

Exodus From Forced-Unionism States Continues

Employees Raise Real Incomes by Moving to Right to Work States

Study after study has shown that forced unionism eliminates job opportunities and cuts employees' real incomes.

Apparently, ordinary citizens know these studies are right.

A new U.S. Census Bureau report shows that the massive 1990's exodus of employees and their families from forced-unionism states is accelerating during the current decade.

According to the report, between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2008, a net total of 4.7 million Americans moved from forced-unionism states to Right to Work states.

That's on top of a net population transfer of nearly five million Americans to Right to Work states during the 1990's.

'Employees of All Kinds Are "Speaking" With Their Feet'

This population shift constitutes simple, irrefutable proof of the harmfulness of the federal labor-law provisions that empower Big Labor to get private-sector workers fired for refusal to pay dues or so-called "agency" fees to an unwanted union.

"Employees of all kinds are 'speaking' with their feet," said Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Millions have sought out and accepted jobs in the 22 states with Right to Work laws, which protect employees from being fired for refusal to join or pay dues to a union."

While Americans of all ages have moved to Right to Work states, young employees and entrepreneurs seeking higher incomes clearly constitute a major part of the ongoing transfer.

New Study Links Right To Work Laws to Higher Real Disposable Incomes

Between 1997 and 2007, the number of Right to Work state residents in the 25-34 age bracket increased by 12.7%, from 14.6 million to 16.46 million. Meanwhile, the population aged 25-34 in non-Right to Work states fell by 3.5%, from 24.9 million to 24.02 million.

(Oklahoma, which actually barred

Biggest Gainers and Losers From Domestic Migration, 2000–2008

Population Gainers

Florida*	1,278,573
Arizona*	718,275
Texas*	711,785
North Carolina*	591,283
Georgia*	541,903
Nevada*	378,231
South Carolina*	275,996
Tennessee*	244,731

Population Losers

New York	-1,575,864
California	-1,378,706
Illinois	-585,075
Michigan	-472,795
New Jersey	-438,617
Ohio	-345,793
Louisiana*	-325,395
Massachusetts	-297,760

Right to Work states are asterisked.

Figures denote net migration from other states between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2008.

States listed are the biggest gainers and losers in absolute, not percentage, terms.

Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

The eight states enjoying the greatest net in-migration of people from other states all have Right to Work laws. But

of the eight states suffering the worst out-migration, only Katrina-hit Louisiana has such a law.

forced union dues and fees in 2001, is simply counted as a Right to Work state for the purposes of this calculation.)

A new study by the National Institute for Labor Relations Research adjusts the 2007 disposable personal income data furnished by the U.S. Commerce Department for interstate differences in the cost of living with the help of an index created by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center.

The Institute finds that the average cost of living-adjusted, per capita disposable income in 2007 for the 22 Right to Work states was \$32,950, compared to \$30,705 for the 28 forced-unionism states.

The Institute's findings largely replicate those of previous household income studies prepared by Dr. James T. Bennett, a professor for the Nobel Prize-winning Economics Department at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

One study by Dr. Bennett found that, in 1999, the adjusted mean income for households with two employed persons in Right to Work state metro areas was \$64,425, nearly \$1200 higher than the average of \$63,236 in non-Right to Work state metro areas.

Where forced dues are legal, union bosses use their power to disrupt labor

markets, jack up costs, and bankroll Tax & Spend, regulation-happy state legislators and governors.

National Right to Work Law Poised to Be Reintroduced In 2009-2010 Congress

"The economies of forced-dues states are bound to continue falling further and further behind as long as Congress perpetuates the coercive labor-law provisions that are holding them back," said Mr. Mix.

Fortunately, legislation that would strike all provisions currently authorizing forced union dues and fees from federal law, known as the National Right to Work Act, is set to be reintroduced in the U.S. House and Senate soon after Congress convenes this month.

Mr. Mix said the Committee would be working with congressional allies to push for floor votes on the Right to Work measure this year.

Of course, in the current political environment it will be an uphill battle to bring up the Right to Work as a free-standing bill. But there may well be opportunities to bring it up as an amendment. 