



NEWS & VIEWS

LEHIGH VALLEY LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

"UNIONS JOINING TOGETHER AS ONE"

www.lehighvalleyclc.org



October 2026

The 2026 Labor Ticket

for the Tuesday, November 3 Election. Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

How you vote is a personal choice, but the Lehigh Valley Labor Council has endorsed the following candidates. Related election information on pages three and six.



PA Lt. Governor
Austin Davis



PA Governor
Josh Shapiro



US House 7th
Bob Brooks



PA Senate 14th
Nick Miller



PA Senate 16th
Mark Pinsley



PA Senate 18th
Lisa Boscola



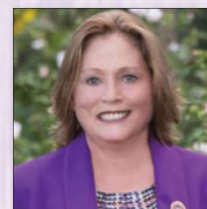
PA House 22nd
CeCe Gerlach



PA House 131st
Meriam H. Sabih



PA House 132nd
Mike Schlossberg



PA House 133rd
Jeanne McNeill



PA House 134th
Pete Schweyer



PA House 135th
Steve Samuelson



PA House 136th
Robert Freeman



PA House 137th
Jeff Warren



PA House 138th
Jared Bitting



PA House 183rd
Deirdre J. Kamber



PA House 187th
Rachel M. Cuevas

"Working people are hurting"

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler in her fourth annual "State of the Unions" address

by the AFL-CIO
September 1, 2026 Press Release

Ahead of Labor Day, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler warned about workers' struggles with high costs and detailed the labor movement's plans for the 2026 midterm elections.

In her fourth annual "State of the Unions" address, Shuler emphasized the pain working people are feeling, the lack of trust working-class voters have in politicians and that electing pro-worker candidates will rely on working people talking to their neighbors.

"This Labor Day, sh#!'s too expensive," said Shuler in her address.

"That's what 94% of workers told us, in our new poll. Four out of five say paychecks aren't keeping up with the cost of living—groceries, rent, child care, gas."

"Workers are sick and tired of both parties: Republicans who enable a White House that has made our life worse and more expensive at every turn. Who have rubber-stamped Trump's needless wars, chaotic tariffs and attacks on our communities. And at the same time, we have too many Democrats who pay lip service to working people, say they understand us, and want our votes on Election Day—and then take office and cozy up to the same corporations we're fighting on the picket lines. This year, it's time to put the full weight of the labor movement behind candidates who will actually deliver for working people."

"Working people are hurting. Working people are angry. But this Labor Day, the State of the Unions is clear: We're motivated. We're mobilized. We're ready. And we're going to win."

The 2026 "State of the Unions" also included new polling that surveyed thousands of working people, including both union members and those not yet in a union. Key findings include:

Trust in unions exceeds trust in the Democratic Party by 20 points (52% to 32%), and workers are twice as likely to trust unions than to trust the Republican Party (52% to 26%).

Young workers ages 18–30 trust labor unions (61%) more than twice as much as they trust the Democratic Party (28%) or the Republican Party (22%). Among young men, the trust gap is 40 points between unions and Democrats (63% to 23%) and 43 points between unions and Republicans (63% to 20%).

The only group workers trust more than unions is their own neighbors (75%).

For five years running, 7 in 10 Americans say they support unions—the highest level of support in a generation.

By a 2-to-1 margin, people say unions are more needed today than in the past, and say increasing union membership is the single best way Americans can get a raise.

More workers than ever want a union on the job. Among those ages 18–30, 57% who aren't in a union say they'd join one at their most recent workplace, up 10 points

since last year. Workers are more likely to say the path to higher wages is through more people belonging to unions or electing candidates endorsed by unions (22%) than through electing Democrats (20%) or Republicans (19%).

The address comes as union membership has hit a 16-year high, with nearly a half-million workers across the country joining a union last year, 92% of them younger than 40. It is with that increased strength and unions' singular relationships with their members that the labor movement will turn out 2 million more union voters than in 2024 and train 50,000 election protection volunteers for November.

President Shuler's address can be viewed at: www.aflcio.org.



