

**COMPTROLLER MENDOZA SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER ON  
PREVAILING WAGE ACT**

On August 13, 2019, Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza signed an Executive Order that reaffirms the Comptroller's Office's role in ensuring compliance with the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act. As the State's chief fiscal officer, Comptroller Mendoza is responsible for accepting grants, contracts, and awards involving payments from the State of Illinois, and she is responsible for releasing funds to make payments on behalf of the State under public contracts. Comptroller Mendoza has long been a strong ally of organized labor.

The Prevailing Wage Act requires that any employees working for a contractor under a public works contract with any state or local government must be paid at least the prevailing rate of wages and fringe benefits. Prevailing rates are generally set by unionized employees' wage rates in each locality. This Act helps guarantee that workers, laborers, and mechanics receive fair wages for their work, and it also prevents contractors from cutting wages in order to underbid competitors for public works contracts.

Comptroller Mendoza's Executive Order 19-01 outlines steps that the Office of Illinois Comptroller will take to ensure that contractors comply with the requirements of the Prevailing Wage Act. This includes monitoring all grants awarded for the Rebuild Illinois program – a six-year, \$45 billion legislative package signed by Governor Pritzker that provides for long-overdue repair and improvements to the State's infrastructure – and other public works programs. The order also directs the Comptroller's prevailing wage enforcement officer to address inquiries from labor about these contracts; provides for a prevailing wage inquiry form on the Comptroller's website; and provides support to the Illinois Department of Labor in reviewing and responding to potential violations of the Prevailing Wage Act.

The Comptroller's executive order, as well as the prevailing wage inquiry forms, are available at the Comptroller's website at <https://illinoiscomptroller.gov/>.

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