amounts to \$72.4 billion of economic activity. Thirty-three percent of that, or \$23.7 billion, is in the residential construction industry.

Another study documents [tax fraud's devastating toll](#). The University of California Berkeley Labor Center found that 39 percent of U.S. construction worker families, about three million, must rely on one or more taxpayer-funded safety-net programs like Medicaid and the earned income tax credit, due to low-road employment practices and fraud. This is costing state and federal taxpayers \$28 billion a year.

"Employers at every level are involved, from the smallest subcontractors and labor brokers to the largest developers and construction company owners," said UBC General President Douglas J. McCarron. "They all know it's happening and there is no doubt they know it is wrong."

Examples of Tax Fraud Days of Action events in 2026 include:

- On April 7, some 2,000 carpenters and supporters in New York City are expected to gather at a rally at the New York City Public Library in Manhattan in protest over construction industry tax fraud. A rally will be held at the state capitol in Albany on April 9, and throughout the Days of Action campaign, workers and supporters will hold rallies and events in Buffalo, Syracuse and Ithaca and other cities and towns across New York State.
- Throughout the Days of Action campaign, members of the Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska will take part in demonstrations, rallies and banner events at scores of job sites, post offices and other government buildings.
- On April 14, the North Coast Carpenters Regional Council will host a member rally on the steps of the state capitol in Sacramento, featuring several public officials.
- On April 19, members of the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters in Massachusetts will host "Death to the Middle Class," a mock funeral complete with caskets in procession, near the campus of Tufts University in Medford. Rallies and other events will be held in other Massachusetts cities and towns throughout Days of Action, and a Legislative Education Day will be held at the State House in Boston on April 16.
- On April 10, a protest rally will be held at Thompson Point in Portland, Maine. A banner event will be held on April 9 in Manchester, New Hampshire.

- On April 16, Attorneys General from Eastern Atlantic states including Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. will participate in an online forum discussing construction industry tax fraud and strategies for eliminating it.
- Members of the Western States Regional Council of Carpenters will be attending city council meetings in Southern California to educate representatives about the harms caused by abuse of construction workers.

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America represents 500,000 skilled workers throughout North America. For more information on the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, please visit: www.carpenters.org

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