Liz Shuler
President AFL-CIO

Lehigh Valley Labor Council AFL-CIO www.lehighvalleyclc.org Phone 610-366-1358

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Our mailing address is: Lehigh Valley Labor Council
P.O. Box 20226
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

Our office location is:
Operating Engineers #542
7609 Kuhns Drive
Trexlerstown, PA 18087

Editor

Ron Ennis	APWU #268
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Webmaster

John Weiss	SEIU #668
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Year-end predictions

Union members shared their forecasts at the Labor Day picnic

by Ron Ennis, Editor
Lehigh Valley Labor Council

The Lehigh Valley Labor Council hosted its annual Pete DePietro Labor Day picnic on September 6 for roughly 275 union members and friends. The gathering at the American Club pavilion, 300 Cherry St., Coplay, included an afternoon of solidarity and talking with local candidates.

With the November 3 Election weeks away, an informal survey was also conducted at the picnic, and union members eagerly shared their answers to the following question: "My prediction for the end of the year is . . . ?"

Although not a scientific poll, respondents had free reign to express whatever they had on their mind. Some went into great detail and their general sentiments will follow the survey responses. Thanks to all who participated in this questionnaire.

"I am hoping that people pay attention and exercise their right to vote. I think it will be a good turnout, because people are pissed-off."

Bill, *Actors Equity-Screen Actors Guild*

"Democrats will flip the US House, maybe even the US Senate. And there will be investigations of Trump and his family."

John, *United Steel Workers #2599-Service Employees International Union #668*

"Trump will be out of the White House by next summer. Harrisburg will pass legislation increasing the minimum wage because the Democrats will take the state Senate in November."

Tom, *United Steel Workers #2599*

"Democrats will flip the US House, and maybe the US Senate."

William, *Insulators #23*

"The rose-colored glasses will come off on November 3. There will be a reckoning for the Republican Party. Working people will have found their voice."

Mike, *Communications Workers of America #13500*

"Gas prices could easily go up by the end of the year before they come down."

Yvonne, *American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees #2244*

"The federal government will begin imposing policies and regulations concerning worship. For example, church and state will get together to impose laws concerning worship. Businesses will close, and buying and selling on that day will not happen."

Phillip, *American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees #2244*

"I think prices will continue to go up. I think data centers will eventually be built."

Georgiann, *American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees #8808 retiree*

"I think the Iran War will continue and gas prices will keep going up."

Peggy, *American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees #8808 retiree*

"People will realize the economic effects of Trump's 'One Big, Beautiful Bill.' They will be worse off than they thought."

Linda, *American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees #8808 retiree*

"Labor will be stronger than ever. I see a lot of solidarity between workers in different industries."

Tiffany, *Pennsylvania State Education Association*

"We will have Bob Brooks in Congress with the help of the Lehigh Valley's labor unions."

Christine, *Workes United*

"Prices will be lower. They are already too high."

Ella, *International Ladies Garment Workers Union #234*

"The Iran War will continue. The next president will likely be dealing with the war."

Jason, *United Brotherhood of Carpenters #167*

"There will be good Democratic victories in November at both the state and federal level. People want to send a message this Election Day that they are dissatisfied with Trump and his failed policies."

Bob, *United Food and Commercial Workers Union #1776*

"We will blow out the GOP on Election Day in Washington, but I am not so sure in Harrisburg. Prices will begin dropping in December."

Dorothy, *International Ladies Garment Workers Union, Pennsylvania Joint Board*

"There could be a real danger after the election if the Democrats take the US House and US Senate. Trump will be desperate and has already shown he has no regard for the constitution, the law, or the courts."

Bob, *International Union of Operating Engineers #542*

Many respondents went into detail after answering the survey question. Their general sentiments follow.

Union members at the Labor Day picnic want change. They do not see the economy improving in the near future and do not see Trump's war in Iran ending any time soon. They believe Trump created many domestic and international problems that he will leave to his successor.

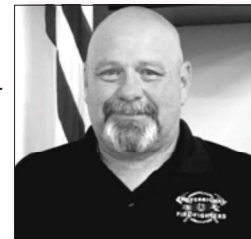
Lehigh Valley union voters never embraced far-right wing politicians, but Ryan Mackenzie ignored that local wisdom and went all in with Trump. They see Mackenzie's extremism as a reason Bob Brooks, his labor-endorsed opponent, will win on election day.

The proliferation of warehouses in the Lehigh Valley over the past thirty years soured some union members on data center development. They believe that the warehousing industry over promised benefits while clogging our local communities with truck traffic. They fear history will repeat itself and negative consequences will follow data center development.

Finally, one candidate shared experiences while canvassing in the district. Most voters told the office seeker that the rising cost of goods is their chief concern.

