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Primary Voters Rebuke Issue-Dodging Republican *Refusal to Respond to Right to Work Survey 'Raised Concerns'*

Just a few months ago, Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson was widely considered the favorite to win the GOP nomination this year for the U.S. Senate seat now held by pro-Right to Work Republican Jim Bunning, who is retiring after two terms.

A number of pundits contended that the strong support of Mitch McConnell, Kentucky's senior U.S. senator and the head of the GOP minority in the upper chamber of Congress, would practically guarantee Mr. Grayson's nomination.

However, the Grayson campaign made serious misjudgments during the final weeks before Kentucky's May 18 primaries.

Most important to pro-Right to Work Kentuckians, Mr. Grayson refused to pledge to oppose several of the top power grabs now being advanced on Capitol Hill by Organized Labor, the #1 pro-Big Government special-interest group in America today.

More broadly, many voters who were deeply concerned about the rapid growth in federal spending under the George W. Bush Administration as well as under the current one became convinced Mr. Grayson lacked the intestinal fortitude to fight to reduce spending from its current stratospheric level.

'Any Genuine Opponent of Big Government Would Eagerly Oppose' Police/Fire Scheme

"One of the top items on Congress's agenda this year is an intrusive federal mandate that would impair the ability of states and localities to keep their expenditures of taxpayer dollars under control," noted National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.



Senate candidate Trey Grayson (facing forward) refused to oppose legislation promoting union monopoly bargaining

"Any genuine opponent of Big Government would eagerly oppose this scheme, union bosses' Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill [S.3194/H.R.413].

"Yet Trey Grayson refused to say a word against this destructive legislation, despite the fact that thousands and thousands of Committee members and supporters in Kentucky asked him to do so, time and time again.

"And his silence was especially disturbing because a handful of Senate Republicans are already publicly

over public employees. He thus reinforced voter concerns that he was a Big Government Republican.

supporting the Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill. Even one more could potentially make the difference.

"Fortunately, in this election Kentucky primary voters had several other candidates to choose from who pledged to oppose public-safety union monopoly bargaining and support Right to Work 100%. And one of them, ophthalmologist Rand Paul, was a top-tier candidate."

In the end, Mr. Paul, who had started out the primary campaign as the distinct

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underdog, soundly defeated Mr. Grayson by a whopping 59% to 35% margin.

Big Government Is Big Labor's 'Bread and Butter'

By handing Mr. Paul a decisive victory, Kentucky primary voters sent a clear message to Capitol Hill Republicans that they want candidates who really will fight against the expansion of forced unionism and the increased cost of Big Government it brings, and not just mouth "feel good" rhetoric about this serious and rapidly growing problem.

"Trey Grayson's refusal to respond to his Right to Work candidate survey this year, especially to the questions concerning public-sector forced unionism, clearly raised concerns that he was going to be just another 'Big Government Republican,'" observed Mr. Mix.

"Kentucky voters were right to be concerned.

"Over the course of the past few decades, public servants, especially state and local public employees, have become Big Labor's bread and butter.

"By 2009, union officials wielded monopoly-bargaining power over 7.5 million state and local employees, nearly 43% of all such employees nationwide, compared to just 8% of private-sector workers.

"Moreover, for many years now, Big Labor featherbedding and counterproductive work rules have sharply increased real taxpayer costs for compensation of state and local government employees.

"In fact, from 1998 to 2008 alone, taxpayers' aggregate real costs for compensation of state and local government employees soared at a rate nearly 50% faster than the total real growth of private-sector employee compensation!"

Mr. Mix continued: "S.3194 and H.R.413, sponsored, respectively, by Big Labor Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and union-label Michigan Democratic Congressman Dale Kildee, would sock it to taxpayers again.

"This legislation would impose a new federal mandate ensuring that government union bosses get monopoly-bargaining privileges over

additional hundreds of thousands of state and local public-safety employees.

"And the reason it is now on the verge of passage is that a handful of Senate Republicans are siding with Mr. Reid. In the House as well, a minority of Republicans, along with practically all Democrats, are in favor of the monopoly-bargaining bill.

