

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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Right to Work Poised to Gain Senate Strength *Survey Results in, Committee Members Put Heat on the Candidates*



CREDIT: SEAN DELONAS/CITY JOURNAL

The Right to Work survey program puts the heat on pro-forced unionism candidates. The candidates then may

choose to repudiate their past support for union special interests, or face the potential political consequences.

With the results of the National Right to Work Committee's federal Survey 2010 now in, Committee members from coast to coast keep turning up the heat on U.S. Senate and House candidates to publicly pledge 100% support for the Right to Work.

Committee members and supporters who receive the Newsletter through the U.S. Postal Service can find out whether and how their candidates responded to the Right to Work survey by consulting the Survey 2010 results roster enclosed with this month's issue.

Pro-Right to Work Americans who have not yet received their Survey 2010 results may obtain a copy by contacting the Committee by e-mail -- Members@NRTW.org -- or by dialing 1-800-325-7892.

By calling, writing, and visiting their candidates and urging them to declare themselves in opposition to forced unionism, Committee members are making forced unionism and the Right to Work red-hot issues in state after state this year.

Right to Work Activity Key to Stopping Big Labor

At this writing, just a few weeks remain until Election Day.

And reports from a wide array of pollsters and pundits indicate that the caucus of politicians who support Big Labor's agenda on forced-unionism issues such as federally-mandated "card checks" will shrink significantly after voters go to the polls.

Consequently, union lobbyists may be hard-pressed in 2011 and 2012 to ram through legislation expanding

See Right to Work page 2

Right to Work Still Endangered

Continued from page 1

union bosses' coercive privileges over independent-minded private-sector employees and small businesses.

However, pro-forced unionism President Barack Obama will retain the power, for at least the next two years, to promote forced unionism by issuing executive orders and by appointing Big Labor shills to powerful federal agencies such as the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Congress has the constitutional authority to thwart the President from unilaterally giving away the store, but doing so requires a strong commitment to principal on the part of senators and representatives.

Moreover, passage of Big Labor legislative schemes that do not blatantly attack private businesses and employees, including the AFL-CIO-backed Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill, is likely to remain a grave threat in the 2011-2012 Congress regardless of the 2010 election results.

(For more information regarding this anti-taxpayer measure, see page eight of this month's Newsletter.)

"Election results that are merely unfavorable for Barack Obama's Democratic Party won't nearly suffice to

turn back the tide of forced unionism now that the President has already put Big Labor cheerleaders in charge of key agencies like the NLRB," observed Committee President Mark Mix.

"And since several key legislative union power grabs such as the Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill are backed by a significant number of GOP politicians as well as virtually all Democrat politicians, Right to Work supporters won't be able to let their guard down on the legislative front, either.

"Whatever happens on November 2, Right to Work activity will remain critical for stopping Big Labor."

Several Big Labor Senators Face Strong Challenges

This fall, Right to Work supporters hoping to enhance their ability to fight forced unionism over the next couple of years have multiple opportunities in U.S. Senate contests.

Just to start with, five current senators with pro-forced unionism records are, according to the latest polls, either trailing or running neck-and-neck in their re-election campaigns against 100% pro-Right to Work challengers.

Big Labor Arkansas Democrat Blanche Lincoln is in the worst shape of all. Sen. Lincoln, who is seeking a third term, has a long track record of backing union special-interest legislation.

For example, in 2007 she voted to quash a Right to Work filibuster and help Big Labor ram through its notorious "Card-Check" Forced-Unionism Bill. And in the current Congress, she is a cosponsor of the Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill.

Realizing too late that her history of subservience to Big Labor could kill her 2010 re-election hopes, Ms. Lincoln has tried to backpedal from her past votes for the "card-check" measure and other employee-coercing, economy-crushing schemes.

But freedom-loving Arkansans apparently aren't fooled by the senator's half-hearted gestures. Recent surveys indicate she is running well behind her GOP challenger, staunchly pro-Right to Work Congressman John Boozman.

