

WRMCA SCOOP

4th Quarter • December 2025 • www.wrmca.com • info@wirmca.com

Wisconsin Lawmakers Goals for 2026

By Peter Kammer, WRMCA Governmental Affairs

Lawmakers in Madison finish the 2025-2026 legislative session this spring. As they look ahead to fall elections, both Republicans and Democrats are defining their political goals and talking points for the fall elections.

Republicans hope to maintain their legislative majority in both houses and win the open gubernatorial race. Key platform areas include tax cuts, deregulation, and crime. Democrats hope to win control of one or both legislative houses and maintain control of the Governorship after Governor Evers steps down. Their focus areas include affordability, expanding health care access, increasing environmental protections, and increasing education spending.

Republican candidates and party leaders have outlined several specific policy goals:

- Lower taxes:
 - Implementing a property tax freeze or an eventual elimination of property taxes by replacing them with a local consumption tax.
 - Expanding tax credits for low-income households and enhancing the Homestead Tax Credit to assist with housing costs.
- Regulatory Reform:
 - Reducing state regulations by 25% to boost the state's GDP.
 - Streamlining licensing for childcare providers and expanding employer-childcare partnerships.
 - Reforming zoning laws to accelerate workforce housing development.
- Public Security:
 - Improve the efficiency of crime labs in processing evidence.
 - Increase funding and resources for prosecutors across the state.
 - Focus on border security and interdicting the flow of illegal drugs into Wisconsin.

Democratic candidates and party leaders have outlined several specific policy goals:

- Affordability:
 - Addressing rising costs, stagnant wages, and making life more affordable for working families.
- Healthcare Access:
 - Expanding Medicaid.
- Education:
 - Strengthening K-12 education and supporting public schools and teachers.
- Workers:
 - Championing unions.
- Environmental Protection:
 - Focus heavily on clean water, clean energy, and climate resilience.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

WRMCA Welcomes New Members

Hausmann Group is a full-service independent insurance and consulting firm headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin. HG provides property and casualty insurance, employee benefits, and personal insurance, along with a broad suite of advisory services designed to help organizations and individuals manage risk and plan for the future. In addition to insurance placement, Hausmann Group offers claims management, health and safety consulting, human resources consulting, and surety bonds. HG serves businesses across multiple industries and emphasizes proactive guidance, regulatory compliance support, and tailored risk-management solutions to help clients navigate complex and changing environments.

Revitalize Mixers has been around since 2018 and dedicated to equipment rebuilding in the Midwest. In the face of escalating equipment costs and limited availability, they have undertaken the mission of giving equipment a second, and sometimes even a third, life at a fraction of the cost of purchasing new machinery. Through their cutting-edge paint shop and rebuilding process, they have mastered the art of rejuvenating end-of-life equipment by replacing or refurbishing its key components, providing other customers with a renewed asset experience at significantly reduced prices. They also make custom chutes for mixing trucks in house.

Register Now for the 2026 Technical Workshop

The WRMCA Annual Technical Workshop will be held January 29th-30th at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

Workshop topics include:

- Communication & Retention
- Importance of Pre-Pour Meetings
- Slag Cement
- Value of Certification & Accreditation
- Contractor Roundtable
- PLC & How to Work With It
- AI in Concrete
- WisDOT & NRCS 2026 Updates

[Click here to register](#) and [click here to learn more about the event](#).

Reserve your room at the Kalahari Resort by calling 877-253-5466 and asking for the WRMCA rate of \$149 + taxes/fees, or [click here to book online](#). Contact Cherish at cschwenn@wirmca.com with questions.

The 2025 Concrete Design Award winners will be celebrated at the dinner on Thursday, January 29th.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

WRMCA Concrete Field Testing Certification

ACI Grade 1 Dates

- February 11th in Milwaukee
- March 12th in Woodruff
- May 7th in Fond Du Lac
- June 4th in Madison

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. Testing includes a classroom session followed by a field test session.

The cost for WRMCA members is \$500 and \$700 for non-members. Classes are limited to 30 people. If you carry a current ACI, Concrete Field Testing Technician–Grade 1 certification, please be an examiner for the 2025 classes by contacting Kim at knovak@wirmca.com. Registration will be forthcoming.

