



# Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

**Strength in Numbers 95,000**

Pennsylvania – Delaware – Maryland – New Jersey – West Virginia



## LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

William Hamilton, President & Eastern PA Legislative Coordinator – Carl Bailey, Secretary-Treasurer & Western PA Legislative Coordinator - Tim O'Neill, Consultant – Dan Grace, Trustee & Legislative Advisor - Tom Kohn, Esq. Legal Advisor - Thomas Felice, Staff

### The PA Conference of Teamsters Endorses Governor Shapiro for Re-election in 2026

#### Governor Shapiro vows Pennsylvania will 'never be a right-to-work state'

This election will not be about whether you are a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or about national politics. This election will be about whether you elect a candidate that will protect your wages, benefits, seniority, working conditions, the grievance procedure and the union way of life.

There is one, and only one, candidate for governor that will have labors back, and that candidate is Governor Shapiro. Governor Josh Shapiro has built a reputation as a staunch advocate for organized labor in Pennsylvania. His support isn't just symbolic; it's deeply rooted in policy and relationships.

William Hamilton, President of the PA Conference of Teamsters describe Shapiro as "steadfast in his commitment to the needs and concerns of working men and women of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

"He has always had our back not only as Governor but as the former PA Attorney General and now, we will have his back," said Hamilton.

Governor Shapiro concluded his speech at the 2025 PA Conference of Teamsters Annual Meeting by stating, "I will veto right-to-work if it's sent to my desk."

Vote like your contract depends on it, because it does.

#### Governor Shapiro's Labor Record and His Alignment with Teamsters' Priorities

Governor Josh Shapiro has backed a range of laws and initiatives that directly strengthen labor rights and working conditions in Pennsylvania. Here's a breakdown of his most impactful efforts:

**Enforcement of Existing Labor Laws** Under Shapiro's leadership, the Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) has aggressively enforced key labor laws, returning **over \$8.9 million in unpaid wages** to workers across the state in just two years. This includes:

- **Wage Payment and Collection Law:** Ensures timely payment of wages and benefits. → Over **8,200 cases investigated**, recovering **\$6.7 million** for workers



- **Prevailing Wage Act:** Guarantees fair wages on publicly funded projects. → Over **\$1.5 million** returned to workers
- **Child Labor Act:** Protects minors in the workforce. → More than **\$2.5 million in fines** issued to violators

**Skills-Based Hiring Executive Order** On his first day in office, Shapiro signed an executive order eliminating the four-year college degree requirement for **92% of state government jobs**, opening doors for skilled workers from all backgrounds.

**Workforce Development Investments** His administration proposed major funding increases for:

- **Career & Technical Education:** \$2.4 million boost
- **Apprenticeship & On-the-Job Training:** Expanded support
- **Industry Partnerships:** \$2.2 million to align training with employer needs
- **Digital Career Pathways Platform:** \$2 million to help Pennsylvanians navigate job options

**Support for Responsible Bidder Laws** Shapiro has voiced support for a statewide **Responsible Contractor Ordinance**, which would require strong apprenticeship language and labor standards on public projects—similar to New Jersey’s model. These efforts reflect a comprehensive strategy: enforce existing protections, expand access to good jobs, and elevate labor standards across industries.

Shapiro’s initiatives echo the spirit of landmark labor reforms from the 20th century, but with a 21st-century twist:

Historic Reform	Shapiro’s Modern Equivalent	Key Parallel
<i>Fair Labor Standards Act (1938)</i>	Enforcement of PA’s Minimum Wage Act	Both ensure wage protections and overtime pay
<i>Wagner Act (1935)</i>	Support for union organizing rights	Promotes collective bargaining and union strength
<i>Davis-Bacon Act (1931)</i>	Enforcement of Prevailing Wage Act	Guarantees fair wages on public projects
<i>Taft-Hartley Act (1947)</i>	Misclassification enforcement (Act 72)	Addresses employer tactics that undermine union protections

Shapiro’s approach modernizes these principles by focusing on **enforcement, accessibility, and equity**—rather than just legislation. For example, his administration recovered nearly \$9 million in unpaid wages and penalized employers who misclassified workers.

### Alignment with Teamsters’ Priorities

The Teamsters have long championed:

- **Fair wages and benefits**
- **Strong apprenticeship programs**
- **Protection against worker misclassification**
- **Access to union jobs in public contracts**

Shapiro’s policies hit these marks:

- **Responsible Bidder Law:** He supports statewide adoption of this law, which includes apprenticeship language and labor standards—key Teamsters priorities.

- **Prevailing Wage Expansion:** He's backed efforts to close loopholes where off-site fabrication work isn't covered by prevailing wage, a major issue for Teamsters in construction and logistics.
- **Skills-Based Hiring:** By removing degree requirements for most state jobs, Shapiro opens doors for skilled tradespeople, aligning with the Teamsters' push for recognition of experience over credentials.

Shapiro isn't just pro-labor in rhetoric—he's building infrastructure that **enforces rights, expands opportunity, and levels the playing field.** That's the kind of systemic support unions like the Teamsters have fought for since their founding.

