

WRMCA SCOOP

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Wisconsin Supreme Court Orders New Legislative Boundaries for 2024 Election

by Peter Kammer, WRMCA Governmental Affairs

Days before Christmas, the liberal-controlled Wisconsin Supreme Court overturned Republican-drawn legislative maps and ordered that new district boundaries lines be drawn as Democrats had urged in a redistricting case they hope will weaken Republican majorities. The ruling comes less than a year before the 2024 election. In presidential elections Wisconsin is a battleground state where four of the six past elections have been decided by less than 23,000 votes. In the state legislature Republicans have built large majorities under the current maps.

The court ruled 4-3 in favor of Democrats who argued that the legislative maps are unconstitutional because districts drawn are not contiguous. The court said it would proceed with adopting remedial maps in time for the 2024 election unless the Republican controlled Legislature can pass maps that Democratic Gov. Tony Evers will sign. Several weeks ago Republicans produced a new plan to redrawn legislative maps that was rejected by Governor Evers, so most observers expect the court to draw the maps with the assistance of consultants. The court set a deadline of January 12 for parties to submit new maps. It also appointed court consultants. The consultants will file a written report by February 1 evaluating the map submissions.

The lawsuit was filed a day after the court's majority flipped to 4-3 liberal control in August. That's when Justice Janet Protasiewicz joined the court after her April election victory. Protasiewicz called the GOP-drawn maps "rigged" during her campaign, leading Republicans to threaten to impeach her before she had even heard a case. She sided with liberal justices in striking down the current maps. Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, who had threatened impeachment the loudest, backed off after the ruling and said impeachment is unlikely. The State elections commission has said maps must be in place by March 15 if new districts are to be in play for the 2024 election.

Republicans currently have a 22-11 majority in the Senate and a 64-35 majority in the Assembly under the current GOP drawn maps. Republicans will now have to convince the US Supreme Court to intervene in the dispute. Speaker Vos said the U.S. Supreme Court would have the "last word" in the matter, suggesting he plans to ask the nation's highest court to reconsider the state Supreme Court's decision. Under U.S. Supreme Court rules, four of the nine justices must vote to accept the case.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

WRMCA 2024 Technical Workshop

The 2024 WRMCA Technical Workshop will be held January 18th-19th at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The workshop will begin with lunch on Thursday afternoon followed by sessions, a We're Partners reception, and dinner. The workshop will conclude midday on Friday.

To book a room, click [here](#). Download registration [here](#). Please contact Cherish at cschwenn@wirmca.com for more information.

WRMCA 2024 OES Workshop

The 2024 WRMCA OES Workshop will be held February 29th-March 1st at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Reservations can be made by contacting the Kalahari Resort at 877.253.5466, ask for the WRMCA \$160 room rate available February 28th-March 1st, or go to <https://book.passkey.com/e/50688967>.

Thursday, February 29th

9:30am – Welcome

9:35am – **The Elephants in the Room: Core principles effecting safety that are often unspoken** – George Gruetzmacher, WisCon

10:30am – **Highwall Safety, Blasting Safety, Danger of Abandoned Mines** – David Vriezen, DSPS

11:15am – **MSHA Current Top 10 Violations and Fatal Gram Review** – Christopher Hensler, MSHA

12:00pm – Lunch

12:45pm – **Benefits of a Safety Program Including a LSM Component** – Jake Pedersen, USI

1:45pm – **Infectious Disease: It's Been Here and Isn't Going Away** – George Gruetzmacher, WisCon

2:15pm – **How to Eliminate Fine & Fees with the New MSHA Silica Rule** – Margaret Lopez, Lawyer Ogletree Deakins

3:15pm – Break

3:30pm – **What to do When a Government Compliance Officer Arrives at Your Plant** – Mark Abrahamson, HNI Risk Services

4:30pm – Happy Hour at the Bowling Alley Bar

Friday, March 1st

7:30am – Breakfast

8:30am – **Mental Wellness & Suicide Prevention** – Shannon Seefeldt, AON

9:30am – **Environmental Update: WOTUS Changes, CPO Permit Changes** – Josh Davenport, KPRG