Differences emerged, however, over who they blamed. Democratic and independent voters put the responsibility squarely on Trump, his tariffs and his Iran War.

Republican voters, the candidate said, blamed "socialists" for our nation's economic problems. When you have nothing to vote for, blame a straw man.



Bob Brooks
candidate for
US Congress, PA-7th



From the Lehigh Canal to data centers

Historical patterns of corporate imposition and community resistance in the Lehigh Valley

by Ron Ennis, Editor
Lehigh Valley Labor Council

In March 1827, *The Easton Argus* editor declared the Lehigh Canal's construction "an auspicious era." Once completed, he continued, the forty-six-mile canal will provide jobs for laboring men, a market for the farmer's crops, and money-making opportunities for capitalists.

The canal "will require the employment of several thousand hands (and) enable the farmer from the borders of the Lehigh . . . to transport his produce to Philadelphia or New York." For investors, the *Argus* editor predicted the canal "will open a vast field for manufactories, particularly in iron."

Not everyone in the Lehigh Valley agreed with *The Argus* editor's unbridled enthusiasm for the sixty-foot wide by five-foot deep ditch that would stretch from Mauch Chunk, now known as Jim Thorpe, to Easton. Critics feared that the Lehigh Canal's owners and state legislators had imposed unwanted changes on their communities that, in their view, outweighed any proposed benefits.

Two hundred years later, data centers promise a similar industrial revolution: thousands of jobs, windfalls for large landowners, and opportunities for rich investors. Data centers house the equipment powering artificial intelligence (AI).

Present-day promoters of AI argue that data centers are needed for their new technology to spur the nation's economy and maintain its edge against foreign competitors. Donald Trump argued on his Truth Social platform earlier this month that China "could not be happier" with the backlash against data centers. He added, "The only reason that communities throughout the U.S.A. should not want data centers is if they want to end up being backwards and poor. If they want to be successful and rich, with far lower taxes and jobs all over the place, let Data Reign."

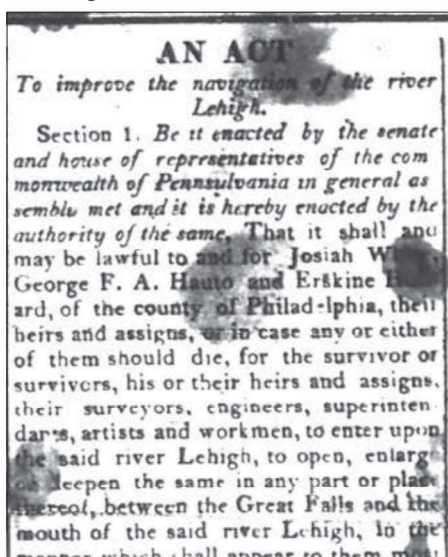


Fig. 1: An Act to improve the navigation of the river Lehigh, March 20, 1818. Harrisburg lawmakers gave Josiah White, Erskine Hazard, and George Hauto, a third partner, unprecedented ownership rights to the Lehigh River. The partners found the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company three years later, which maintained control over the river until 1965. (Credit: Easton Sentinel, June 12, 1818.)



Fig. 2: Lehigh Canal workers needed, 1819. Coal shipments began the following year on the Lehigh River. (Credit: Susquehanna Democrat, April 30, 1819)

Like *The Argus* editor's boosterism for the Lehigh Canal, Trump's sales pitch for data centers has met opposition. An August 30 *Allentown Morning Call* article reported that sixty percent of Pennsylvania voters oppose data centers. *The New York Times* reported seventy-eight data centers currently operating in the state. Gov. Josh Shapiro signed an executive order on August 18 placing restrictions on new data center construction, joining other states that have moved to limit facilities necessary for artificial intelligence.

Gov. Shapiro remarked that more than one hundred data center proposals are under discussion in Pennsylvania. He said data center "speculators are scaring our communities, being aggressive with township officials, bullying our neighbors, and refusing to listen to the people of Pennsylvania." He explained that he had to act, because the Republican state Senate Majority leader "said he had no intention of taking action to regulate data center development." To read Shapiro's entire statement, visit: www.pa.gov/governor/newsroom/2026-press-releases.

Data centers that power artificial intelligence are not going away. Yet communities nationwide worry about the billions of dollars pouring into their development, their encroaching environmental impact, and that they won't deliver promised local benefits. Area lawmakers have authored and sponsored several bills in Harrisburg seeking to pause data center applications, repeal tax breaks for data center equipment, and protect consumers from rising energy costs. *The Morning Call* described some of these data center-related proposals in an August 31 front-page story.

