



April, 2025

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POLITICO UPDATE



Action Items to Support SB 61:

1. Grassroots Advocacy
 We urge all NECA contractors to visit our grassroots advocacy page and send a pre-drafted email to their elected officials and Governor Newsom, urging them to support SB 61. Please remind all of you contractor members to take action TODAY and voice their support for SB 61 BY CLICKING HERE

To expand our outreach, please also encourage other union contractor associations and contractors within your network to participate by sharing our grassroots action center: → www.unioncontractorvoice.com

2. Local Outreach to State Assembly and Senate Representatives
 Beyond our grassroots efforts, we encourage NECA Chapters to engage directly with their state

representatives' district offices to advocate for SB 61. Many chapters have established strong relationships with California legislative representatives, and we want to leverage those connections.

- Find your state representative here: <https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

We recommend: Requesting a meeting with the district office. Bringing a contractor who can effectively explain the importance of SB 61. Concluding the meeting by formally requesting the legislator's support. Leaving behind the attached SB 61 factsheet for reference.

- If the district staff has any questions that cannot be answered during the meeting, they can be directed to me—my email is included on the factsheet.

Background: SB 61 – Fair Retention Reform for Private Construction

TO BENEFIT ... PARTICIPATE!

On behalf of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), Senator Dave Cortese (D-San Jose, CA) has introduced SB 61, a bill to establish a 5% cap on retention for private construction contracts in California. This measure aligns private project retention practices with the successful 5% cap already in place for public works, helping to alleviate financial strain and cash-flow challenges faced by contractors statewide.

Understanding Retention & the Need for Reform

Retention, or retainage, is a standard industry practice where a portion of progress payments—typically 10% on private projects—is withheld until project completion. However, excessive withholding creates financial hardships, particularly for subcontractors and small businesses that operate on tight margins. By capping retention at 5%, SB 61 will provide much-needed relief and promote a fair and sustainable construction environment.

SB 61 levels the playing field for contractors—especially small and emerging businesses—by addressing cash flow challenges that hinder growth and job creation. By reducing unnecessary financial

obstacles, SB 61 will help contractors remain financially stable and continue delivering high-quality work.

Key Benefits of SB 61

- Improved Cash Flow – Contractors can maintain a healthier financial position, ensuring timely payments for taxes, worker benefits, and future investments.
- Reduced Financial Strain – Lower retention requirements decrease reliance on high-interest credit lines, reducing overall project costs.
- Fairness & Predictability – A standardized retention policy fosters consistency, helping contractors better manage financial resources.



NECA NOW 2025 AND WIN REGISTRATION OPEN

NECA Now offers a dynamic platform for leadership and personal development featuring

presentations from renowned experts. Attendees can explore a diverse range of current topics including recruitment, culture, change management, and personal development. The event also provides valuable opportunities to network, build meaningful connections and gain insights from industry peers.

Dates: April 7 – 9, 2025

Location: Hollywood, FL

This conference is ideal for individuals in diverse roles across NECA member companies and chapters who are eager to enhance their leadership and communication skills, both personally and professionally. A schedule of events can be found [here](#)

The Women in NECA (WIN) Leadership Conference is dedicated to empowering women in the electrical construction industry. Designed as a space for connection, growth, and inspiration, this conference provides unparalleled peer-to-peer networking opportunities for women navigating a traditionally male-dominated field.

Dates: April 6 - 7, 2025

Location: Hollywood, FL

Participants will engage in dynamic workshops and impactful general sessions that tackle critical topics such as power dynamics, effective negotiation strategies, and leadership development. Attendees will leave equipped with practical tools, actionable insights, and an expanded professional network to thrive in their careers.

The Women in NECA Leadership Conference requires separate registration. Attendees who participate in Women in NECA and NECA Now will receive a refund for the WIN registration fee once they have scanned into both meetings.

Please contact Jerri at the chapter office to register.

NECA BOOK GOES LIVE!

HEALTH CARE CORNER

Preventing Shoulder Injuries

Shoulder injuries amongst electricians can lead to lost work time and the possibility of needing

shoulder surgery. Below are some practical suggestions to help prevent shoulder injuries and improve overall shoulder health:

Ergonomics and Work Environment:

- ✓ Optimize Workspace: As much as possible, organize your workspace to minimize unnecessary reaching and awkward postures.
- ✓ Use Ergonomic Tools: Use tools designed for the job, to help reduce strain and repetitive motions.
- ✓ Maintain Good Posture: Good posture during work maintains spinal and body alignment which helps prevent injury.
- ✓ Proper Lifting Techniques: Keep Loads Close: When lifting, keep the load close to your body to reduce strain on your shoulders.
- ✓ Use Legs: Engage your legs and core when lifting, rather than relying solely on your back and shoulders.
- ✓ Avoid Overhead Lifting: Minimize lifting heavy objects overhead; if necessary, use a lifting aid or ask for help.
- ✓ Regular Breaks and Movement:

- ✓ Take Frequent Breaks: Avoid prolonged periods of repetitive motions by taking regular breaks to stretch and move around.
- ✓ Stretching: Incorporate shoulder stretches into your daily routine, both before and after work, to improve flexibility and reduce stiffness. See this link: [4 stretches to keep your shoulders in shape - Harvard Health](#)
- ✓ Targeted Exercises: Strengthen Rotator Cuff: Focus on exercises that target the rotator cuff muscles, such as lateral raises, external rotations, and scapular retractions. See the link below:

[2024-rotator-cuff-and-shoulder-conditioning-program.pdf](#)

- ✓ Warm up: Prior to work warm your body up with stretches and easy movements.
- ✓ Stay Hydrated: Hydrate: Drink plenty of water to keep your muscles and joints lubricated.
- ✓ Consult a Professional: If you have concerns about shoulder pain or injury, consult a doctor or physical therapist for personalized advice and exercises.

✓ If you need assistance finding a doctor, please reach out to me. As a reminder the Health & Welfare plan covers physical therapy, chiropractic care, and acupuncture. If you would like more information on these sources of care, contact me:

Anita Alvarez RN, PHN,
Nurse Health Advocate
Electrical Workers
Health and Welfare
Trust, IBEW Local 234
831-741-8677



UPCOMING CLASSES OFFERED THROUGH THE JATC

Please note that if you reserve a space and do not show up for class, you will be responsible for paying for the class.

CPR/FIRST AID

**The next class will be held
May 3, 2025. Please
contact Damaris to sign
up.**

Instructor Merralinda Goddard will be teaching on the basics of First Aid and CPR. Contact Damaris in the JATC office to sign up at (831) 633-3063.

Please note that class size is limited and sign-up is required. This is NOT a drop-in class. (Also note that if you reserve a space and do not show up for class, you will be responsible for paying for the class.)

CONFINED SPACE AWARENESS TRAINING

April 26, 2025

**8am-4:30pm (30 min break
for lunch – lunch NOT
provided)**

Sign-up is required – not a drop-in class

OSHA 10

If you are interested in taking an online OSHA 10 course, please contact Damaris at the JATC office (831) 633-3063 during office hours Monday – Friday, 12pm-5pm to sign up. If you are interested in taking our online OSHA 10 course, we will be taking sign-ups between now and January 31st. All who sign up will be

required to complete the course no later than February 28th. Online access codes will be available and emailed after the first of the new year – along with further class completion instructions.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL
CLASSES REQUIRE
REGISTRATION PRIOR TO
THE CLASS.**

**PLEASE CONTACT
DAMARIS IN THE JATC
OFFICE TO SIGN UP
(831) 633-3063**



CLASS COMPLETIONS

None



APPRENTICE APPLICATION INFORMATION

The Tri-County Electrical JATC is accepting applications on a year-round basis. **OUR PROCEDURES HAVE CHANGED!!!** Please note that we will only accept online applications and applicants need only follow the directions obtained in our website to apply. For more information regarding the process, please click in the following link: [JATC INFORMATION](#)



[NECA Now](#) is a dynamic event for leadership and personal growth, offering expert talks on recruitment, culture, and more. Network, connect, and learn from industry leaders! This conference boasts four distinct tracks that delve into talent acquisition, development, culture, and change management, all while enjoying the warm sunshine and beaches. Lead, Learn, and Relax by the Beach 🏖️

JATC INSTRUCTORS NEEDED!

The JATC is seeking instructors for apprenticeship and journeyman training courses on an ongoing basis. If you or someone that you know is interested in teaching – even to substitute or teach journeyman upgrade classes, or if you have a specialty that you would like to assist in for one night, please contact Stacy at the JATC office for more information. Your help in teaching our future generations is always greatly appreciated.

AVAILABILITY LIST UPDATE

On the Inside Out-of-Work List, there are 86 on Book 1, 180 on Book 2, 41 on Book 3 and 0 on Book 4. There are 3 Book 1, 4 on Book 2, 0 on Book 3 and 0 on Book 4 for Sound & Comm. There are 0 CE's on Book 1 and 0 on Book 2, 87 CW's on Book 1 and 0 CW's on Book 2 and 0 on Book 0 available. ***There are no Inside apprentices available for work at this time. If you are interested in hiring a new apprentice in the near future, please contact Stacy at the JATC office to let her know your future needs.***