10:00am – **Federal Government Affairs Update** – Andrew Tyrell, NRMCA

11:15am – **Panel: Employee Retention, What Works** – Joe Hein, Northern Lakes Concrete, Chad Kaster, Acuity Insurance & Cassie Krause, Carew Concrete & Supply

12:30pm – Workshop Concludes

ASSOCIATION NEWS

WRMCA Concrete Field Testing Certification

WRMCA is hosting an ACI Concrete Testing Technician - Grade 1 Program on Thursday, February 8th at the Hyatt Place Milwaukee West, 11777 West Silver Spring Drive, Milwaukee.

- Class Instruction 7:30am to 10:30am
- Written Exam 11:00am to 12:00pm
- Lunch 11:30am
- 12:00pm Travel to Field Testing Location: Riv/Crete, 12005 W Hampton Ave, Milwaukee
- Performance exam begins at 12:30pm

The cost for WRMCA members is \$500. Classes are limited to 30 people. To register for any of the ACI classes, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G2W682V>

The training course offers instruction in the fundamentals of concrete testing procedures. Emphasis is placed upon practical information and skills which will help quality-control and testing personnel do their jobs more efficiently to ensure consistent, quality concrete, and reliable test results. ASTM C94 requires anyone testing concrete in the field to be certified through ACI. Testing includes a classroom session followed by a field test session.

If you carry a current ACI, Concrete Field Testing Technician –Grade 1 certification, please be an examiner for the 2023 classes. To help, please contact Kim at knovak@wirmca.com.

Additional ACI Grade 1 Dates are:

- March 21st - Eagle River (please note the class is limited to 20)
- April 11th - Green Bay
- May 16th - Fond du Lac
- June 6th - Madison

WRMCA ACI Concrete Flatwork Certification

WRMCA will be hosting an ACI Concrete Flatwork Certification on January 31st at the Sleep Inn in Eau Claire. To register, go to <https://wirmca.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/ACI-Flatwork-R5-1-31-24.pdf>. Contact Cherish at cschwenn@wirmca.com with any questions.

Save the Date WRMCA 2024 Mixer Driver Championship

We are excited to announce that the Wisconsin Ready Mixed Concrete Association will be holding its first ever Mixer Driver Championship on Saturday, August 3rd at the Timber Rattlers Stadium in Appleton. Sponsorship information will be sent soon. If you are interested in joining the driver championship committee, please contact Cherish at cschwenn@wirmca.com.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

WRMCA 14th Annual Pheasant Hunt

The 14th Annual WRMCA Pheasant Hunt held on December 6th was a success with 12 teams participating in the event. A special thanks to Pheasants@Large and Dan Large for hosting the event. Thank you to the event sponsors: Carew Concrete & Supply, Forta, FRC, GeoTest, MCC, Premiere Concrete Admixtures, Riv/Crete Ready Mix, Schmitz Ready Mix, Sika Corporation, St. Mary's Terracon, Wingra Redi-Mix, and Zignego Ready Mix. Congratulations to the winning team consisting of Chris Clifton, Rod Clifton, Lee Ollendorf, Chris Wittler, Jim Mravec of Premiere Admixtures and Dennis Cook of Sun Prairie Concrete.

OES Annual Safety Awards 2023

The WRMCA OES Committee is pleased to again announce the annual safety award contest. Please fill out the information for each of your individual operations. All information will be kept confidential and destroyed upon verification of the safety award presentation.

The safety award program is established to recognize those individual plant locations that have exceptional safety records. All plants that achieve a record (based on frequency and severity rates) below the industry average will receive a certificate of recognition at the WRMCA annual convention. The plant that has the best record within the nomination category will receive a plaque.

“Best in Class” winners will be announced, and plaques will be awarded at the Annual OES Workshop. Please return the nominations to knovak@wirmca.com by **February 15th**.

WRMCA Website Advertising

The WRMCA is offering an opportunity for the first half of 2024 for members to advertise their company on the WRMCA website. A rotating 1455 x 180px ad will run on the site during a 6-month period of time. The cost to place an ad is \$250. If you are interested in placing a banner ad, please sign up by contacting cschwenn@wirmca.com by **January 26th**.