The Lehigh Canal's early history illuminates why communities resist data centers today. Two hundred years separate the two periods, but people react similarly when business, financial and government elites impose unwanted disruptions on their communities. Lacking control over the direction of rapid change only provokes suspicion and fear. The Lehigh Canal's construction offers a cautionary tale to business and financial interests imposing change on communities without their support.

Understanding that resistance requires examining the canal's origins. In early 1818, Philadelphia faced two major problems: nearly 60,000 residents needed wood for heating, and the Erie Canal threatened to further shift the nation's commercial center to New York. Pennsylvania state Rep. William Lehman, a member of Philadelphia's business and political elite, warned his fellow legislators that Pennsylvania had fallen behind. Meanwhile, New York had authorized spending \$7

million for its 363-mile Erie Canal project. Pleading to his fellow legislators for a waterway project, he asked, "To what nobler purposes can our money be applied?"

Lehman, chair of the state House Committee on Inland Navigation, had hoped the Schuylkill Navigation Company (SNC) would finish its ninety-mile canal, running from Port Carbon to Philadelphia, before New York completed its Erie Canal. The SNC had planned to ship lumber and anthracite coal, a new energy source that promoters predicted would replace wood, before the Erie began operations. Yet despite starting construction before its northern rival, the SNC faced severe financial and engineering problems that jeopardized the project. If Lehman wanted his fellow legislators to support a waterway project, he would need another canal project.

Fortunately for Lehman, two men approached him with a plan that would address Philadelphia's problems. Josiah White and Erskine Hazard, two Philadelphia entrepreneurs, proposed shipping coal, lumber and other resources using the Lehigh and Delaware rivers to Philadelphia before the SNC or New York completed their projects. They also promised to complete a two-way navigable canal running alongside the Lehigh River by the end of the decade if Lehman and his fellow legislators gave them ownership of the waterway. Lehman and his colleagues had doubts that White and Hazard's plan would succeed, but they desperately wanted to remain competitive with their northern rival and avoid a potential winter fuel shortage. On March 20, 1818, they passed legislation granting the partners ownership of the Lehigh River. (Fig. #1)

White and Hazard transferred their ownership rights to their newly-formed Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company (LC&N) three years later, making the Lehigh River the only known privately held waterway in American history. Harrisburg's extraordinary gift eventually enabled the partners to build an industrial juggernaut that controlled mining, transportation and manufacturing." (Fig. #2)

White and Hazard returned to Harrisburg seeking additional favors to expand their transportation network and remain competitive with rivals. Inland navigation and maintenance ranked among the most expensive projects in antebellum America, fostering ties between business, capital, and government. However, public sentiment had already shifted against the partners.

The severe depression beginning in 1819 left thousands jobless nationwide and contributed to public resentment against the LC&N. According to historian Priscilla Ferguson Clement, Philadelphia's program to combat poverty proved inadequate. The city commissioned a study to examine welfare programs in other American cities and found that they "were superior to Philadelphia's." Meanwhile, critics rebuked state authorities for spending taxpayer dollars on canal and road improvements, while ignoring the needs of working people in their "times of unparalleled distress and embarrassment," wrote *The Easton Sentinel*. The inadequate state and local poor relief to address the downturn in the economy changed attitudes towards state-sponsored inland navigation projects.

Beyond economic grievances, communities on the banks of the Lehigh River confronted the canal's environmental impacts. Farmers objected when the LC&N seized their "fine bottom lands" and "felled their timber . . . to make room for the canals," *The Northampton County Whig & Journal* editor wrote in 1829. Rev. Joseph M. Levering later recalled in his *History of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania* that others lamented the firm diverting the Lehigh River to serve the canal network and sacrifice "the pitiless ravages of industry upon the picturesque." The company's dams prevented the river's shad from reaching their spawning grounds, killing off a food source that had sustained the region's inhabitants for generations. Rivals com-

plained about the legal barriers the firm erected to protect its monopoly it had cultivated from the outset. Correspondence in Philadelphia's *The United States Gazette* lamented Harrisburg's assistance to the LC&N, declaring on December 30, 1825 that "the whole Lehigh Navigation is a complete and exclusive monopoly, and not a public work, or of advantage to the community at large."