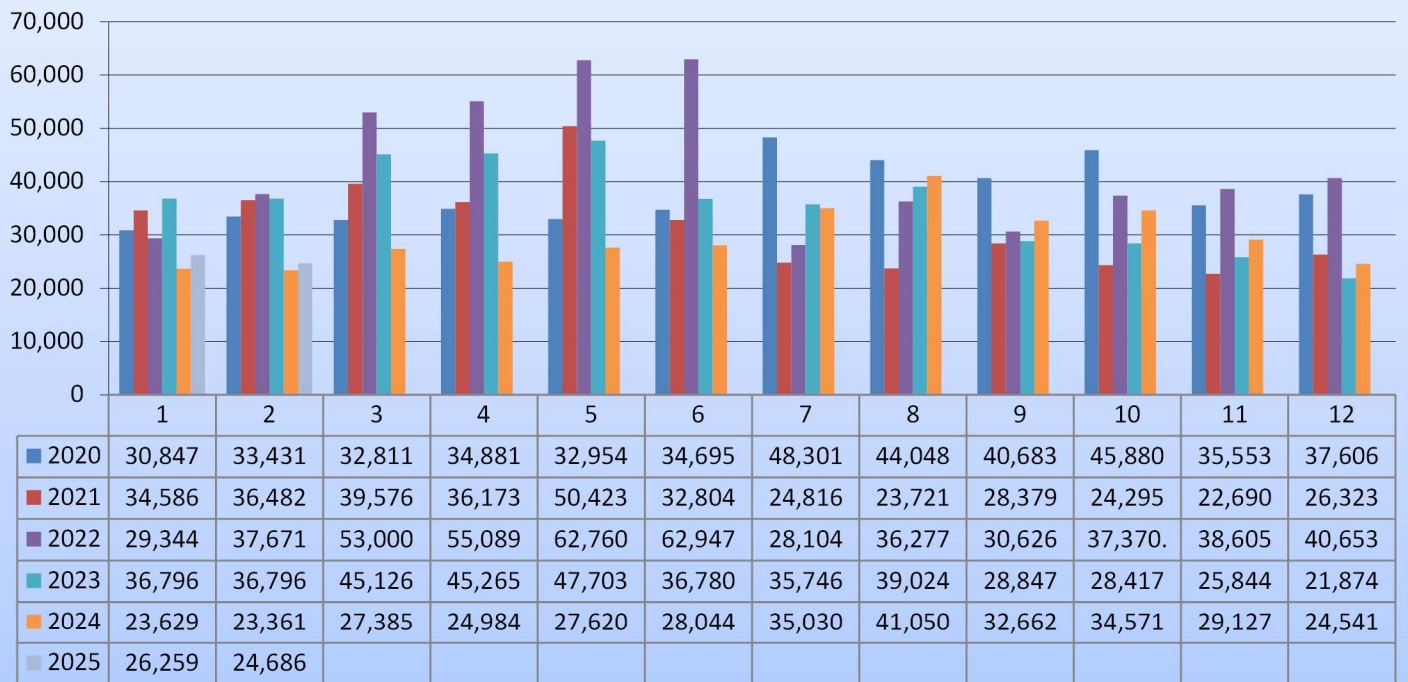


The NECA Show

presented by the National Electrical Contractors Association

**McCormick Place Convention Center
September 12-15, 2025**

*#1 Event for Power, Light, Controls, Energy,
Information & Communications Technology*





REAL ID and Federal Construction

On May 7, 2025, the long awaited enactment of the [REAL ID Act of 2005](#) will be in place, requiring any individual that boards a domestic flight or enters a Federal facility to be compliant.

NECA contractors should be vigilant to their employee's ability to comply with the Act as it could directly impact workforce mobility and jobsite access. Starting on that date, individuals will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or another acceptable [form of identification](#) (like a passport) to board domestic flights or enter certain federal facilities, including some military bases and government buildings where NECA contractors may perform work. If employees, subcontractors, or project partners are turned away due to non-compliant IDs, it could cause delays, missed deadlines, or access issues on federally funded jobs.

REAL ID resources are available through the [US Department of Homeland Security](#) website. Being proactive now helps ensure crews are ready and projects stay on track.

This material is for informational purposes only. The material is general and is not intended to be legal advice. It should not be relied upon or used without consulting a lawyer to consider your specific circumstances, possible changes to applicable laws, applicable CBAs, prime contracts, subcontracts, rules and regulations and other legal issues. Receipt of this material does not establish an attorney-client relationship.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 6-7, 2025

Women in NECA (WIN)
Hollywood, FL

April 7-9, 2025

NECA Now
Hollywood, FL

April 27-30, 2025

NECA Legislative Conference
Washington DC

May 16, 2025

Tri-County JATC Graduation
Del Monte Hyatt
RSVP Required

May 19-21, 2025

Safety Professionals Conference
Des Moines, IA

June 4-7, 2025

Academy of Electrical Contractors Meeting
Isle of Palms, SC

May 19-21, 2025

Safety Professionals

July 28 – August 1, 2025

National Training Institute
Ann Arbor, MI

August 13-16, 2025

District 9 Meeting
Turtle Bay, HI

September 12-15, 2025

NECA Convention
Chicago, IL