"But scientific polls and multiple election results show that citizens across America overwhelmingly oppose public-sector union monopoly bargaining.

"The stinging defeat Trey Grayson suffered in Kentucky, after the Committee had notified hundreds of thousands of citizens through the mail and the Internet about his pointed refusal to oppose Reid/Kildee, is only the latest example.

"I'm cautiously optimistic the Kentucky election results will serve as a wake-up call for the D.C. establishment regarding just how deeply unpopular the Reid/Kildee legislation is."

System That Congress Wants To Expand Is Currently Bankrupting Los Angeles

Reid-Kildee would federally impose union monopoly bargaining by denying localities the option to refuse to grant a single public-safety union the power to speak for all front-line employees, including those who don't want to join.

Monopoly bargaining, euphemistically labeled as "exclusive representation," would be foisted on state and local police, firefighters, and other public-safety employees nationwide.

And in most states that already authorize public-safety union monopoly bargaining, S.3194/H.R.413 would widen its scope.

"In every political jurisdiction, public spending tends to grow faster than taxpayers' incomes, rendering government costs more and more burdensome over time. But decades of experience shows public-sector monopoly bargaining greatly exacerbates this problem," Mr. Mix commented.

"For example, this summer the skyrocketing costs of public-safety monopoly bargaining are frighteningly close to driving the once-great city of Los Angeles into insolvency. L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa [D], himself a former union organizer, has acknowledged the real possibility.

"Congress must not federalize the very system that is now bankrupting Los Angeles. It's just that simple." 📞



CREDIT: LAUREN VICTORIA BURKE/AP

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, himself a former union organizer, has acknowledged that the

skyrocketing costs of monopolistic government unionism could cause his city to run out of money soon.

Tweedle Dee Lincoln and Tweedle Dum Halter

Both Candidates in Arkansas Democrat Run-Off Back Forced Unionism

Shortly after this month's National Right to Work Newsletter goes to press, incumbent U.S. Sen. Blanche Lincoln will face a run-off contest against Lt. Gov. Bill Halter as she seeks her Democratic Party's nomination for a third term.

Ms. Lincoln and Mr. Halter ran neck-and-neck in Arkansas's May 18 primary, and neither received a majority of the votes. (That is why the June 8 run-off is required under Arkansas law.) Most election observers expect the run-off will also be close.

But one thing is already clear in advance of the Lincoln-Halter showdown: The victor will have a track record of supporting forced-unionism power grabs and giving the back of the hand to the overwhelming majority of Arkansas citizens who support their Right to Work law and oppose tampering with it.

The only substantial difference between Ms. Lincoln and Mr. Halter on the forced-unionism issue is that the senator has very recently, with an eye toward the general election this fall, tried to obscure her long history of pro-forced unionism votes.

Ms. Lincoln is now suggesting to freedom-loving Arkansas employees and employers that she is an "independent" voice on labor-policy issues.

Far from it. As recently as 2007, Ms. Lincoln voted to quash a Right to Work filibuster and help Big Labor ram through its notorious "Card-Check" Forced-Unionism Bill. Fortunately, 48 other senators heeded pro-Right to Work Americans and opposed this scheme, so Ms. Lincoln and her cohorts did not prevail.

Lincoln-Backed Bill Paves Way For Dragging All State, Local Employees Into Unions

And even in the current Congress the newly "independent" Ms. Lincoln is continuing to support major forced-unionism power grabs whenever she thinks she can get away with it.

One major example is Ms. Lincoln's move just before the Senate's Christmas recess last year to sign on as a cosponsor of the so-called "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act" (S.1611, reintroduced this year as S.3194).

This cynically mislabeled bill would institute a federal mandate foisting



This month in Arkansas, Blanche Lincoln and Bill Halter are competing to be the Democratic nominee for U.S.

Senate. Whoever wins will face mounting pressure in the months ahead to repudiate forced unionism.

union "exclusive representation" (monopoly bargaining) on state and local police, firefighters, and other public-safety employees nationwide.