WRMCA Strength Testing Certification

The WRMCA is sponsoring an ACI Laboratory Technician Concrete Strength Testing Technician Certification Course and Informational Seminar on March 10th at GeoTest, 2135 116th Street, West Allis.

Certification Level

Concrete Strength Testing Technician is an individual who has demonstrated the knowledge and ability to properly perform, record, and report the results of four basic ASTM laboratory procedures related to the determination of concrete compressive and flexural strength.

Certification Requirements

Recertification is required every 5 years, and requires completion of the written and performance examinations.

[Click here to register.](#)

WRMCA ACI Concrete Flatwork Class

The WRMCA will host a flatwork class on Tuesday, February 24th, at Cemstone in River Falls. This will be an accelerated one-day course designed for individuals who already have experience in the industry. Registration will be at 7:30 am, with the class starting at 8:00 am.

The cost is \$450. [Click here to register](#) and [click here for more information on the class.](#)

CONVENTION

The WRMCA/IRMCA Biennial Convention will be held Sunday, March 15th-Tuesday, March 17th at the Scottsdale Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, AZ.

Following a \$40 million transformation in 2024, [**The Scottsdale Resort & Spa**](#) – a Curio Collection by Hilton – emerges as one of Scottsdale's most deluxe resort retreats. Guests can enjoy Sonoran-inspired cuisine in **La Fogata**, **The Madam Speakeasy**, **Barnaby's Café & Wine Bar**, and **The Social Boardroom** with interactive games. The upgraded fitness center and revitalized **Luna Spa** round out the experience with tranquility and rejuvenation. The pool is heated year-round, making it perfect for any occasion and poolside drinks from **Twisted Vines**.

Hotel reservations: [Click here to book a hotel room](#). The \$429 room rate, plus taxes/fees is available three days before and three days after the post-convention dates. The hotel reservation cutoff is **February 13th**. The daily resort fee of \$20 includes bicycle rentals, access to the putting and chipping areas at McCormick Ranch Golf Club, lawn games, fitness and yoga classes, Social Boardroom access with games and entertainment, 15% off dinner at **La Fogata** restaurant, and 10% off select spa services at **Luna Spa**.

Visitor information: [Click here to learn more about activities and attractions in Scottsdale](#).

Transportation: The resort is located 20 minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Self-parking is available for \$25 per day plus tax, or valet parking for \$35 per day plus tax. The average Lyft fare is approximately \$28.

Registration & Cancellation: **WRMCA/IRMCA Member Registration** \$575 and **Spouse/Guest Registration** \$475

Registration & Cancellation: [Click here to register or become a sponsor](#). To cancel your convention registration, notify WRMCA by **Monday, March 2nd**. Cancellations and no-shows after this date are nonrefundable due to incurred association costs. Substitutions are welcome.

Sponsorship: Sponsor support is vital to the success of our event and increases your company's visibility among members. Breakfast & Reception sponsorship includes convention signage, acknowledgment, and recognition on WRMCA/IRMCA websites.

Golf On-Site: McCormick Ranch Golf Course, 7505 E McCormick Pkway, Scottsdale, AZ. Tuesday, March 17th, tee times run consecutively every 8 minutes from Noon to 12:32 pm. \$175 per player, which includes greens fee, cart fee, and practice balls. Club rentals are \$70, paid individually at the course. [Click here to view the course](#).

UTV in Cave Creek: Time to Ride AZ Cave Creek, 7171 E. Cave Creek Rd, Cave Creek, AZ. Monday, March 16th, suggested start time 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm. Prices range from \$420 to \$500, depending on the UTV selected, for a 4-hour self-guided ride through the stunning Sonoran Desert. Call 480-597-7559 to book and pay individually. [Click here to learn more](#).