As criticism mounted, the LC&N acknowledged "adverse interests," and sought banks loans instead of state aid. Banks readily issued loans based on the company's value and their confidence in White and Hazard. This cash infusion allowed the firm to begin hiring laborers to dig its mandated canal. As canal workers neared completing the waterway in June 1829, *The Easton Argus* praised the company for its "enterprise and perseverance." (Fig. #3)

Harrisburg's 1818 Act had unimaginable consequences. While the LC&N transformed the Lehigh River into a vital transportation artery that fueled America's Industrial Revolution, the company changed the river's character. The firm left it polluted and uninviting, even after it stopped using the waterway for shipping coal and other natural resources. "The river was filthy," historian Lance Metz said in a September 24, 2000 *Morning Call* article. As the twenty-first century approached, the river ranked as one of the most polluted in the nation with "persistent toxic metals," *The Easton Express-Times* reported on September 11, 1998.

Beyond the environmental damage, state lawmakers stripped the river's ownership from the public and gave it to corporate interests, which refused to relinquish control of the waterway for the next 150 years. Metz said that when the LC&N ceased using the river and its canal in 1932, the company posted "No Trespassing" signs along its banks. Even canoeists had to pay a fee to use the few remaining canal locks until Harrisburg passed legislation returning the river to the public in 1965.

The Lehigh Canal fueled the nation's Industrial Revolution, but its construction surrendered public interests for corporate gain. Opposition emerged before the LC&N built its canal, but eventually could not stop its construction. Rapid, disruptive change stoked apprehension, if not fear. Two hundred years later, the canal's history of corporate imposition and public resistance offers clues to the rising controversy over data center development.

BETHLEHEM SUN HOTEL.
The subscriber, who for several years kept the Mauch Chunk Hotel, has lately moved to Bethlehem, and opened for public entertainment the Sun Tavern. The buildings are large and airy, and command an interesting and beautiful view of the town and surrounding country. There are few places more inviting either to the invalid or those who travel for pleasure. Great care has been taken to provide the best of beds, furniture, liquors, &c. and also careful waiters and hostlers. Stages arrive and depart daily for Philadelphia, Mauch Chunk, Easton, Reading, Wilkesbarre, Montrose, &c. and private conveyances can at any time be obtained by parties wishing to visit any of the neighbouring curiosities or improvements. The Lehigh Canal passes through the place, and a packet boat is expected to ply on the canal this summer, between Easton, Bethlehem and Mauch Chunk. Boarders will be taken on moderate terms. Visitors and travellers may be assured of the best attention.
GEORGE ATHERTON.
 Bethlehem, May 18, 1830. my 20-cod&cp3mo

Fig. 3: Advertisement for lodging for canal boat travelers. Although the Lehigh Canal served primarily as a coal canal, boats often took passengers between the Lehigh Valley and Carbon County. Canal boats traveled no more than four miles per hour, requiring passengers to stop overnight at Bethlehem's Sun Inn. (Credit: US Gazette, May 5, 1830)

Ryan Mackenzie's numbers

The statistics tell the story

by various news outlets

The numbers against re-electing Ryan Mackenzie continue to mount and suggest why Lehigh Valley workers are supporting Bob Brooks, a union fire-fighter, for Congress in this November's election.

The following somber statistics, gathered before Labor Day, suggest why working families want change this November.

\$3.8 trillion

Amount the US national debt has risen since Donald Trump and Ryan Mackenzie took office in January 2025. (Credit: Reuters, August 19, 2026)

\$4.1 billion

Growth of Trump's net worth since Ryan Mackenzie took office. Much of Trump's increase came from the president's cryptocurrency ventures, foreign licensing and merchandise. (Credit: Yahoo Finance, July 23, 2026)

10x

Growth of Eric Trump's net worth since Ryan Mackenzie took office, soaring from \$40 million in late 2024 to between \$400 million and \$750 million following his father's return to the White House. Much of it is in cryptocurrency, where Mackenzie has received an A-rating from the industry. (Credit: Forbes, December 4, 2025)

98.39 percent

Percentage of roll-call votes Ryan Mackenzie made in line with Trump's agenda after his first year in Congress. Members in competitive districts, such as the Lehigh Valley's 7th, ordinarily show some independence from their party when hometown interests matter. Instead, Mackenzie sticks to Trump like glue. (Credit: Center for American Progress, December 3, 2025.)

