

# Survey Program Effective in Hostile Climate

## *Pro-Right to Work Candidates Win Many Close U.S. House Contests*

Thanks to National Right to Work Committee members' generous assistance, the Committee's federal-candidate Survey 2006 helped ensure that the Right to Work cause experienced only relatively minor damage last month even as congressional Republicans suffered an electoral debacle.

In its relentless, ultimately successful campaign to put Big Labor Democrats like Rep. Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) and Sen. Harry Reid (Nev.) in charge of the next Congress, the union hierarchy targeted for defeat vulnerable Republicans of all stripes – both forced-unionism appeasers and Right to Work allies.

But the relative handful of inveterate Big Labor mollifiers in the GOP endured heavily disproportionate losses.

Consider, for example, the fact that just 15 of the 232 Republicans in the outgoing U.S. House were cosponsors of Rep. George Miller's (D-Calif.) Card-Check Forced-Unionism Bill (H.R.1696), the top item on Big Labor's legislative agenda.

In the new Congress, union lobbyists will be able to count on the support of, at the most, eight of its 15 erstwhile GOP allies on this issue. Why?

Five were defeated: one by a pro-Right to Work GOP primary challenger and four by Big Labor-backed Democrats in the general election. One retired. And one, Rep. Randy Kuhl (R-N.Y.), decided to withdraw his support for the Miller scheme just days after he had barely survived an all-out attack by the union machine!

Now, Committee President Mark Mix and Right to Work members who are constituents are targeting several other of the few remaining pro-H.R.1696 Republicans to challenge them to abandon their obviously futile efforts to appease Big Labor.

### **Pro-Freedom Candidates Won After Being Virtually Written Off by Respected Pundit**

In stark contrast to Republicans who kowtowed to the union brass, the 114 GOP House candidates who sponsored national Right to Work legislation in 2005-2006 and sought reelection won 94% of their November 7 contests.

Among the Right to Work sponsors



**In a generally awful year for her party, GOP Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (Colo., pictured here with Committee**

**President Mark Mix) strongly reaffirmed her support for Right to Work, and won a difficult race.**

who won were Reps. Heather Wilson (R-N.M.) and Steve Chabot (R-Ohio), who less than a week before Election Day were both viewed by respected political pundit Stuart Rothenberg as being in "considerable danger."

Staunch Right to Work ally Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.) was one of just a few Republican House members who won after being viewed as "[not] much better than even money for reelection" by Mr. Rothenberg.

Pro-Right to Work challengers who won in "open seat" races that Mr. Rothenberg and/or other prominent pundits viewed as toss ups or Democratic leaning include Vern Buchanan (R-Fla.), Michelle Bachmann (R-Minn.), and Bill Sali (R-Idaho).

In the U.S. Senate, four of the six GOP incumbents who lost were habitual forced-unionism appeasers. And the only GOP candidates to win close races, open-seat challenger Bob Corker (Tenn.) and Sen. Jon Kyl (Ariz.), pledged 100% support for Right to Work.

To mobilize Right to Work supporters, the Committee sent out well over 2.2 million Survey 2006-related letters highlighting the forced-unionism issue and holding candidates' feet to the fire.

And many 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.

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

"I'm confident that the Survey 2006 is the single most important reason why combined, public House and Senate support for national Right to Work legislation will diminish by just eight votes in the 2007-2008 Congress, far less than the total GOP loss of 35 seats," said Mr. Mix.

"This was an election season in which the focus was heavily on candidates' alleged and genuine personal flaws. Therefore, it is especially to our members' credit that they devoted 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 freedom-loving citizens to insist their candidates oppose forced unionism.

"In that regard, the Committee's Survey program continues to be successful, in all kinds of political climates." 