Save the Date - 2024 Scholarship Golf Outing

Registration will begin on Wednesday, June 12th at 10:30am at Wild Rock located at 856 Canyon Road, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin.

Lunch will be available at 11:00am. The tournament format will be best ball. The golf outing will conclude with a reception, dinner, and raffle.

A brochure with formal registration and details to follow. For questions, please contact Kim at knovak@wirmca.com.



WRMCA SPONSORED WEBINAR

Meta's Road to Net Zero: How Artificial Intelligence Can Be Leveraged by Project Teams to Scale Use of Low Carbon Concrete

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Time: Noon – 1:00pm

Cost: Free

Credits: 1 AIA CES LU or 1 PDH

Presenter: Ryan Cialdella

Description: Concrete is the most widely used engineered material globally. Cement in concrete accounts for ~8% of global carbon emissions. There is widespread interest in quickly identifying innovative low-carbon concrete formulae (e.g., by reducing cement or substituting with low-carbon alternatives) without compromises to engineering performance.

Under Meta's 2030 Net Zero Commitment, we are exploring options to reduce emissions from concrete as it is the primary contributor to emissions from data center construction. This presentation shows how we (Ozinga Ready Mix) leveraged Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify low-carbon concrete mixes which we refined via lab and field tests and ultimately used at scale in a data center application in DeKalb, Illinois.

Registration Link: <https://cvent.me/oXNbBD>

Save the Date for Additional Free WRMCA Sponsored Webinars

Promotion Topics:

- March 13th – Concrete Innovations – Pathways for Reducing Concrete Carbon Footprint
- May 8th – History of Concrete – How it Started
- July 10th – Construction Tolerances for the Contractors Side
- September 11th – FF/FL – How Can Contractors Plan for Better Performance
- November 13th – Recycled Aggregates in Concrete

Sustainable Topics:

- April 17th – Change is Constant, Concrete is Forever
- June 12th – Safe Rooms, Hardened Buildings for Storm Mitigation with FEMA
- August 21st – Healthy Buildings
- October 16th – Electric Vehicles & Parking Structures



WRMCA ANNUAL CONVENTION

WRMCA/IRMCA Annual Convention

March 5-7, 2023

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point

Bonita Springs, FL

The Annual Convention will begin with a reception on Tuesday, March 5th and conclude with dinner on Thursday, March 7th. Topics include Crisis Communication, Colloidal Silica Update, 3D Printing, Economic Update, and Market Trends. There will be an optional boat ride on Wednesday afternoon and optional golf on Thursday afternoon.



Sponsorships are available for breakfast, dinner, reception, and the boat ride. Sponsors will be recognized on registration materials, website, social media, and onsite. Thank you for your consideration!

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point - <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/florida/hyatt-place-coconut-point/napzc>.

Reservations: \$399/night for King/2 Queens (includes \$10 resort fee)

To make a reservation, click on this link <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/NAPRN/G-CWRM> or call the hotel at 239-390-4335 and reference the WRMCA/IRMCA meeting. The room block is available March 6th-10th.

Create memories that will last a lifetime at this award-winning tropical resort near Naples, Florida. Enjoy exclusive access to five water slides, four refreshing pools, a lazy river, and a secluded private island. This Southwest Florida resort in Bonita Springs offers endless excitement in a beautiful setting.



INDUSTRY NEWS

NRMCA Seeks Nominations for 2024 Concrete Innovations Awards

NRMCA, through its Build with Strength and Pave Ahead initiatives, is seeking nominations for the 2024 Concrete Innovations Awards. The award program recognizes outstanding achievement in concrete design and construction. Innovative projects are awarded for outstanding performance while lowering environmental impacts, including embodied and operational carbon footprint.



Buildings and infrastructure projects substantially designed and built using concrete in the United States in the last five years are eligible. Projects must demonstrate improved performance and sustainability. An NRMCA member company must have been involved in supplying products or services to the project. Areas of excellence include advanced quality control, innovative cements, supplementary cementitious materials, admixtures, aggregates, recycling methods, carbon capture and sequestration technologies, measurement tools or innovative designs that improve performance and sustainability.