3

Number of times Ryan Mackenzie voted against releasing the Epstein Files. (Credit: House Majority Forward, August 7, 2026)

8

Number of times Ryan Mackenzie voted in support of Trump's tariffs that have fueled rising grocery costs. (Credit: CNN, February 20, 2026)

\$50,000

Annual dollar amount of tax breaks for the richest one percent of Americans in Trump's "One Big, Beautiful Bill" passed by Ryan Mackenzie. (Credit: Center for American Progress, November 20, 2025)

\$3.10

National average price for a gallon of regular gasoline when Trump and Mackenzie took office. Gasoline now costs roughly a dollar more a gallon. (Credit: Center for Economic and Policy Research, August 14, 2026)

\$37.5 billion to \$132 billion

Cost estimates vary to American taxpayers of Trump's Iran War. As a candidate in 2024, Mackenzie said he was "very concerned" about "too many forever wars over the past twenty years." Yet, he has done nothing to rein in the president's spending. (Credit: Statement made by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to the Senate Appropriations Committee on July 21, 2026. *Lehigh Valley Public Media*, April 2, 2024)

Lifetime Labor Record of Lehigh Valley's House members

House member/Party Years served Legislative scorecard
on labor issues
as a percentage

Charlie Dent (R)	(2005-2018)	23%
Susan Wild (D)	(2018-2025)	97
Ryan Mackenzie (R) (2025-	)	8

(Credit: AFL-CIO, www.aflcio.org)

According to correspondent Julia Ornedo in the July 2 online publication *The Daily Beast*, Ryan Mackenzie has "quietly overhauled his campaign website to scrub MAGA talking points, including a reference to 'forever wars.'" Meanwhile, he has voted four times to uphold Trump's Iran War, which has sent gas prices soaring. Trump endorsed him at a June rally in Macungie, but could not remember the 43-year-old's name.

8 percent

Legislative scorecard of Ryan Mackenzie concerning major labor legislation during the 119th Congress. He has opposed labor legislation 92 percent of the time. (Credit: AFL-CIO)

577

Number of Pennsylvania measles cases since the beginning of this year as of August 24. In an April 2025 CNN Townhall meeting, Mackenzie blamed the rise in measles on "illegal immigrants." Pennsylvania health officials counter that the rise in measles outbreaks is the result of waning vaccination rates and vaccine misinformation, and they urge residents to get vaccinated. To track the rise in this infectious disease, visit Gov. Shapiro's website monitoring its spread at: <https://www.pa.gov/measles> (Credit: CNN Townhall, April 10, 2025)

12

Number of years Ryan Mackenzie served in the Pennsylvania State House. During that time, he amassed a consistent anti-worker voting record in Harrisburg. He voted against the Construction Workplace Misclassification Act (HB 1751) that prevented employee misclassification in the Building Trades. He voted against The Minimum Wage Act (HB 1500), which would have raised the wage stuck since 2007 at \$7.25 an hour. He was wrong for Lehigh Valley workers while in Harrisburg and is wrong for Lehigh Valley workers in Washington, DC. (Credit: palegis.us/house/roll-calls/)



Mark your calendar Important election events

October 19: Last day to Register to vote in the November election

October 21: Labor Council monthly meeting

October 27: Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot

November 3: Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots by 8 p.m.

November 3: Municipal Election. Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Leave it to the next president

Trump's Iran War: From mistake to fiasco

by Ron Ennis, Editor
Lehigh Valley Labor Council



Donald Trump's Iran War drags on. Local union voters at the September 6 Labor Council picnic believe that he will leave his fiasco to his successor.

"The Iran War will continue," said Jason, a member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters #167. "The next president will likely be dealing with the war." Jason expressed sentiments similar to many who took our informal survey at the picnic. (see page three)

Some Trump advisors refuse to declare it a war but confess that, whatever you call the bombing and killing, it could last into 2029. Why do we find ourselves in this mess?

Aside from the president's reckless choice, Trump's congressional rubber stampers deserve partial blame. Ryan MacKenzie, our Lehigh Valley congressman, campaigned against unnecessary foreign intervention. Yet on five different occasions, he voted against measures to limit funding or military engagement in the Persian Gulf region.

The Wall Street Journal columnists, like many in right-wing media, should also be called out for their uncritical view of Trump and his war. The editors called critics of Trump's war "pessimists" in their March 5 editorial. On April 6, columnist Andy Kessler described people opposed to the war as "whiners." Trump "threw out defeatism and acted when everyone else waffled." Columnist William McGurn, in his April 21 opinion, wrote that many Americans "can't stand (Trump) and they want him to fail more than they want America to succeed."