It would also constitute a major step towards Big Labor's decades-old goal of enacting a federal law that imposes union monopoly bargaining on front-line state and local employees of all types across America.

For his part, Lt. Gov. Halter secured the primary support of many top Big Labor bosses in Washington, D.C., and their lieutenants in Arkansas by vowing to be an even more predictable defender of forced union dues and union monopoly bargaining than Ms. Lincoln.

Publicly, Mr. Halter admits he intends to help union strategists ram through some version of the "card-check" bill that would make it even easier for Big Labor to grab monopoly-bargaining privileges over private-sector workers.

Privately, Mr. Halter is likely committing himself to support for an array of other special privileges for Big Labor.

Candidate Survey Is 'One of the Committee's Most Effective Tools'

But whoever prevails in this month's Democratic run-off will face increasing pressure this summer and fall to

repudiate forced unionism, thanks to the National Right to Work Committee's federal candidate Survey 2010.


As longtime Committee members know, the federal candidate survey asks U.S. congressional candidates to commit themselves to oppose forced unionism consistently and support national Right to Work legislation if elected.

The survey is "one of the Committee's most effective tools," observed Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

"In Arkansas, Senate candidates in both major parties already got a chance during the primaries to return their surveys and answer 100% in favor of Right to Work.

"But Right to Work supporters will again be mobilized this fall to lobby candidates to respond to their Right to Work surveys. The Democratic standard bearer, Ms. Lincoln or Mr. Halter, will be asked to join GOP Senate nominee John Boozman in pledging 100% support for Right to Work.

"The success of the survey program is key for the Committee's future ability to defeat Big Labor power grabs in Congress and, ultimately, pass a national Right to Work law.

"For that reason, the Survey 2010 is targeting not just the Arkansas Senate race, but critical Senate and House campaigns across the country." 

'Too Bad For Recently Hired, Talented Teachers'

Union Bigwigs Make Sure Public School Layoffs Are 'Quality-Blind'

In recent years, forced dues-funded teacher union lobbyists and union negotiators played a major role in convincing public officials to increase the number of instructional employees at K-12 public schools at a blistering clip.

Nationwide, the number of K-12 public school instructional employees (full-time equivalent) grew roughly 3.5 times as much as the number of school-aged children (15.9% vs. 4.5%) from 1998 to 2007.

Since an estimated 65% of U.S. public schoolteachers are under union monopoly bargaining, and more than 40% are forced to pay union dues or fees as a job condition, K-12 employment growth that far outpaces the growth of America's five to 17-year-old population represents a huge windfall for Big Labor.

However, in the wake of the severe 2008-2009 recession, many strapped states now have no choice but to pare back a small portion of the K-12 instructional staff increases of the previous decade.

Hoosier Teachers Recognized For 'Outstanding Service,' Then Laid Off

When school officials have the power to restrict layoffs to employees they have identified as the least effective, then occasional recession-related reductions in force of 5-10% are not necessarily detrimental to student achievement, according to education experts like Stanford University's Eric Hanushek.

In fact, according to Dr. Hanushek, in such cases the advantages to schoolchildren of the removal of the least effective staff probably far outweigh any harm caused by the rise in the number of schoolchildren per teacher.

Unfortunately, in school districts attended by the vast majority of U.S. K-12 children, school officials lack the authority to lay off their worst performers while keeping their best ones. Instead, teacher union officials wield their government-granted monopoly-bargaining power to ensure that layoffs are based on seniority alone.

To the dismay of schoolchildren, parents, and taxpayers, this spring, in school district after school district and



CREDIT: FOX 59 NEWS, BLOOMINGTON, IND.

This spring, Gaylene Hayden was one of just six Indiana K-12 public school teachers to be recognized for their

"outstanding service." Teacher union boss-perpetuated seniority rules have since cost her her job.

state after state, teachers widely recognized as superior are being laid off, while below-average teachers are keeping their jobs, simply because the latter have more seniority.

For example, last month in Indiana, six teachers (out of roughly 60,000) were recognized by the state superintendent of education for "outstanding service to Hoosier students."

