

Right to Work Issue Energizes State Elections

Citizens Ask Legislative, Executive Candidates to Go on Record

Freedom-loving citizens in more than half-a-dozen states that have yet to pass a Right to Work law and in several current Right to Work states are raising the heat this summer on the candidates who are campaigning to be their governors, lieutenant governors, and state legislators.

Candidates in New Hampshire, Montana, Missouri and more than a dozen other states have already received or soon will receive Right to Work surveys asking them to take a stand on the issue.

And as Election Day approaches, identified pro-Right to Work citizens in each of the targeted states will be mobilized to send postcards, letters, and other messages to the campaign offices of candidates who resist answering their surveys.

Several state and regional Right to Work citizen groups, with the assistance of the National Right to Work Committee, are implementing the state Survey '08 program.

Since 2002, Employment Has Grown Over Twice as Fast in Right to Work States

Efforts to pass new Right to Work laws and to maintain existing ones are buoyed in part by federal data showing that the 22 states that already have Right to Work

statutes on the books are on average weathering the economic storms that commenced last year far better than are forced-union-dues states.

According to the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2007 private-sector employment in Right to Work states grew nearly two-and-a-half times as fast, in percentage terms, as employment in non-Right to Work states.

And Right to Work states' job-growth advantage is an enduring trend.

Over the five years from 2002 to 2007, private-sector jobs in Right to Work states increased from 40.92 million to 44.85 million, or 9.6%. Meanwhile, jobs in forced-dues states increased by barely more than a third as much.

Over this entire period, forced-dues states' private-sector employment went from 67.27 million to 69.72 million, a gain of just 3.6%.

Right to Work Laws A Matter of Principle

As regular Newsletter readers know, Right to Work laws prohibit the firing of employees for refusal to pay forced dues or so-called "agency" fees to an unwanted union.

While the presence of a state Right to Work law is closely correlated with faster job and income growth, the Right

to Work is a matter of principle as well as economics.

Right to Work laws' fundamental purpose is to protect the employee's personal freedom of choice.

Over the years, public-opinion survey data have time and again reconfirmed the appeal of this principle.

For example, a scientific nationwide poll conducted in March 2004 by the Maryland-based firm Research 2000, known as a leader in the field, found that 79% of the probable voters in that year's presidential elections backed a person's right to hold a job "regardless of whether or not he or she belongs to a union."

Iowa Most Recent State To Defeat Scheme to Gut Right to Work Law

The overwhelming public support for Right to Work helps explain why Big Labor, despite spending countless millions of dollars to repeal or gut Right to Work laws since the mid-sixties, has failed time and again.


Most recently, union-label Democrat politicians in Right to Work Iowa cut a secret deal with the union brass in 2006 to push for reinstatement of forced union dues if the union political machine helped them take over the state government.

And in January 2007, Big Labor installed pro-forced unionism state Senate and House leaders and a pro-forced unionism governor. That spring, S.F.413, a forced-union-fee bill, was rammed through the state Senate.

However, due to intense Right to Work opposition, S.F.413 subsequently stalled out in the House and never came up for a final vote in 2007 or this year.

"The fact is, in every region of the country, most Americans know in their hearts that it's wrong to force any worker to pay union dues as a condition of employment," said Committee President Mark Mix.

"That's why I'm optimistic we can continue to protect Iowa's and other Right to Work laws and pass more such laws over the next few years.

"And state candidate survey programs are the best way to mobilize pro-Right to Work citizens for both offensive and defensive campaigns. They are a proven, effective way to counterbalance Big Labor's forced-dues war chest." 



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way to counterbalance Big Labor's forced-dues war chest" in both offensive and defensive campaigns.