

Iowa Right to Work Law Still in Jeopardy

Big Labor Senate Majority Leader Admits New Attack Is Coming

Capitalizing on deep public concerns about the state and national economies and the unpopularity of the Bush Administration, Barack Obama's presidential campaign scored an especially impressive victory in Iowa November 4.

The Obama-Biden ticket reaped a total of more than 818,000 votes in the Hawkeye State, 10.3% more than did the Kerry-Edwards Democratic presidential ticket four years ago, even though Iowa's voting-age population has increased by a scant 0.2%, roughly, since 2004, and the state was a major battleground both times.

Obama-Biden Blowout Was Not Replicated in Iowa's State House Contests

In view of the remarkable success of the top of the ticket, it would have been astonishing if Iowa Democrats had not expanded their House and Senate majorities in the state Legislature on Election Day, and indeed they did.

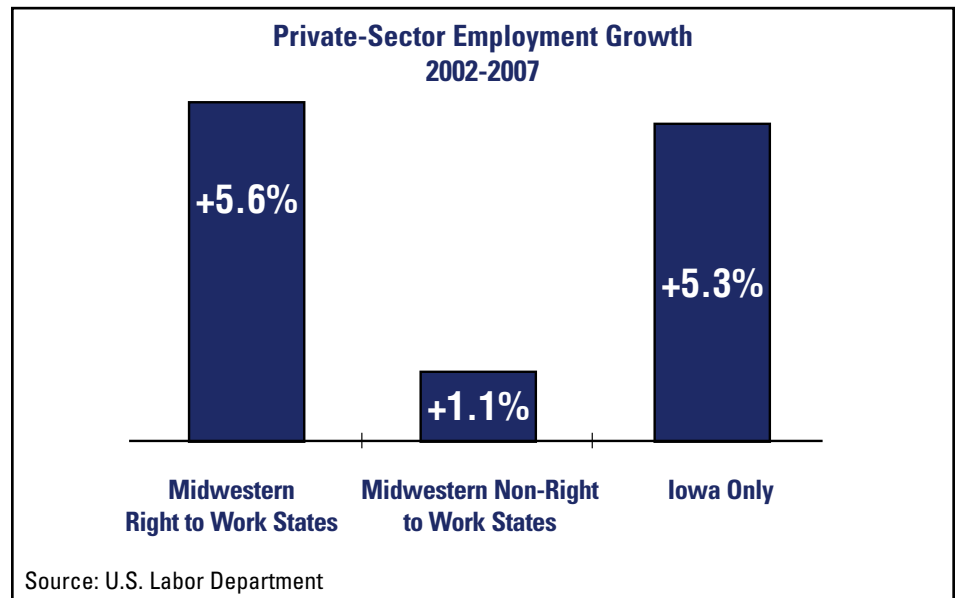
However, in the state House returning Speaker Pat Murphy's (Dubuque) Democrat caucus will be expanding quite modestly, from 53 seats out of 100 at the end of the 2007-2008 session to 56 seats when the Legislature reconvenes next month.

And a dispassionate analysis of the election results indicates that a single issue, the nearly successful bid by Mr. Murphy and other pro-forced unionism Democrats to gut Iowa's Right to Work law in the 2007-2008 legislative session, prevented the caucus from expanding to 60 seats or perhaps more.

Since 2007, Big Labor Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal (D-Council Bluffs) has had sufficient votes to pass Right to Work-gutting legislation in his chamber, and Gov. Chet Culver (D) has publicly declared himself ready to sign such legislation.

Winning Candidates Pledge To Fight to Protect Iowa's Right to Work Law

The Iowa state House has thus been the only firewall preventing passage of a special-interest measure authorizing the imposition of forced union "agency" fees on employees who choose not to



Between 2002 and 2007, Right to Work Iowa enjoyed a 5.3% increase in private-sector jobs, five times the gain eked out

by Midwestern forced-unionism states as a group. Why would Iowa want to join them?

join a union that is their monopoly-bargaining agent.

And pro-Right to Work Iowans focused virtually all their attention on House races in this year's elections.

In the hotly contested race for Iowa House District 59, an open seat, pro-Right to Work GOP candidate Chris Hagenow (Windsor Heights) edged out Big Labor-backed Democrat Jerry Sullivan (Windsor Heights).

In the razor-close contest for House District 37 (East Cedar Rapids) pro-Right to Work Republican Renee Schulte ousted pro-forced unionism incumbent Democrat Art Staed.

And in House District 87, pro-Right to Work incumbent Tom Sands (R-Columbus Junction) held off a well-financed challenge by Big Labor-backed Democrat Frank Best (Columbus City).

Several other union-label Democratic candidates were defeated or nearly defeated because of their unwillingness to stand up for Iowa's Right to Work law. Some survived only because of the strength at the top of the Democratic ticket. Of course, this won't be a factor in 2010.

In view of these facts, one might think that Mr. Murphy and Mr. Gronstal would now be thanking their lucky stars that the Obama blowout in

Iowa rescued them from suffering the full consequences of their recent anti-Right to Work campaign, and back off.

Right to Work Critical To Prosperity of Iowa And Many Other States

But so far Mr. Murphy and Mr. Gronstal are giving no sign of having learned their lesson. Indeed, Mr. Gronstal has publicly indicated a renewed attack on Iowa's Right to Work law is likely next year.

"In these troubled economic times, it is especially important for freedom-loving Iowans to thwart union-boss politicians' schemes to tamper with their Right to Work law," commented National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"From 2002 to 2007, private-sector job growth both in Iowa and in Midwestern Right to Work states as a group was roughly *five times* as great as job growth in Midwestern forced-unionism states. Why would Iowa want to join the latter group?"

"But there's an even more important reason for Iowans to fight to protect their Right to Work law: It's just plain wrong to force any worker to join or bankroll a union in order to hold a job and feed his or her family." 📣