

**EXCLUSIVE: Democrats Pick Non-Union Fiserv Forum For National Convention**  
By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

The Fiserv Forum, which will be the main convention hall for next year's Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee, is one of the only major performing arts venues in the city that uses non-union stagehands and theatrical workers. Democrat politicians often make a major deal about working only in unionized facilities but the Fiserv's non-union status apparently doesn't bother the Democratic National Committee nor has the state AFL-CIO raised an objection.

The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees has two locals in Milwaukee. One primarily represents stagehands and the other wardrobe employees. Fiserv Forum does not have a contract with either and uses non-union employees in both areas. IATSE has contracts in place at all of the following local venues: Summerfest, State Fair Park, Miller Park (concerts only), Pabst Theater and all of the other venues of the Wisconsin Center District including the UW-Milwaukee Panther Arena, Miller High Life Theatre and the main convention hall. The union is also contracted with the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts and other regional venues. Other than Fiserv Forum, the Riverside Theater is the only major non-profit performing arts facility in downtown Milwaukee that uses non-union workers.

The IATSE picketed outside Fiserv Forum when the arena opened six months ago. The Forum is operated by the Milwaukee Bucks although owned by the Wisconsin Center District. Bucks President Peter Feigin was quoted on JSoonline at the time saying the forum didn't want to pay the higher wages received by union stagehands. Union officials say the wage difference is small. Feigin said most of Fiserv's stagehands are being paid about \$12.50 an hour.

It will be interesting to see how some of the more rabidly leftist candidates for President like Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, Kamala Harris and Beto O'Rourke react to the news that the Democratic Convention will be held in a non-union building.

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