



# NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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## Big Labor Embrace Deadly in 2004 Elections *Union Bosses Browbeat 'Friends' Into Taking Unpopular Positions*

Right up until Election Day 2004, the AFL-CIO hierarchy relentlessly campaigned to arm-twist every Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate and House to pledge not only to oppose a national Right to Work law, but also to support and cosponsor the Kennedy/Miller "Card Check" Forced-Unionism Bill.

Union bosses treasured their "card check" measure as a highly effective tool for expanding their economic and political clout.

"This ["card check" bill] is a big, big deal for us out in the field," especially in "competitive races," explained AFL-CIO lobbyist Andy Levin to the *Daily Labor Report (DLR)* in mid-October.

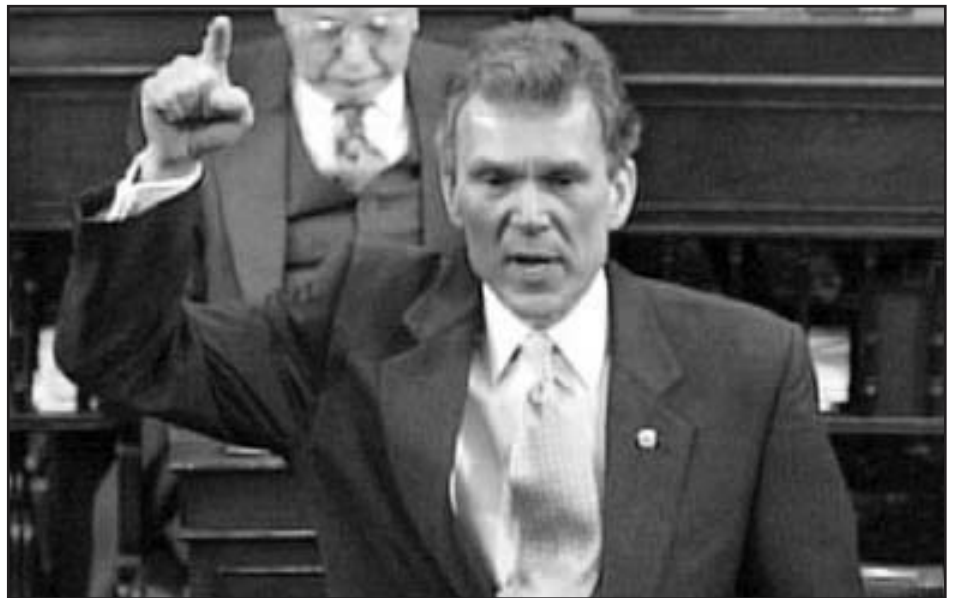
In the end, AFL-CIO bigwigs "garnered pledges from virtually all Democratic candidates to cosponsor" the card-check bill (S.1925/H.R.3619 in the Congress that is now concluding), according to the *DLR's* October 22 edition.

"We've pursued the candidates to get the commitment that they will cosponsor the bill. We've been largely successful at that," boasted Mr. Levin.

Now the 2004 federal elections are history. And the AFL-CIO hierarchy's dogged insistence that every Big Labor-backed candidate -- including candidates in close races in Right to Work states -- oppose a national Right to Work law and publicly endorse the "card check" scheme seems destined to go down in history as a mammoth political blunder.

### Recent Survey Shows Most Union Members Oppose 'Card Check' Measure

Sponsored by Big Labor Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) and union boss-"go



DETROIT NEWS

**Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle votes against Right to Work and in support of public-sector union**

**monopolists helped convince his freedom-loving South Dakota constituents to send him into retirement.**

to" Congressman George Miller (D-Calif.), the "card check" bill is designed to make it even easier for union officials to secure monopoly-bargaining privileges over independent-minded workers.

This bill is such a flagrant power grab that it is supported by no significant constituency other than union officials.

A recent nationwide poll found that, by a 53% to 41% majority, with the rest undecided, union members reject the notion that having "union organizers ask workers to sign their names on a card if they want a union" is "the fairest way to decide on a union."

Yet greatly expanding union officials' power to secure monopoly-bargaining privileges through coercive "card checks" is the key provision in the Kennedy/Miller bill.

Given that Big Labor's top legislative objective is unpopular even with its putative beneficiaries, union lobbyists would have been well advised to allow politicians who faced tough races to sit on the fence until the elections were over.

### Defeated Candidate's Aide Points Finger at Right to Work's 'Unrelenting Attacks'

Instead, union lobbyists demanded that their favored candidates, even in rock-solid Right to Work states like South Carolina, pledge their allegiance to Kennedy/Miller.

