

Right to Work States Best For Employees

New Federal Data Reveal an Especially Big Advantage in Midwest

A new analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data by CareerBuilder.com, America's largest online job site, shows that Right to Work states continue this year, despite the troubled economy, to offer far better prospects to employees and employment seekers than do non-Right to Work states.

In a November 24 report distributed by CNN, CareerBuilder staffer Rachel Zupsek observed that, while low unemployment rates "seem harder to come by in today's economy," in the second half of 2008 there are still a number of cities with "low unemployment rates and sizeable job growth."

And these cities are overwhelmingly located in the 22 states that now have laws on the books protecting employees' Right to Work without being fired for refusal to join or pay dues to an unwanted union.

Eight of the Nine Cities With Fewest Jobless Located In Right to Work States

Of the nine cities with the lowest unemployment rates in the U.S., eight are located in Right to Work states.

Data from the BLS have long shown superior job growth and lower

unemployment in Right to Work states in every region of the country. But CareerBuilder's analysis shows that the Right to Work advantage has become especially wide in the Midwest.

The Midwest, as delineated by the U.S. Census Bureau, includes five Right to Work states (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa) and seven non-Right to Work states (Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio).

Nine cities in Midwestern Right to Work states, including four in Iowa alone, now rank among the 25 best cities to find a job. But not one city in the seven Midwestern non-Right to Work states makes the top 25.

"If they are capable of being embarrassed, CareerBuilder's findings should embarrass Big Labor legislative leaders in Iowa who are openly plotting to gut the Hawkeye State's Right to Work law in 2009," commented Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Try as they may, union-label state Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal [D-Council Bluffs] and Speaker Pat Murphy [D-Dubuque] haven't been able to persuade ordinary Iowans that

it's okay to fire employees for refusing to pay dues or 'agency' fees to a union they refuse to join.

"Meanwhile, the economic evidence that Right to Work laws are good for employees as well as businesses keeps mounting."

Link Between Right to Work And Better Job Climate Is 'No Coincidence'

The fact that Right to Work states typically have excellent job and business climates is "no coincidence," added Mr. Mix.

"In non-Right to Work states, union officials wield the government-granted power to get workers fired for refusal to pay union dues or fees," he explained.

"Union campaign operatives use a large chunk of the forced dues collected under this system to elect politicians who are beholden to Big Labor's agenda.

"And this is an agenda of higher taxes and straitjacket regulations that can drive energy and real-estate costs sky high.


"But thanks largely to the persistent efforts of Committee members, 22 state Right to Work laws have been enacted and remain on the books despite numerous Big Labor campaigns to gut or destroy them.

"These laws greatly limit the harm forced unionism does to those states and to our national economy as well."

Mr. Mix vowed that the Committee and its 2.2 million members would do everything within their power to help grass-roots citizens in the Hawkeye State protect their job-friendly Right to Work law from Big Labor attacks next year.

He also vowed that the Committee and its members would step up their efforts to help current forced-unionism states like Missouri, Montana, Indiana, New Hampshire, and New Mexico pass Right to Work laws.

The Committee's ultimate goal is enactment of a national Right to Work law prohibiting forced union dues and fees in all 50 states.

"Congress enacted the pro-forced unionism labor laws that have wrought havoc on scores of cities' business climates and destroyed countless good jobs. Congress can and will correct its error," Mr. Mix concluded. 



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Recent Bureau of Labor Statistics data confirm that it's generally a bad idea to go looking for work in cities in the

28 forced-unionism states. Job seekers in Right to Work states typically fare far better.