Nominate a project for the 2024 Concrete Innovations Awards at www.concreteinnovations.com/awards. Deadline for nominations is **January 31st**.

2023 Concrete Innovations Webinars Now Available On-Demand

The 2023 Concrete Innovations Webinar Series is now available at www.concreteinnovations.com/on-demand. The second year of the popular webinar series had nine new two-hour sessions with a total of 18 hours of continuing education this year. Topics ranging from novel uses of traditional materials to cutting-edge products and services emerging as revolutionary strategies for reducing concrete carbon footprint were featured, including:

- Limestone Calcined Clay Cement (LC3)
- Concrete Mix Optimization
- Concrete Durability and Resilience
- Innovative Cements
- Carbon Reduction Strategies
- Implementing Low Carbon Technologies

The sessions were presented by world renowned researchers and practitioners. Recordings along with presentation downloads are available for each session. In addition, those seeking Professional Development Hours (PDHs) can download a certificate of completion after watching the recordings.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Concrete Advancement Foundation News

MIT Concrete Sustainability Hub Update – The MIT Concrete Sustainability Hub’s research and tools have continued to be pivotal in demonstrating that concrete is the solution to many of society’s biggest challenges. Their research is helping the industry and country to advance toward carbon neutrality with resilient, safe, durable and affordable concrete construction. Learn more about the MIT CSHub’s current research agenda and latest activities at <https://cshub.mit.edu/>.

Skate4Concrete Program Takes Off – Unveiled in spring 2023, the Skate4Concrete program is a targeted recruitment strategy, connecting members of the skateboard community to concrete supply and concrete construction communities. Since its release, Skate4Concrete has taken off with many state associations getting teachers to implement the high school certification in their classrooms, and others holding highly successful community relations events. Companies are using the videos and media kit to highlight job openings and the opportunities for careers in concrete. Find out more at skate4concrete.com and look for a best practices manual in 2024.

Transforming the Role of the Concrete Delivery Professional Executive Summary Now Available – This MIT-led research project is aimed at changing the way the industry recruits and retains concrete delivery professionals, as well as increasing productivity, by making data-driven decisions and leveraging new technologies. Get the Executive Summary of early findings [here](#) and look for a full research report in 2024.

Revamped Concrete Delivery Professional Certification Released This Year – The completely revamped Concrete Delivery Professional (CDP) Certification program, funded by the Concrete Advancement Foundation, was unveiled earlier this year by the [National Ready Mixed Concrete Association](#) (NRMCA). The new, completely on-line certification program includes an interactive “gamification” format to appeal toward younger drivers. More information on the certification may be found [here](#).

Grant Opportunities Available to the Concrete Industry – As the Foundation has explored both public and private grant opportunities, it has become clear that several grants available may be attainable by companies in the broader concrete construction community. For more information, please contact Foundation [Julia Garbini](#).

Coming Down the Pike – Look for the following releases in the next three to six months:

- Transforming the Role of the Concrete Delivery Professional, full report;
- Building Insurance Study;
- Rebar Spacing Report; and
- Comparison of ICF v. Convention Construction Study.

Donations to support the Concrete Advancement foundation may be made from a secure link on our [Donate page](#) where you can also find our Corporate and Individual Donor Lists. We appreciate your continued support!

CIM INFORMATION



New Online Program!

FOR CONCRETE
INDUSTRY
EMPLOYEES



Challenges to Growth:

- Need to work full-time to pay bills and have health insurance?
- Can't uproot your life to go back to school for your degree?
- Want to dust off your college credits and put them to good use?
- Could you achieve the lifestyle you desire if you had a flexible, affordable, structured online management program available?



The ONLINE CIM Program was developed as a solution to these challenges to help you achieve your desired lifestyle.

Program coursework includes principals of management, economics, accounting, finance, and business law, in addition to the core Concrete Industry Management courses.

