

Federal Candidate Survey Mobilizes Millions

Experience, Energy Build Effectiveness of Right to Work Program

Thanks to National Right to Work Committee members' generous assistance, the Committee's federal-candidate Survey 2004 checked a massive Big Labor electioneering blitz and increased support among winning candidates for Congress for repeal of federally-imposed forced union dues.

To mobilize Right to Work supporters, the Committee sent out roughly three million Survey mobilization letters designed to boost the Right to Work issue and hold candidates' feet to the fire.

And most of the Survey letters were mailed out during the last six weeks of the general election campaign to specially targeted states and districts across the country.

The fall program helped make it possible for advocates of national Right to Work legislation to gain strength in both chambers of Congress.

Pro-Right to Work Candidates Won in Eight Out of 10 Targeted Senate Races

In the U.S. Senate, Right to Work advocates will start next year with at least 44 members on record either as having already supported the National Right to Work Act or as having pledged to do so.

At the beginning of the 2003-2004 Congress, 38 senators had previously voted for, sponsored, or pledged to sponsor this bill.

The Right to Work Bill, introduced in the Senate last year by Sens. Trent Lott (R-Miss.) and Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.), would repeal the federal labor-law provisions under which nearly eight million private-sector employees may be fired for refusal to pay union dues or "fees."

All in all, of the 10 seats targeted by the Survey 2002 program, pro-Right to Work candidates will soon represent eight, for a net gain of six Senate votes.

Because of the Big Labor machine's near-absolute grip over the national Democratic Party, all eight of the victorious Right to Work supporters are Republicans. But theirs was no mere partisan triumph.

Due to the retirements of GOP Sens. Peter Fitzgerald (Ill.) and Ben Nighthorse Campbell (Colo.), both Big Labor appeasers, the caucus of GOP senators who refuse to support Right to Work

actually shrank as a result of the 2004 elections. But overall, the GOP picked up four seats.

"More and more GOP candidates seem to have absorbed the lesson that, if you are running against a forced-unionism cheerleader, you don't gain anything by trying to fudge the Right to Work issue," noted Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"The 44 returning and incoming senators who have records of supporting or pledging to support a national Right to Work law need to remember this when Big Labor lobbyists try to intimidate them into flip-flopping next year."

A Net of Three Big Labor House Seats Captured By Right to Work

Big Labor forced dues-funded get-out-the-vote drives, phone banks, and propaganda mail fell far short of achieving the union bosses' avowed goal of tipping the U.S. House balance to install their puppet politicians in leadership positions.

A key reason the Big Labor power grab failed is that Right to Work supporters won in 23 of the 36 already-decided House races targeted by the Survey 2002. (Two Louisiana run-offs, whose outcomes are still unknown at press time, are also targeted.)

In three of the targeted House races, pro-Right to Work challengers defeated pro-forced unionism incumbents Baron Hill (D-Ind.) and Max Sandlin and Nick Lampson (both D-Texas).

The Survey 2002 also highlighted the forced-unionism issue in nine districts where pro-Right to Work House members faced well-financed challenges by Big Labor-backed candidates.

In eight of the nine races, the pro-Right to Work representative won reelection. Among the reelected was Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.), an outstanding leader on Right to Work issues who was subjected to a multi-million-dollar negative advertising blitz by Big Labor and its allies.

Committee members' grass-roots lobbying also scored clear victories in 12 out of 14 targeted races for open seats.

Moreover, even incoming Rep. Dan Boren (D-Okla.), one of the two victorious candidates in "open seat" races



Committee President Mark Mix applauds members' relentless focus on the Right to Work issue.

who did not pledge support for Right to Work, felt the heat from freedom lovers and is therefore likely to be more independent of Big Labor than his predecessor Brad Carson (D).

Pending the results of the Louisiana run-offs, Right to Work Bill advocates will pick up a net of three House seats for the next Congress, bringing their total House strength to 173.

After being introduced a decade ago in the 1995-96 Congress, the Right to Work Bill garnered just 58 House sponsors; it has 131 House sponsors in the Congress now concluding.

Program's Sole Purpose: Highlight Candidates' Records on Right to Work

"With the steadfast support of our members, the Committee continues to make progress toward enactment of the freedom-restoring Right to Work Bill," said Mr. Mix.

"As impassioned as this election year turned out to be, it is to our members' credit that they focused so much of their time and energy on the federal survey program, which does not support or oppose candidates.

"Its sole purpose is to highlight candidates' positions and voting records on Right to Work and to mobilize citizens to lobby the candidates.

"In that regard, the Committee's Survey program continues to be a remarkable success, year after year." 📞