

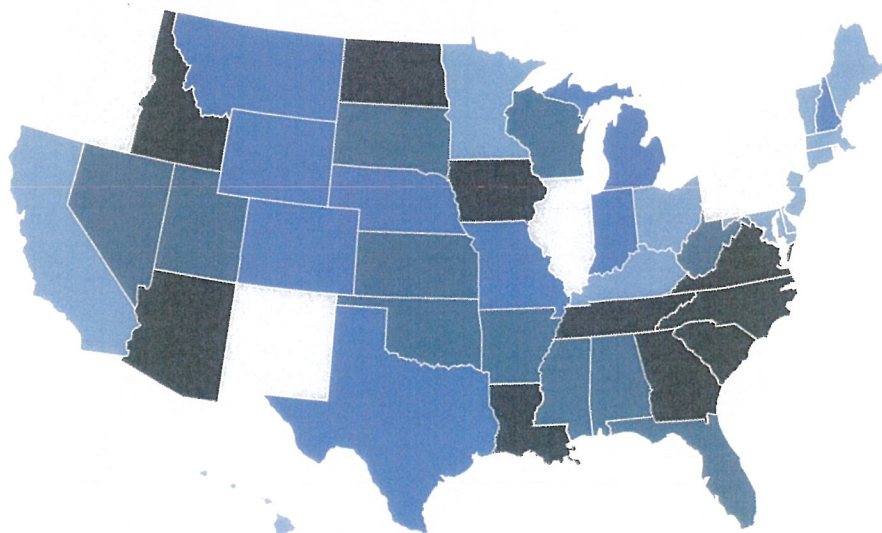


BUILDING AMERICA

THE MERIT SHOP SCORECARD

A Review & Ranking of State Construction Environments

OVERALL RANKING



- VT
- NH
- MA
- CT
- NJ
- DE
- MD

RANK

1-10
11-21
22-30
31-42

BEST

WORST

VIEW SCORES ON MAP

Overall Ranking ▼

Overall ranking (1-51) is determined through a combined score of the seven graded criteria. Ties in combined score being broken by performance on ABC core issues, with secondary consideration given to additional graded criteria.

Search:

	Overall Ranking	PLA Mandates	Prevailing Wage	Right to Work	Public-Private Partnerships	Workforce Development	Career & Technical Education	Job Growth Rate
Alabama	12	A	A	A	B	C	A	F
Alaska	49	D	D	F	F	D	B	D
Arizona	4	A	A	A	A	B	C	C

Arkansas	20	A	D	A	B	A	A	D
California	34	D	D	F	A	C	A	B
Colorado	24	C	A	F	B	C	A	A
Connecticut	33	D	F	F	B	D	A	D
Delaware	31	C	D	F	B	B	D	D
District of Columbia	48	D	F	F	A	D	B	D
Florida	11	C	A	A	A	C	B	A
Georgia	5	A	A	A	A	D	A	C
Hawaii	40	D	D	F	D	C	A	A
Idaho	8	A	A	A	F	C	A	B
Illinois	51	F	F	F	C	C	D	D
Indiana	22	D	A	A	C	D	B	D
Iowa	10	B	A	A	F	B	A	A
Kansas	15	A	A	A	F	C	A	D
Kentucky	32	D	D	F	A	C	A	D
Louisiana	1	A	A	A	A	A	A	C
Maine	37	C	D	F	C	C	A	F
Maryland	36	D	D	F	A	C	B	D
Massachusetts	35	D	F	F	C	A	A	B
Michigan	23	A	F	A	C	C	A	C
Minnesota	39	D	D	F	C	B	D	B
Mississippi	14	A	A	A	C	C	A	F
Missouri	29	C	F	F	B	C	A	D
Montana	30	A	D	F	F	B	B	D
Nebraska	25	C	D	A	D	C	A	C
Nevada	19	A	D	A	B	C	A	A
New Hampshire	28	C	A	F	C	C	D	D
New Jersey	41	F	D	F	C	C	A	C
New Mexico	50	D	D	F	F	D	D	D
New York	47	D	F	F	C	C	A	C
North Carolina	3	A	A	A	A	C	A	D
North Dakota	7	A	A	A	A	C	D	B
Ohio	38	D	D	F	B	D	A	C
Oklahoma	16	A	A	A	F	D	A	C
Oregon	45	D	D	F	B	D	D	B
Pennsylvania	43	D	D	F	B	D	A	D
Rhode Island	44	D	D	F	F	A	C	D
South Carolina	6	A	A	A	C	C	A	C
South Dakota	17	A	A	A	F	C	B	D
Tennessee	9	A	B	A	C	B	A	C
Texas	27	C	F	A	A	C	C	C
Utah	18	A	A	A	C	D	D	B
Vermont	42	C	D	F	F	D	A	D

Virginia	2	A	A	A	A	C	A	D
Washington	46	D	F	F	B	C	C	A
West Virginia	13	A	A	A	B	C	A	F
Wisconsin	21	D	B	A	B	C	A	C
Wyoming	26	C	D	A	F	A	A	D

Background

Building America: The Merit Shop Scorecard reviews and ranks state-specific information that is significant to the construction industry. The scorecard is a tool to identify states that are embracing the merit shop philosophy via legislation, policies, priorities and valuable programs, as well as highlight states where proactive and strategic improvements need to be executed to create an environment conducive to the industry's needs. Rankings have been assigned primarily based on the core issues concerning merit shop construction, including state policies on Right to Work, prevailing wage and government-mandated project labor agreements.

Additional consideration has been given to a number of other factors that impact the industry, including state authorization or prohibition of public-private partnerships, availability of grants and incentives for employers that value training, and inclusion of career and technical education credits in high school requirements, among others. Other valuable and construction-relevant data has been provided separately on each state's page, including information related to prompt pay requirements, safety figures, and a graph tracking the state-level unemployment rate in construction from month-to-month.

What Is the Merit Shop Philosophy?

The merit shop philosophy is the belief that people and companies succeed based on free enterprise principles within the free market system, which is characterized by open and fair competition and diverse participants. Those that adhere to the philosophy believe employees and employers have the right to determine wages and working conditions through either individual or collective bargaining, as they choose, within the boundaries of the law. They oppose violence, coercion, intimidation and the denial of the rights of employees and employers. Furthermore, they believe it is incumbent upon all branches of government to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars and that government should award contracts based solely on merit to the lowest responsible bidder, regardless of labor affiliation. Lastly, the merit shop philosophy contends that the destiny of all Americans can be best served by cooperation, reconciliation, and following the tenants of free enterprise and a democratic government.

The Merit Shop Scorecard is a project by Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), a national trade association representing nearly 21,000 chapter members. Founded on the merit shop philosophy, ABC and its 70 chapters help members develop people, win work, and deliver that work safely, ethically, profitably, and for the betterment of the communities in which ABC and its members work.

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