This program is specifically designed to help you develop into an exceptional manager capable of identifying and supporting the revenue driving forces in your business.

Make SDSU's flexible, online, Bachelor of Science degree in Concrete Industry Management with a built-in Management minor part of your lifestyle strategy.

To learn more, scan the QR code above.

GET IN TOUCH

www.sdstate.edu

605.431.8109
319.721.3931

Tim Hostettler
Jennifer Heller

timothy.hotstettler@sdstate.edu
jennifer.heller@sdstate.edu

NRMCA Monthly Safety Initiative

Volume 4, Issue 12



Wheel Chock Safety... Lets Just Stop It!

Wheel Chocks and the Ready Mixed Concrete Industry

Wheel chocks are a wedge of sturdy material, such as polyurethane or rubber, placed against a vehicle's wheels to prevent accidental movement. At a ready mixed concrete plant wheel chocks are commonly used for mixer trucks, frontend loaders, hauls trucks, trailers, forklifts, and various other vehicles. Wheel chocks are effective safety devices when used properly. There are several key procedures to proper chocking that may not be obvious to everyone. To ensure safety for both workers and equipment, it is the responsibility of ready mixed concrete producers to make the final determination about proper chocking of a vehicle under the circumstances presented. You cannot simply test a pair of wheel chocks with a specific vehicle on a specified grade and broadly assume that the wheel chocks will hold the same truck every time.

What to Know About Wheel Chock Safety

A number of variables exist when selecting the most appropriate wheel chock used for a mixer truck or loader or shop maintenance truck or any other type of vehicle. Thorough testing must be completed at each location to ensure that specific wheel chocks will meet their specific chocking requirements. In addition, wheel chocks require regular visual inspection for cracking, chipping or other deterioration signaling the need for replacement; however, they should require little or no maintenance. Smaller tire diameters require smaller chocks, while larger ones require larger chocks. Heavier vehicles, like mixer trucks, require larger chocks than lighter vehicles. Chocks need to be positioned in different ways depending on if the ground is level or not. Ensuring that the chocking configuration is correct based on surface grade is paramount for proper chocking. It is important to monitor tire pressure, especially in harsh environments, such as winter months. Improperly inflated tires can lead to chocking failures. Whether the ground is firm, soft, wet, dry, icy, or frozen is a key determination in the type of chock to use. For frozen or icy terrains, choose a chock with a cleated bottom. For severely wet or muddy terrains, multiple chocks may be necessary to ensure safe chocking. Ensure that the brakes are set, the vehicle is at a complete standstill, and that it will not roll forward or backward before chocking the wheels. If you are performing maintenance or parking the vehicle for an extended period of time, chock the wheels. Always ensure the chock is centered and squared with the tire. Position the chock snugly against the tire tread. Always use wheel chocks in pairs. Wheel chocks must be positioned downhill and below the vehicle's center of gravity. On a downhill grade, position the chocks in front of the front wheels. On an uphill grade, position the chocks behind the rear wheels. On a level grade, position the chocks on the front and back of a single wheel.



Wheel Chock Do's and Don'ts

- Think first before using wheel chocks
- Know the hazards associated with wheel chocking
- Wear good work gloves when handling chocks
- Don't use lumber, cinder blocks, rocks, or other make-shift items to chock
- Always use chocks in pairs
- Do place chocks centered and square to the tire
- Inspect chocks on a regular basis for cracks and deterioration
- When not in use, stow chocks safely with tie downs
- Do set the emergency brake prior to chocking



Resources

NRMCA: [Mixer Driver Manual](#) | OSHA: [Mechanical Means to Secure Trucks](#)

Contacts

Gary Mullings: gmullings@nrmca.org | Kevin Walgenbach: kwalgenbach@nrmca.org

NRMCA Monthly Safety Initiative

Volume 5, Issue 1



Respiratory Protection... Mask Up!