Two of the six, Tippecanoe French teacher Gaylene Hayden and Bloomington English teacher Jackie Macal, are being laid off at the end of the school year because of their lack of seniority.

When asked to comment, Indiana State Teachers Association (ISTA/NEA) union Vice President Teresa Meredith admitted the losses of two of the very best teachers in the state, plus many other outstanding ones, were "disappointing," but dismissed the need for any reform of seniority rules.

System Makes Teachers 'Dependent on The Union'

"It's no mystery why teacher union bosses love the seniority system," commented National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"It makes teachers dependent on the union, not their personal knowledge, efforts and accomplishments, to obtain job security and substantial pay increases over time. That makes the union more powerful.

"Too bad for recently hired, talented teachers . . . not to mention students and their parents."

This year, disgruntled parents and taxpayers and independent educational groups, such as the Brooklyn, N.Y.-based New Teacher Project (NTP), around the country are mobilizing against what NTP President Tim Daly aptly calls "quality-blind" layoffs.

Mr. Mix commended such efforts.

"Reforming state labor laws to restrict the scope of teacher union bosses' monopoly-bargaining privileges so that they could not prevent school officials from laying off the least effective staff, rather than teachers with the least seniority, would be a step in the right direction," he said.

"However, seniority rules that hurt schoolchildren, taxpayers, and many good teachers are just one of a wide array of harmful policies teacher union bosses are able to perpetuate, despite growing public opposition, because of their monopoly-bargaining control over educators.

"Major reform of public education, therefore, will require state and local policymakers to eliminate teacher union officials' monopoly privileges, not just restrict their scope.

"That's why the National Right to Work Committee will continue pushing harder and harder for flat-out repeal of state public-sector monopoly-bargaining laws." 📢

'Mandatory Union Membership' Is PLA's Purpose

Ohio Town Council Cuts Through Big Labor/White House Fog

Marietta, which has only about 15,000 residents, but enjoys a place of honor as the oldest city of any size in Ohio, is located more than 230 miles outside the Washington, D.C., Beltway.

And from the vantage point of Marietta's community building at Lookout Park, where the town council considered adoption of a so-called "project labor agreement" (PLA) on May 13, it appears to be far easier to see and state the obvious than it is at the White House or on Capitol Hill.

This spring, building trades union bosses lobbied furiously to convince the council's seven members to impose a Big Labor PLA on employees and firms seeking to participate in the renovation of the town's former Ohio Bureau of Employment Services building into a new municipal court facility.

Parkersburg Marietta Construction and Building Trades Council union President Bill Hutchinson claimed, time and again, that the reason he and his cohorts were twisting arms to get a PLA was to ensure that "local" workers got the jobs.

Finally, at the council's May 13 meeting, Councilman Jon Grimm decided to test building trades union bosses' sincerity.

Mr. Grimm called attention to the provision in the PLA mandating that 50% of any contractor's employees be registered with the union and pay union dues, even if they weren't union members, and didn't want to join.

Would union officials accept a PLA retaining all the other provisions, but excluding "mandatory union membership"? Mr Grimm asked.

Vast Majority of 'Local' Construction Workers in Marietta Aren't Unionized

Marietta law director Roland Riggs, who had hammered out the PLA deal with union officials, bluntly responded: "I don't believe the folks from the building trades council would be interested in signing an agreement if that were removed."

A crowd of union militants, including several union officials, was in the room. No one from the crowd contradicted Mr. Riggs.



Committee President Mark Mix: The Right to Work movement and its allies are challenging President Obama's 2009

executive order promoting union-only "project labor agreements" on federal taxpayer-funded public works.

"The plain fact is, the vast majority of 'local' construction workers in Marietta, Ohio, are union-free, and show no signs of wanting to be unionized," observed National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"According to labor scholars Barry Hirsch and David Macpherson, just one in four construction workers across the state of Ohio is currently under union monopoly bargaining. And southern Ohio, where Marietta is located, is much less unionized than northern Ohio.

