



# PLAWATCH

## Associated Builders and Contractors

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*ABC's voice against Project Labor Agreements*

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### SPECIAL REPORT: NIXED PLA SAVES OHIO CITY \$400,000

ABC's efforts to defeat a union-only PLA in the Northern Ohio city of Elyria have already saved the city's taxpayers a bundle – the new low bid for construction of Elyria's City Hall has come in at about \$400,000 under what it had been under the PLA.

Pressure from ABC and its allies forced the city's mayor and his faction to back off from a PLA it had voted in in January. ABC member Bay Mechanical, after having its low bid rejected because it would not sign a PLA, brought suit and a judge agreed, whereupon the project was re-bid PLA-free. The project architect said that most subsequent bids, both union and non-union, came in under budget.

The average bid was eight percent higher with the PLA, according to Ryan Martin, ABC Ohio's government affairs director, said the total average of the bids was about \$646,200 higher under the PLA. "With the PLA, only one of our open-shop contractors placed a bid, but with the PLA thrown out I know of at least four of our contractors who placed bids," said Martin.

"This is the best evidence we have that shows that a PLA would do what we said it would, which is increase the overall cost of the project," said Martin. "Now the process was done fairly, so both union and non-union shops have an equal opportunity to work on the project."

"We're now looking forward to working on this project," a Bay Mechanical spokesman said. "It's been a real political issue, but I'm sure the city is happy they went this route knowing they saved \$400,000."

ABC's efforts also drew praise from a non-member. Michael Marron, president of Baywest Construction Group, an open-shop company in Westlake, said, "The city of Elyria should be thanking those guys from Associated Builders and Contractors for pursuing the issue. It saved the city a lot of money."

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