Respiratory Protection and the Ready Mixed Concrete Industry

Respiratory protection is used to protect workers against breathing hazards, such as insufficient oxygen environments, harmful dusts, fogs, smokes, mists, gases, vapors, and sprays. These environments and materials present hazards that may cause injuries and illnesses, and which workers need to be shielded from. Respiratory protection is used for only a very few and infrequent operations at concrete plants. Respiratory protection can be uncomfortable, hot and add complexity to an employee's working day. The key is to attempt to engineer out any hazards, so employees do not have to wear respiratory protection. However, if the hazards cannot be engineered out, then you may have to use personal protective equipment (PPE). Respiratory protection equipment is considered PPE and according to OSHA should only be used as a last line of defense.

What to Know About Respiratory Protection

There are a number of steps that a concrete producer should take to assess if respiratory protection is needed. First, survey the plant to determine if there are jobs or tasks where harmful airborne contaminants are likely to be generated. Second, conduct dust monitoring on the individuals performing the tasks. The next step is to write the worksite-specific respiratory protection program. Specify the individual jobs where respiratory protection is needed, include training, and conduct the necessary medical questionnaire and required respiratory fit testing. Respiratory protection is needed for employees in environments where sampling may exceed certain thresholds, such as with respirable crystalline silica, elevated levels of dust, or welding in areas with poor ventilation. Other areas or tasks that may require respiratory protection include drum chipping, and cleaning or inspecting baghouses and central dust collectors. A standard respiratory protection program should include elements to assess known hazards for the appropriate respirator, inspection and maintenance of respirators, cleaning, storing, adhering to medical requirements, utilizing the right respirator for the right employee, fit testing and training on the respirator and the company program. A trained respiratory program administrator must oversee the program. Evaluate the program and revise as conditions change. Finally, if respiratory protection is needed or required, a respiratory protection program is required.



Respiratory Protection Do's and Don'ts

- Think first before using respiratory protection
- Utilize a respiratory protection program
- Use proper ventilation
- Use wet methods for grinding, chipping, cutting, sweeping
- Isolate dust creating activities
- Utilize worker rotation
- Use water trucks and/or sprinklers in plant yard
- Maintain regular, proper housekeeping
- Minimize drum chipping
- Train workers on respiratory protection
- Only use PPE where appropriate (OSHA views PPE as the last line of defense)



Resources

NRMCA: [Respiratory Protection Program](#) | NRMCA: [Ready Mixed Concrete Industry Silica Guide](#)

OSHA: [Respiratory Protection Overview](#) | OSHA: [Small Entity Compliance Guide for Respiratory Protection Standard](#)

Contacts

Gary Mullings: gmullings@nrmca.org | Kevin Walgenbach: kwalgenbach@nrmca.org

EVENTS CALENDAR

WRMCA & Industry Events

Date	Event	Organization
January 18-19	Technical Annual Workshop	WRMCA
January 23-25	World of Concrete	WOC
January 31	ACI Concrete Flatwork Certification	WRMCA
February 8	ACI Grade 1 Certification	WRMCA
February 15-16	WCPA Annual Workshop	WCPA
February 21	Meta's Road to Net Zero: How Artificial Intelligence Can Be Leveraged by Project Teams to Scale Use of Low Carbon Concrete	WRMCA
February 29-March 1	OES Annual Workshop	WRMCA
March 5	369 Code	ACI
March 5-7	Annual Convention	WRMCA
March 13	Concrete Innovations - Pathways for Reducing Car-	WRMCA
March 18-21	NRMCA Annual Convention	NRMCA
March 24-28	ACI Concrete Convention	ACI
April 17	Change is Constant, Concrete is Forever	WRMCA
May 8	History of Concrete - How It Started	WRMCA
June 12	Safe Rooms, Hardened Buildings for Storm Mitigation with FEMA	WRMCA
July 12	Annual Scholarship Golf Outing	WRMCA
July 10	Construction Tolerances for the Contractors Side	WRMCA
July 16	307 Chimney Code	ACI
August 3	Mixer Driver Championship	WRMCA
August 21	Healthy Buildings	WRMCA
September 11	FF/FL - How Can Contractors Plan for Better	WRMCA
October 1	323 Code	ACI
October 16	Electric Vehicles & Parking Structures	WRMCA
November 13	Recycled Aggregates in Concrete	WRMCA