"Forcing independent local hardhats to pay dues to an unwanted union in order to work on taxpayer-funded projects is no way to 'help' them -- and a Marietta council majority had no trouble seeing the truth and voting down the PLA.

"Unfortunately, all too many Inside-the-D.C. Beltway politicians from President Obama on down seem to have a much harder time deconstructing the phony claims of Big Labor bosses demanding union-only PLAs on taxpayer-funded public works.

"For example, in issuing Executive Order 13502, promoting union-only PLAs for federal taxpayer-funded public works in February 2009, the President mechanically repeated Big Labor propagandists' contention that PLAs promote 'economy.'

"The truth is exactly the opposite. By discriminating against the union-free

majority of construction employees, PLAs jack up taxpayer construction costs by a minimum of 10–20%, according to nonpartisan researchers.

"Even a recent study commissioned by Obama appointees at the Department of Veterans Affairs predicted that PLAs would raise taxpayer costs in markets like Denver, New Orleans and Orlando.

"But rather than cancel the PLA executive order after Veterans Affairs found it would fail to accomplish its purported objective, the Obama Administration proceeded to implement it this April!"

Right to Work Movement Is Fighting Back

"Fortunately, there's still hope that the Obama Administration's anti-taxpayer E.O.13502 can be stopped," Mr. Mix continued. The legal system is one possible means.

In April, attorneys for the Committee's sister organization, the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, filed a federal court brief charging that a California PLA illegally discriminates against independent construction workers. (Mr. Mix is president of the Foundation as well as of the Committee.) If the Foundation's argument in this case (known as *Rancho Santiago*) prevails, that will raise serious questions about the legal viability of E.O.13502. 📧

Obama Bureaucrats Promote Monopolistic Unionism

Right to Work Fights For Independent Transportation Employees

Over the past three-quarters of a century, federal labor policy has done enormous damage to employees and businesses by authorizing and promoting monopolistic unionism.

Federally-imposed "exclusive" union bargaining undermines efficiency and productivity by forcing employers to reward equally their most productive and least productive employees.

The damage is compounded when the employees already hurt by being forced to accept a union bargaining agent opposed to their interests are forced as well to pay dues or fees to the unwanted union.

Fortunately, Right to Work laws in 22 states, where nearly 40% of the private-sector work force is employed, prohibit the collection of forced dues from the vast majority of employees. (Both the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Congress have recognized states' freedom to protect employees' Right to Work.)

However, in 1951, when Congress first foisted forced union dues and fees on employees covered by the Railway Labor Act (RLA), Big Labor senators and representatives opted to deny states the option to protect employees' Right to Work.

Ever since, Big Labor has had the government-granted power to get airline and railroad employees fired for refusal to bankroll a union in all 50 states, including Right to Work states.

Partly in order to compensate for the unique privileges airline/railroad union bosses enjoy, even relative to other union



CREDIT: L.A. TIMES

President Obama's overarching labor policy seems to be, "The more union monopoly bargaining, the better."

bosses, federal labor policy has long set a somewhat higher bar for RLA-covered union officials to acquire monopoly-bargaining and forced-dues powers.

New Rule Intensifies Federal Policy's Pro-Big Labor Monopoly Bias

Until this spring, unlike most private-sector union officials, airline and railroad union bosses have needed the backing of the majority of all of a firm's employees in a "craft or class," not merely the majority of those who vote, to be installed as employees' monopoly-bargaining agent.

This somewhat higher bar hasn't been a huge problem for airline and

railroad union organizers. According to labor economists Barry Hirsch and David Macpherson, in 2009, 42% of "air transportation" employees and 69% of "rail transportation" employees were under union monopoly bargaining, compared to just 8% of all private-sector employees.

Nevertheless, Big Labor's motto is, "The more monopoly bargaining, the better." And union strategists know President Barack Obama, who reaffirmed in April that he is a "pro-[forced] union guy" and makes "no apologies for it," shares that sentiment.

That's why, last fall, it wasn't hard at all for union bosses to persuade the two Barack Obama appointees who now constitute a majority of the three-member National Mediation Board (NMB) to rewrite the RLA rules.