Two other union-label senators, 2009 appointee Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) and three-term incumbent Russ Feingold (D-Wisc.), are also trailing their unabashedly pro-Right to Work challengers, Republicans Ken Buck (Colo.) and Ron Johnson (Wisc.), in recent polls, but by relatively small margins.

Yet another two union-boss lackey Democrats, Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada and Patty Murray of Washington State, are statistically tied up with the across-the-board Right to Work supporters who are aiming to unseat them, Sharron Angle (R-Nev.) and Dino Rossi (R-Wash.)

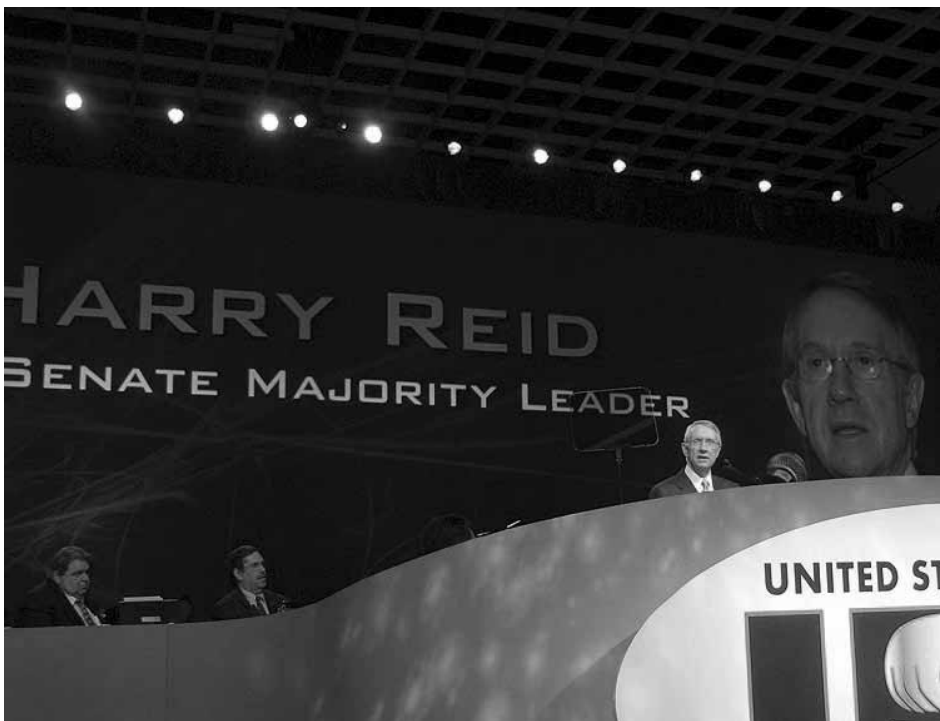
Several 'Open' Seat Gains Likely or Possible For Right to Work Adherents

The number of Right to Work opportunities is even greater when it comes to "open" seats that have up to now been under union lobbyists' control.

100% pro-Right to Work candidates are now narrowly leading in contests for "open" Senate seats now held by Big Labor water carriers in Indiana, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

The candidates who are standing up to the union bosses are former U.S. Sen. Dan Coats (Ind.), former Congressman Pat Toomey (Pa.), and John Raese (W.Va.). Their Big Labor-backed Democrat rivals are Reps. Brad Ellsworth (Ind.) and Joe Sestak (Pa.) and Gov. Joe Manchin (W.Va.).

See Survey Program page 3



One of the Survey 2010's top target states is Nevada, where Big Labor Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid

(pictured at a union event) is now running neck and neck with pro-Right to Work challenger Sharron Angle.

CREDIT: USW-CANADA

Survey Program Educates Candidates

Continued from page 2

Candidates who are vowing to support the Right to Work on all votes are also leading in races for two "open" seats that have been held by Republicans who only sporadically opposed union power grabs.

In Alaska, union boss-appeasing Republican Lisa Murkowski, a cosponsor of the Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill, was defeated in her primary contest this summer by forced-unionism foe Joe Miller.

Mr. Miller now leads both Big Labor favorite Scott McAdams (D) and Ms. Murkowski, who is running a long-shot general election campaign as a write-in candidate.