The accusation that objecting to a war waged on bad judgment, wild assumptions, and far-fetched expectations means cheering for the enemy is absurd. Americans of all political persuasions despise the Iranian regime, but we should debate the best way to confront it without being smeared of campaigning for the enemy.

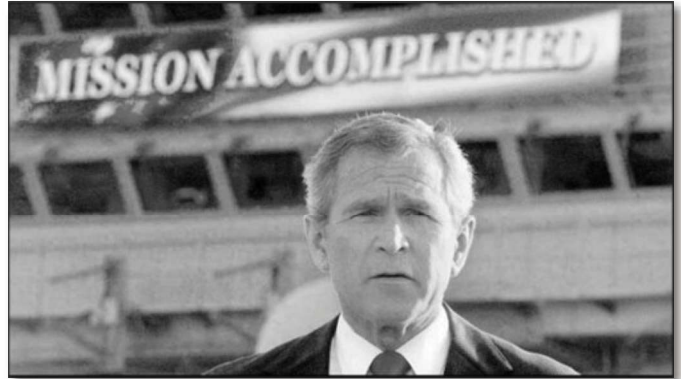
Trump and his political and media allies find themselves in a hole of their own creation. Unfortunately, every American is affected and the likely outcome is for the hostilities between the nations to continue until January 20, 2029. "The struggle we find ourselves in with Iran," wrote *Journal* columnist Gerard Baker on August 4, "won't be resolved by this president."

George Santayana, a Spanish-American philosopher and essayist, famously observed that those who fail to learn from the past are doomed to repeat it. What are we to make of those who claim to have learned from past mistakes but then go and repeat them anyway?



Lehigh Valley Labor Council President Jim Irwin thanked all who helped make our council's picnic a success. Apologies to anyone missed.

Anne Radakovits, Samantha Moyer, Shawn Kerbein
John Weiss, Mike Wallery, Ron Labar,
Fran Loughney, Dennis Andrews, John Werkheiser,
Nancy Werkheiser, Gregg Potter, Marianne Potter,
Fawn Holdridge, Jeff Holdridge, Destinee Deely,
and Jody Weinreich,.



President George W. Bush standing directly under a "Mission Accomplished" banner aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, May 1, 2003. Bush's claim of victory, in what became known as the "Mission Accomplished" speech, drew controversy after his administration failed to find weapons of mass destruction during the Iraq War and failed to end the conflict before his presidency ended.

There are differences between Bush's Iraq War and Trump's Iran War. For example, Trump made no effort to gain congressional approval or win public support.

However, the two missions have remarkable similarities. Both Bush and Trump inflated the threat and weapons claims. Both launched a war of choice based on a claim of preemptive self-defense against a perceived distant threat. Both prematurely declared "mission accomplished." CNN had counted by early June that Trump claimed an Iranian peace deal was at hand on at least thirty-eight separate occasions. Finally, both underestimated regional fallout and claimed the people of the invaded nation would revolt against its leaders. (Credit: History.org.)

“ ”



US Senator Robert Taft explained that the great issue in this (presidential) campaign is creeping socialism. Now, that's a patented trademark of the special interests lobby.

"Socialism is a scare word they have hurled at every advance the people have made in the last twenty years.

"Socialism is what they called public power. Socialism is what they called social security.

"Socialism is what they called farm price supports. Socialism is what they called bank deposit insurance. Socialism is what they called the growth of free and independent labor organizations."

"Socialism is their name for almost anything that helps all the people.

"When the Republican candidate inscribes the slogan 'Down With Socialism' on the banner of his 'great crusade,' that is really not what he means at all.

"What he really means is 'Down with Progress.'"

President Harry S. Truman, in a speech near the Syracuse, New York train station on October 10, 1952. As the outgoing president, Truman took aim at Republican candidate Dwight Eisenhower.



LEHIGH VALLEY LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO
PO Box 20226
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002

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THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026

Executive Board @ 7:00 PM – Delegate meeting @ 7:30 PM

Teamsters #773 3614 Lehigh Street, Whitehall PA 18052

(One block east of the Whitehall Township Police Department)

The *News & Views* is produced by members of the Communication Workers Local #14827,
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610-435-0313 / mail@LVprintcenter.com



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