As a consequence of the change, starting this month, airline and railroad union officials will need the backing only of a majority of employees who vote to get monopoly-bargaining power.

Because, in practice, only a minority of all potential voters participate in many elections over unionization, this rule will often allow a pro-union minority of workers to foist a union on the majority of their fellow employees who prefer not to have a union.

Right to Work Supporters Already Fighting Back

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Doug Stafford vowed to do everything possible to reverse Obama bureaucrats' RLA rule change.

On one front, Committee legislative leaders are working with pro-Right to Work Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) on a resolution that could overturn the unwarranted change legislatively.

On a second front, attorneys for the Committee's sister organization, the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, are representing five independent Delta employees in a bid to get the rule overturned in court.

The Foundation motion charges, in part, that Obama NMB appointees Harry Hoglander and Linda Puchala should not have voted on the rule change, because, as former airline union officials, they both had a conflict of interest. 📞

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Timely Reform Can Save States

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measures," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"Big Labor's counterproductive work rules and fomentation of the 'hate-the-boss' mentality lead to slower revenue growth in the unionized businesses themselves.

"That translates into smaller compensation increases for employees and less employment growth or, very frequently, employment losses.

"On top of that, union bosses funnel a huge chunk of the forced dues and fees they collect with federal labor law's abetment into efforts to elect and

reelect state and local, as well as federal, Big Labor politicians who support higher taxes and more red-tape regulation of business."

Forced-Unionism States' Disadvantage Likely to Widen in the Future

"The actions of forced-dues funded politicians thus result in less income and job growth, period," Mr. Mix concluded.

"And, unless union monopolists' grip over states like California, which received *Chief Executive's* booby prize for the

second year in a row, can somehow be loosened, their disadvantage is likely to widen in the future.

"Today, Californians fork over a higher share of their incomes in state and local taxes than residents of all but five other states, but still face unfunded public-employee pension liabilities of as much as \$500 billion.

"Meanwhile, overall income growth in the once-Golden State has fallen well below the national average in recent years.

"But forced dues-collecting government union officials, who wield monopoly-bargaining control over nearly 60% of California's public employees, compared to 41% nationwide, are fine with the status quo.

"And they are furiously opposed to all substantive proposals to stop taxpayers' government compensation costs from spiraling out of control."

Many States Still Have a Chance to Avoid Becoming 'Another California'

On a happier note, Mr. Mix added that many of the other 27 forced-unionism states may still avoid becoming "another California" by passing Right to Work legislation within the next few years.

"In this year's elections," he explained, "freedom-loving citizens in states like New Hampshire, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Colorado, Montana, and New Mexico are turning up the pressure on their state legislative and, in some cases, executive candidates to support enactment of state Right to Work laws.

"In multiple state candidate Survey 2010 programs, the National Right to Work Committee and allied regional and state organizations are mobilizing millions of citizens to contact their politicians regarding their compulsory-unionism records.

"Employees and business owners who are determined to see their state avoid California's predicament may make politicians who refuse to support Right to Work pay a steep price.

"But there's still time for many politicians who up to now have been Right to Work opponents to make amends with freedom-loving citizens by pledging publicly to oppose forced unionism 100% of the time in the future."

"State politicians who are running for election or reelection this year can accomplish this objective by completing, signing and returning their Right to Work candidate surveys." 📧



CREDIT: SEAN DELONAS/CITY JOURNAL

Unless Big Labor's grip over the Golden State can somehow be loosened, the tax and regulatory burdens on

California's private-sector employees and businesses are destined to get even heavier in the future.

Business 'Raspberries' For Compulsory Unionism

Protecting the Right to Work Improves Overall Job Climate

Early this year, *Chief Executive* magazine asked 651 CEOs from around the country to grade all 50 states and the District of Columbia in three general categories that businesses invariably consider when they are contemplating where to make job-creating investments.

As *Chief Executive's* editors note, the business leaders were asked to "draw upon their direct experience" to rate each state for a) taxation and regulation, (b) quality of workforce, and (c) living environment.