CONVENTION

Sunday, March 15th

5:30 pm-6:30 pm Registration/Welcome Reception

Monday, March 16th

8:00 am Breakfast/Registration

8:30 am-9:30 am Board Leadership/Strategic Planning – Deb Malone

9:30 am-10:00 am Break

10:00 am-11:00 am Accelerating & Automating Testing of Cement-Based Materials: From Days to Minutes – Professor Nishant Garg, University of Illinois

Remainder of the day on your own (UTV Ride optional at Time to Ride AZ in Cave Creek)

Tuesday, March 17th

8:00 am Breakfast

8:30 am-9:30 am Teamwork & Leadership – Rich Sutter, former NHL Player

9:30 am-10:00 am Break

10:00 am-10:45 am Suicide Prevention – Cassie Krause, Carew Concrete & Supply

10:45-11:00 am NRMCA Update – Amanda Muller, NRMCA

Remainder of the day on your own (golf optional at McCormick Ranch Golf Course)

6:00 pm Closing Reception

*Topics & Agenda Subject to Change



ASSOCIATION NEWS

WRMCA 16th Annual Pheasant Hunt

The 16th Annual WRMCA Pheasant Hunt held on December 4th 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, 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, Schmitz Ready Mix, consisting of Charlie Anderson, Brett Craig, John Morgan, Todd Schulz, Jason Stoecker, and Harry Tews.



Designing Concrete for Durability: From Materials Selection to Long-Term Performance Webinar

Date/Time: Wednesday, January 7, 2026, Noon

Presenter: Dr. Doug Hooton, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto - Department of Civil & Mineral Engineering

Presentation Description: Concrete durability is not achieved by strength alone. Long-term performance depends on controlling permeability, understanding exposure conditions, and making informed choices about materials, mixture proportions, and construction practices. In this presentation, Dr. Doug Hooton will explore the fundamental mechanisms that govern concrete durability, with a focus on how water, chlorides, sulfates, and freeze-thaw cycles interact with concrete over time.

[Click here to register.](#)

Safe Room Guidance Updates Webinar

Date/Time Wednesday, February 18, 2026, Noon

Presenters: Jeffrey Ryan, RA (FEMA) and Glenn Overcash, PE (AECOM / FEMA Contractor)

Presentation Description: This session will introduce participants to significant changes in requirements for FEMA-funded safe rooms. The session will also preview the updated FEMA P-320 residential safe room design plans and latest safe room guidance included in the updated fact sheets.

[Click here to register.](#)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Plant Tour at MCC for Senator Wimberger and Representative Goeben

MCC hosted a plant tour in Freedom on Friday, October 17th, for Senator Eric Wimberger and Representative Rebecca Goeben. The tour provided the legislators with an overview of plant operations and insight into how ready-mix concrete is produced. The tour highlighted the important role the ready-mix industry plays in the local economy and community.



Plant Tour at Riv/Crete for Testing Labs

Riv/Crete Ready Mix hosted a plant tour on Tuesday, December 9th. Sixteen employees from four testing laboratories participated in the tour. The visit provided an inside look at the company's operations, including dispatch, lab, the plant, aggregates and washout.

This tour was a follow-up to meetings the WRMCA held with testing laboratories earlier this year as part of an initiative to strengthen relationships between testing labs and ready-mix producers.



Save the Date - 2026 Scholarship Golf Outing

Registration will begin on Thursday, June 18th at 10:30 am at Trappers Turn in Wisconsin Dells. Lunch will be available at 11:00 am. The tournament format will be best ball. The golf outing will conclude with a reception, dinner, and raffle. For questions, please contact Kim at knovak@wirmca.com.

NRMCA Monthly Safety Initiative

Volume 6, Issue 12

LOCKOUT/TAGOUT SAVES LIVES!



What is Lockout/Tagout (LO/TO)?

LO/TO is a safety standard designed to help control hazardous energy to protect workers from its dangerous effects at ready mixed concrete plants. Compliance with LO/TO prevents injuries, amputations, and even death. LO/TO programs are aimed at protecting workers performing service or maintenance on machinery and equipment that may be exposed to injuries from unexpected energization, startup of machinery or equipment, or release of stored energy in equipment. In order to protect these workers, the LO/TO standard requires that all employers “establish a program and utilize procedures for affixing appropriate lockout devices or tagout devices to energy isolating devices, and to otherwise disable machines or equipment to prevent unexpected energization, start-up, or release of stored energy...”