Palmetto State Democratic Senate nominee Inez Tenenbaum's support for

See **Voters** next page

# Voters Reject Union Power Grab

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"card check" forced unionism became public knowledge as a result of the *DLR's* October 22 article.

This was just as the National Right to Work Committee was about to launch a direct mail and ad program calling attention to, among other things, the massive amounts of PAC cash and forced dues-funded "in-kind" support Big Labor was pumping into the Tenenbaum campaign.

The combined impact, according to an election post-mortem by Tenenbaum Communications Director Adam Kovacevich that was published on *National Review's* web site November 4, was devastating:

"Until a week ago, the race was essentially tied. So what happened? Inez was subjected to a week of unrelenting attacks on TV/radio/mail/newspapers.

The "Right to Work Committee" and other citizens groups came into the state with what Mr.Kovacevich denounced as "anti-Inez messages."

"[Republican Senate nominee Jim] DeMint . . . was aided tremendously by a flood of negative advertising from conservative groups in the final weeks . . .," Mr.Kovacevich groused.

In the end, Mr. DeMint, who as a

three-term congressman has a strong record of support for Right to Work, soundly defeated Ms. Tenenbaum by a 54% to 44% margin.

## Right to Work Picks Up Six Seats in Senate, Also Gains in House

Not just in South Carolina, but also in the Right to Work states of Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Oklahoma, Big Labor's handpicked Senate candidates suffered as a result of their unconcealed support for Kennedy/Miller as well as for other union power grabs.

In Georgia, Louisiana and Oklahoma, the Democratic nominees were sitting House members who imprudently cosponsored Kennedy/Miller while running for the Senate in states where forced unionism is extraordinarily unpopular.

And Oklahoma Democrat Brad Carson also cosponsored another union boss-crafted measure that would federalize union monopoly control over state and local police and firefighters.

In two other Right to Work states with close Senate races, North Carolina and South Dakota, Democratic nominees

wisely resisted union lobbyists' demands to avow their fealty to Kennedy/Miller in public.

However, North Carolina nominee Erskine Bowles, who served as a top official in the intensely pro-forced unionism Clinton Administration, and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (S.D.), with his extensive record of anti-Right to Work votes during 26 years on Capitol Hill, couldn't hide their true stripes.

As tens of millions of Americans wondered whether union-label Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) would be the next President, voters evidently paid special attention to the Right to Work issue when making their Election Day choices in Senate races.

Right to Work allies consequently made a net pick up of six Senate seats this year, capturing five seats that have been held by senators with pro-forced unionism or mixed records on labor issues and defeating Mr. Daschle.

The union political machine succeeded only in electing Big Labor Democrats to replace retiring Big Labor-appeasing GOP senators in Illinois and Colorado.

Right to Work allies also picked up a net of three seats in House races across the country. Gains in this chamber were held down by the fact that there were only a handful of even potentially competitive House races this year.


## Time For Right to Work Supporters to Up the Ante

With prospects for enactment of the "card check" and police/fire monopoly-bargaining schemes quite slim in the next Congress as a result of Big Labor's electoral losses, pro-Right to Work politicians might be tempted to rest on their laurels.

But that would be a serious mistake, noted Committee President Mark Mix.

"Despite its 2004 setback, the union political machine remains the most powerful special-interest group in American politics," he noted.

"And next time, union bosses surely won't be so foolish as to order their puppet politicians across the nation to broadcast their support for forced unionism just before Election Day.

"That's why, in the next Congress, freedom-loving senators and congressmen need to up the ante by holding recorded votes on national Right to Work legislation that will repeal all federally-imposed forced union dues and 'fees.'" 



Mel Martinez—Fla.

AP/PETER COSGROVE



Johnny Isakson—Ga.

TAMI CHAPPELL/REUTERS



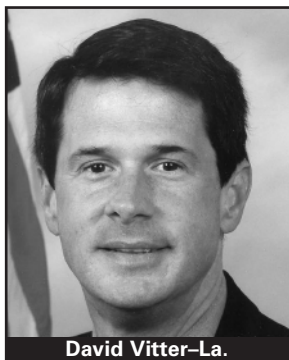
Jim DeMint—S.C.

FILE



Richard Burr—N.C.

THE HILL



David Vitter—La.

FILE



John Thune—S.D.

REUTERS/ALEX WONG

In a banner year for Right to Work supporters, six candidates who had pledged 100% opposition to forced

unionism just captured U.S. Senate seats that have been under Big Labor's control.