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 **Advocacy Digest | September 21, 2020**

 **Brad Boycks, Executive Director**

**New Political Giving Pages Launched**

**Recently, WBA announced two streamlined websites for members to make personal contributions to the Building A Better Wisconsin PAC (BBW-PAC) and the Builders Direct Fund Conduit (BDF Conduit).**

Building a Better Wisconsin (BBW) is WBA's political action committee, commonly referred to as a PAC. It consists of WBA members from across the state combining their resources to support pro-housing, pro-business candidates running for office in Wisconsin.

PAC contribution decisions are made by reviewing the candidates' positions and voting records on housing and WBA priority issues; decisions are bipartisan.

The Builders Direct Fund is the Wisconsin Builders Association conduit fund.  That begs the next question, what is a conduit?  A conduit is defined by the Government Accountability Board as a*n individual or organization that receives money from individuals, deposits it in a financial institution, and then transfers contributions to any registrant (candidate, personal, legislative political action or political party committee) selected by the original contributor.  The conduit organization or administrator may not exercise any discretion over the amount or ultimate recipient of these contributions.*

Requirements to Donate:
- Candidate name is required
- Donation must be personal and not through corporate source
- Minimum donation of $100 is required
- Funds from BDF can only go towards candidates running for office on state and local levels (not President, U.S. Senate, or U.S. House)

[Click here](https://www.wisbuild.org/checkout/donate?donatePageId=5f57ad65d7a2b403519af4da) **to contribute to the BBW PAC or** [click here](https://www.wisbuild.org/checkout/donate?donatePageId=5f57aac7b4365510c58e08aa) **to make a contribution to the BDF Conduit. Contributions go towards each local HBA’s political fundraising goal for 2020.**

**Changes Coming to the UDC Council**

**After working with three members who have served on the Uniform Dwelling Code Council for the past several years, we learned recently they were not reappointed to serve another 2-year term by Governor Tony Evers.**

**Two additional WBA members and one inspector who has generally shared our worldview on building codes have expired terms and have not received notice they will be replaced on the UDC Council.**

**When the UDC Council begins to meet again they may have a much different view on important and expensive code matters like requiring each new home to have an electric car charging station.**

**We always say elections have consequences and the recent changes on the UDC Council are a good example of that age old saying.**

**Evers Extends Statewide Mask Mandate**

On September 22, Governor Tony Evers extended the statewide mask mandate in Wisconsin effective immediately for an additional 60 days, or until November 21, 2020 unless replaced by a subsequent superseding emergency order.

“We continue to learn more about this virus, but what we do know is that we are facing a new and dangerous phase of the COVID-19 pandemic here in Wisconsin,” said Gov. Evers. “We are seeing an alarming increase in cases across our state, especially on campus. We need folks to start taking this seriously, and young people especially—please stay home as much as you are able, skip heading to the bars, and wear a mask whenever you go out. We need your help to stop the spread of this virus, and we all have to do this together.”

**Executive Order #90 can be found** [here](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WIGOV/2020/09/22/file_attachments/1552234/EO090-DeclaringPublicHealthEmergency.pdf) **and Emergency Order #1 can be seen** [here](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WIGOV/2020/09/22/file_attachments/1552176/EmO01-SeptFaceCoverings.pdf)**.**

**In a statement released after Governor Evers’ announcement, Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald released a statement that concluded by saying,** “the Wisconsin Supreme Court made it clear that if Governor Evers wishes to continue to impose sanctions, mandates, and restrictions on the citizens of this state, he must work with the legislature to do so. That has not happened. Governor Evers’ order is moot, illegal, invalid, and almost assuredly headed for litigation.”

**From NAHB: EPA Finalizes Rule for New Regulatory Guidance Documents**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a rulemaking on Sept. 14 that establishes new regulatory standards for all EPA regulatory guidance documents. These documents help EPA and other federal agencies provide implementation and enforcement guidance to regulated entities. EPA has issued tens of thousands of guidance documents to interpret environmental statutes, regulations and its permitting programs.

EPA’s final rule, which is intended to increase transparency and access, has four key elements:

Establishes a regulatory definition for the “guidance documents” and “significant guidance documents” that are subject to the rule’s requirements.

Responds to President Trump’s directive under Executive Order 13891, “Promoting the Rule of Law Through Improved Agency Guidance Documents,” by creating a centralized website where the public can locate all of EPA’s active regulatory guidance documents.

Requires all “significant regulatory guidance documents” to be subject to public comment before being finalized by the Agency.

Creates a process by which anyone can petition the Agency to modify or withdraw any existing regulatory guidance document.

When the rule was initially proposed, NAHB’s comments were very supportive of the rule’s transparency requirements, such as requiring EPA to post all regulatory guidance documents online. NAHB members must rely upon these documents to understand various environmental permitting, required environmental training and recordkeeping requirements.

NAHB also cautioned EPA not to take any actions that would hinder the Agency’s ability to provide timely guidance to regulated entities. Given the complexity of EPA’s permitting and regulatory programs, NAHB members rely upon timely guidance on a wide range of environmental compliance matters, including EPA’s permitting programs, and required worker training, firm certification and recordkeeping requirements under EPA’s Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule.

For more information about EPA’s final regulatory guidance rule, please contact Michael Mittelholzer.