Lockout/Tagout Recommendations

Concrete producers should implement LO/TO programs that are tailored to their concrete plants. Plans should address ready mixed concrete industry activities, such as constructing, installing, setting up, adjusting, inspecting, modifying, bypassing guards and maintaining and/or servicing machines or equipment. As well as, lubrication, cleaning, or unjamming of conveyor belts and making adjustments or tool changes to equipment at plants. All producers should reference the federal or their state LO/TO standard for specific requirements. As well, prior to work beginning, devices must be tested to ensure they cannot be turned on after LO/TO has been performed.

Actions

Considerations for safe LO/TO practices:

- Think first
- Use standardized, durable locks
- Tags should be legible, bright and identifiable
- Use only one lock per each Authorized Employee
- Eliminate spare lock keys
- Keep procedures logical and up to date
- Utilize a LO/TO Logbook
- Train all employees on LO/TO
- Verify LO/TO

Resources

NRMCA: Lockout/Tagout Safety Series [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)
OSHA: [Control of Hazardous Energy \(Lockout/Tagout\)](#)
OSHA: [Lockout/Tagout Standard](#)



Contact

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NRMCA Monthly Safety Initiative Volume 7, Issue 1

SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS

Slips, Trips and Falls

According to the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA), slips, trips and falls account for the majority of all workplace accidents. During the winter months, this reality is highlighted by more muddy, wet and icy walking and working surfaces. To reduce and ultimately eliminate slips, trips and falls, and the injuries and costs associated with them, especially in the winter months, ready mixed concrete producers should take just a few minutes to assess their operations and any liabilities.



Prevention

Ready mixed concrete production facilities should have all employees review procedures at plants for walking, working surfaces and fall protection on a regular basis. Reviews should include regular inspections followed by any necessary fixes, changes or updates to surfaces.

Actions

- Think first
- Use 3 points-of-contact when ascending or descending stairs or ladders
- Keep focused on footing and hand rails
- Limit slippery or icy surfaces
- Keep surfaces dry
- Adhere to proper housekeeping
- Eliminate walking obstacles
- Spread sand and/or salt
- Use boot/shoe crampons or cleats
- Layout anti-slip mats or treads
- Maintain proper lighting



Resources

For more information on slips trips and falls please follow the links below:

- NRMCA: [Safety Series](#)
- OSHA: [Fall Protection & Walking](#) | [Working Surfaces](#) | [Winter Weather Preparedness](#)

Contacts

Kevin Walgenbach: kwalgenbach@nrmca.org



WRMCA & Industry Events

Date	Event	Organization
January 8-9	OES Workshop	WRMCA
January 13	Mixer Driver Championship Committee	WRMCA
January 15	Legislative Committee Meeting	WRMCA
January 15	Membership Committee Meeting	WRMCA
January 20-22	World of Concrete	WOC
January 29	Board of Directors Meeting	WRMCA
January 29	Concrete Design Awards Dinner	WRMCA
January 29-30	Technical Workshop	WRMCA
February 12-13	Annual Concrete Pavement Conference	WCPA
February 27-March 2	Annual Convention	NRMCA
March 3-7	CONEXPO-CON/AGG	Conexpo
March 11	Webinar: Concrete Admixtures—New Advancements to Address Changing Cements	WRMCA
March 15-17	Annual Convention	WRMCA
March 24	Technical Committee Meeting	WRMCA
March 29-April 1	Concrete Convention	ACI
April 2	Legislative Committee Meeting	WRMCA
May 13	Webinar: Durability 101	WRMCA
June 18	Annual Golf Outing	WRMCA
July 8	Webinar: Specs/Best Practices for Polishing Concrete	WRMCA
August 1	Mixer Driver Championship	WRMCA
August 19	Webinar: AI Insights for Architects, Engineers, and Concrete Professionals	WRMCA
September 9	Webinar: Jointing Best Practices - Do's and Dont's	WRMCA
October 11-14	Concrete Convention	ACI
October 15-18	ConcreteWorks	NRMCA