In its May/June issue, *Chief Executive* published the survey results. They indicate that, in the wake of the severe 2008-2009 recession, state Right to Work laws may be even more critical for private-sector job and income growth than they were in the generally favorable national economic climate of 1982-2007.

Overwhelmingly, the CEOs judged that, in Right to Work states, employees have superior work ethics, real estate costs are relatively low, and public officials have a much more positive attitude toward business.

Every one of the seven states with the highest overall rankings has a Right to Work law prohibiting the firing of employees for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union. Nine of the top 10 states are Right to Work states. Thirteen of the top 15 are Right to Work states.

In contrast, forced-unionism states dominated the bottom ranks of the 2010 survey. Not one of the bottom 10 states has a Right to Work law on the books. In 14 of the 15 bottom-ranking states (including the District of Columbia, counted as a "state" for the purposes of the survey), employees may legally be forced to pay union dues as a condition of employment.

Long-Term Economic Data Confirm Accuracy of Business Leaders' Judgment

Long-term economic trends as documented by the U.S. Labor and Commerce Departments confirm that business leaders' judgment in giving kudos to Right to Work states and "raspberries" to forced-unionism states is spot on.

For example, Labor Department data show that, from 1999 through 2009, private-sector employment

Best and Worst States For Jobs, 2010

Best

1. Texas*
2. North Carolina*
3. Tennessee*
4. Virginia*
5. Nevada*
6. Florida*
7. Georgia*
8. Colorado
9. Utah*
10. South Carolina*
11. Arizona*
12. Delaware
13. Idaho*
14. South Dakota*
15. Wyoming*

Worst

51. California
50. New York
49. Michigan
48. New Jersey
47. Massachusetts
46. Illinois
45. Connecticut
44. Ohio
43. Hawaii
42. Wisconsin
41. Louisiana*
40. District of Columbia
39. Rhode Island
38. Oregon
37. Maine

For the purposes of this survey, *Chief Executive* counts non-Right to Work Washington, D.C., as a "state."

Right to Work states are asterisked. Source: *Chief Executive*

All of the top seven and 13 of the top 15 states recently recognized by business leaders as the best places for making

job-creating investments have Right to Work laws on the books. Just one of the bottom 15 has such a law.

nationwide was virtually flat, declining by 0.3%, or 370,000 jobs.

However, Right to Work Florida, Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia, the top seven states according to *Chief Executive's* 2010 survey, experienced an overall private-sector job increase of 4.6%, or 1.186 million jobs.

Meanwhile, forced-unionism California, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York, *Chief Executive's* bottom seven states, suffered an aggregate private-sector job loss of 3.9%, or 1.386 million jobs.

The Commerce Department's annual personal income data, adjusted for inflation with the help of the Labor Department's Consumer Price Index, show an even starker contrast in economic growth between *Chief Executive's* high-ranking Right to Work states and its low-ranking forced-unionism states.

Right to Work Laws Linked To Higher Real Incomes

From 1999 to 2009, real personal income nationwide grew by 18.1%.

However, in the seven Right to Work states at the top of *Chief Executive's* 2010 rankings, aggregate real personal

income grew by 25.7%, or nearly half again as fast, and nearly double the growth rate of the seven forced-unionism states at the bottom of *Chief Executive's* list.

In addition to enjoying far faster job and income growth, Right to Work states benefit from generally lower costs and higher real incomes than forced-unionism states.

For example, the seven Right to Work states rating highest in *Chief Executive* had an average 2009 cost of living 22% lower than the seven bottom-ranking forced-unionism states, according to housing, food, energy, and other price data compiled by the nonpartisan Missouri Economic Research and Information Center.

The average cost of living-adjusted 2009 disposable income per capita for the seven Right to Work states was \$35,630, more than \$3000 higher than the \$32,555 average for the seven forced-unionism states.

"It shouldn't come as any surprise that forced-unionism states as a group, and not just the seven found by *Chief Executive* to be the worst of all, are lagging behind Right to Work states by all the most significant economic

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