

2014 Roster of Candidates • Virginia

U.S. Senate

Candidates

Questions

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Survey 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

1. If elected, will you cosponsor and seek roll-call votes on legislation to repeal the provisions in federal laws which authorize compulsory union dues?
2. Will you support repeal of existing federal laws which force employees to accept a union as their exclusive representative against their will?
3. Do you favor preservation of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act, which authorizes state Right to Work laws?
4. If elected, will you cosponsor and seek roll-call votes on legislation to end union officials' special immunity from prosecution presently enjoyed under the federal Hobbs Anti-Extortion statute?
5. Will you oppose the forced unionization of federal, state, county and municipal employees?
6. Will you oppose any revisions to federal labor law which impose new penalties on employers who resist attempts by union officials to impose compulsory unionism on their employees?
7. Will you oppose legislation that seeks to impose a so-called "card check" procedure as a means of unionizing employees?
8. Will you oppose all implementation of union-only "Project Labor Agreements," which deny non-union contractors and their employees the freedom to bid on government projects?
9. Will you oppose federal legislation that seeks to establish or mandate union monopoly bargaining standards on all state and local police officers as well as firefighters?

NOTE: The National Right to Work Committee[®], of course, endorses no candidates. We are a nonpartisan organization. But we believe that you as a Right to Work supporter are entitled to know which candidates will support the right of every American to earn a living -- without having to pay union bosses for the privilege.

BACKGROUND

The information below is helpful in explaining the questions on the front of this form.

1. The firing of workers who refuse to pay union dues and/or fees is explicitly authorized and promoted by both the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) and the Railway Labor Act (RLA).

Union officials use a large portion of workers' compulsory-dues dollars for "in-kind" political spending on goods and services to elect candidates for federal offices.

Recent examination of union LM-2 filings with the Department of Labor reveals that Big Labor admits to spending more than a BILLION dollars per election cycle on political activities.

The problem of compulsory unionism was created by Congress. It will not be solved until Congress repeals the existing federal authorizations of compulsory unionism.

2. A union, under present federal laws, is empowered to represent and bind all employees in a company's bargaining unit -- including employees who oppose the union and don't want its "services."

This monopoly bargaining power, generally described as "exclusive bargaining," deprives employees of their right to bargain for themselves. Union officials fought for this power and refuse to give it up; yet they complain they are "unfairly burdened by the legal obligation" to represent non-members.

Such complaints are intended to pave the way for forcing objecting workers to pay for representation they do not want.

3. In 24 states, wage earners covered by the NLRA are shielded from forced-dues payment by Right to Work laws.

These laws typically say, "No person shall be required, as a condition or continuation of employment, to pay any dues, fees, assessments or other similar charges, however denominated, of any kind or amount to a labor organization."

The authority of states to adopt and enforce such laws is reaffirmed by Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act.

4. Extortion, as a technique, is extremely useful to union officials in obtaining demands for compulsory-union shops, "agency" shops, compulsory-union hiring halls, irrevocable dues check-offs and other coercive contract clauses.

While most criminal law is administered at the state and local levels, Congress has imposed federal penalties against criminal obstruction of interstate commerce (through extortion, for example), because state and local law enforcement are often ill-equipped to restrain this type of criminal activity.

But, as federal law currently stands, union officials have unique immunities from prosecution for committing or threatening to commit felonies -- such as murder, manslaughter, maiming, arson, property destruction, explosives or firearms offenses, etc. -- to block interstate commerce if they seek to obtain "legitimate union objectives."

5. For many years, Congress has seen bills to authorize the forced unionization of public employees at various levels of government.

Several of these proposals are aimed at state, county and municipal employees and would nullify existing state laws which shield public employees from union monopoly bargaining and other forms of union coercion.

Other bills would strip postal workers and other federal employees of the freedom to refuse to pay union dues guaranteed by the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 and executive orders dating back to the Kennedy Administration.

6. Congress has considered bills that would revamp existing federal labor law and make it much easier for union organizers to obtain recognition as employees' "exclusive" monopoly bargaining "representatives" -- including those employees who don't want union "representation."

These bills would give union officials more powerful weapons to force American workers under union bargaining control and force them to pay union dues to keep their jobs.

7. Congress has previously considered legislation that would impose the so-called "card check" process on workers. Under "card check," union organizers are only required to "convince" a majority of workers into signing so-called "union authorization cards."

Independent-minded workers who choose not to sign cards become targets of harassment, threats or even violence.

8. Over the past five and a half years, the Obama Administration has imposed Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) via executive orders.

Project Labor Agreements require that private companies bidding on government contracts sign agreements to force all their employees to pay union dues and contribute to bankrupt union pension plans, from which their employees will never receive benefits.

Amendments to appropriation bills to ban PLAs have recently been voted on, but so far have failed to pass.

9. Legislation has been introduced in Congress to mandate that all states impose monopoly union representation on all local and state police, firefighters and emergency workers.

The legislation would override several state laws that prohibit government entities from requiring that individual workers be represented by labor unions. Additionally, the legislation puts the federal government bureaucracy in charge of establishing so-called "minimum standards" and enforcing the law.

In states where union officials have already been granted this monopoly bargaining power, public safety union officials simply ignore no-strike clauses and hold taxpayers hostage until their demands are met, virtually always guaranteeing higher taxes for the public.