

Big Labor Machine Shreds Free Speech Rights

Millions of Workers Had to Bankroll Candidates That They Opposed

Roughly eight million members of union households voted for John McCain in the November presidential elections, but were at the same time forced to bankroll Barack Obama's campaign with union dues money extracted out of their own or a family member's paycheck. This disturbing news underscores the importance of abolishing all forced union dues.

The fact is, the official 50-state presidential election exit poll conducted by Edison Media Research (EMR) and cited by major news outlets like CNN shows that 39% of union household members voted for Mr. McCain.

An estimated 10.4 million union household members voted for the McCain-Palin ticket.

Of these, roughly 80% -- or 8.3 million -- are either personally forced to pay union dues if they wish to keep their jobs, or have someone who is so coerced in their household.

Lies Help Union Bosses Grab Compulsory-Dues Dollars For Electioneering Schemes

"Once again, the union political machine shredded the free speech rights of millions of employees in 2008," charged Matthew Leen, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.



Union bosses like Andy Stern (left) and AFL-CIO czar John Sweeney collectively spent more than a billion

"Just like other Americans, union household members should have the right to choose personally which candidates, if any, they will financially support."

Federal law grants union officials extraordinary power over individual workers. Except in the 22 Right to Work states, federal law authorizes Big Labor to get workers fired for refusal to fork over forced union dues or fees.

But in theory, union bosses shouldn't be able to get away with using workers' forced-dues money to cancel out workers' votes.

Under court precedents won by the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, forced dues-paying workers who never join or resign from the union have the right to pay a forced, but reduced, union "agency" fee rather than full forced dues.

And objecting workers' forced fees are not supposed to be spent on politics or electioneering.

However, as countless Foundation cases show, union bosses routinely lie to workers.

Workers are falsely told they have to join the union or that they can't automatically resign.

Time and again, workers are tricked by such falsehoods and pay full dues to save their jobs. Meanwhile, the union political empire grows bigger and bigger.



dollars, mostly forced-dues money, to elect Barack Obama and an anti-Right to Work Congress.

Big Labor's officially acknowledged campaign expenditures represent just the tip of the iceberg of union electioneering, as pro-forced unionism commentator Jon Tasini, once the head of the union front group American Rights at Work, acknowledged in a February 20, 2005 op-ed for the Los Angeles *Times*.

'We're Talking \$8 Billion To as Much as \$12 Billion On Federal Elections Alone'

Mr. Tasini reported that several "union political experts" had admitted to him that "unions spend seven to 10 times what they give candidates and parties on internal political mobilization."

So, wrote Mr. Tasini, "we're talking \$8 billion to as much as \$12 billion on federal elections alone" between 1979 and 2004."

Still-incomplete federal reports show that, in 2007 and 2008, Big Labor PAC's contributed \$55 million to federal candidates and another \$110 million to Big Labor-affiliated Section 527 groups (which replace contributions to national party committees banned by the 2002 McCain-Feingold Act).

"Following Jon Tasini's formula, \$165 million in reported contributions means that in the just-completed election cycle, Organized Labor spent over a billion dollars, mostly forced-dues money, on 'internal political mobilization' in 2007 and 2008," said Mr. Leen.

"Forced-dues money pays for political phone banks, propaganda mailings, and the salaries and benefits of tens of thousands of campaign 'volunteers.' This is by far the worst form of political corruption in America today.

"No citizen, whether it's a worker, a small businessman, a student, a housewife, or a retiree -- should be forced to bankroll efforts to elect the very candidate he or she is voting against.

"To stop such abuses, forced union dues must be abolished.

"This can be done through congressional approval of a national Right to Work law and through enactment of state Right to Work laws in all 50 states." 📢