In Florida, former GOP Sen. Mel Martinez, who resigned last August, was another pro-union monopoly Republican. But the Republican nominee for the "open" seat, Marco Rubio, pledges full support for Right to Work.

Polls show Mr. Rubio leading over union-label "Independent" Gov. Charlie Crist and Democrat Kendrick Meek. (Mr. Meek is currently a congressman.)

Finally, in one race for an "open" Senate seat now held by an anti-Right to Work Democratic politician, the pro-freedom candidate is currently trailing, but within striking distance.

Delaware GOP nominee Christine O'Donnell, a staunch Right to Work advocate, is fighting to catch up with Big Labor pet Chris Coons (D).

The National Right to Work Committee and its members (now 2.6 million, and growing) are determined

to ensure that congressmen and senators who have carried water for Big Labor time and again are held accountable this fall.

Committee Rallies Members To Put Heat on Candidates

The principal Committee program for holding politicians' feet to the fire is the federal candidate Survey 2010.

The ongoing Survey 2010 consists of three phases.

In the first phase, candidates received questionnaires asking them how they intended to vote on a number of forced unionism-related issues, including mandatory "card checks," federalized public-safety union monopoly bargaining, and national Right to Work legislation.

"The Committee's goal is not just to secure enough support to block enactment of forced-unionism schemes like 'card check' legislation, but also to forge pro-Right to Work majorities in the Senate and House," explained Committee President Mix.

"That's why the Right to Work survey raises the pressure on candidates to oppose the expansion of Big Labor's forced-unionism privileges, and also to support rolling those privileges back."

In the second phase of the Survey 2010, Committee members called and wrote the candidates, asking them to answer their questionnaires 100% in favor of Right to Work.

In the final phase, the Committee, through TV and newspaper ads, e-mails



Mark Mix: Even the workers Big Labor purports to represent don't support what it's selling.

and the postal service, is reporting back to members and friends at the local level on how their candidates responded. That keeps the heat on non-responsive candidates until Election Day to take a clear stand on the Right to Work issue.


"The aim of Big Labor's billion-dollar, forced dues-funded electioneering program is to divert public attention from the damage that union-label politicians have wrought on America over the past two years and the even more severe damage they will do over the next two years if they can," said Mr. Mix.

Public Doesn't Support Compulsory Unionism

"Big Labor has far more money at its disposal than do Right to Work supporters, but the union bosses have one major problem: The general public, and even the workers they claim to represent, don't support what they are selling," Mr. Mix continued.

Poll after poll shows that nearly 80% of Americans agree that no one should be forced to join or pay dues to a union, simply in order to keep his or her job.

"The Committee survey program works simply by ensuring that the Right to Work issue, which already has overwhelming public support, remains in the spotlight throughout the campaign season.

"With members' generous support, I'm confident that this fall the federal survey will force candidate after candidate either to pledge to stop attacking employees' Right to Work, or face serious repercussions at the polls." 

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Committee's Goal: Pro-Right to Work Congress

Survey Presses Candidates to Pledge to Roll Back Forced Unionism

If respected Inside-the-Beltway political prognosticators like Charles Cook and Stuart Rothenberg are correct, there is a significant possibility that, come January, union-label Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) will no longer be speaker of the U.S. House.

As of mid-September, Mr. Cook and Mr. Rothenberg were both reporting there was at least a 50-50 chance that Republicans would pick up, at a minimum, the 39 House seats they need to hold a majority in the chamber and, presumably, to elect a GOP speaker.

Since virtually all Democratic politicians in Washington, D.C., rely on forced union dues-funded support from Big Labor to get elected and reelected, and few GOP politicians are similarly beholden to the union brass, a partisan House switchover would affect the climate for Right to Work-related legislation.

For example, in all likelihood, the arrival of a GOP House would derail, for the time being, Big Labor's years-long campaign to mandate "card checks" or in some other way rig union organizing campaigns, and thus make it even harder for independent-minded employees to avoid being corralled into a union.

However, if history is any indication, Republican House leaders are unlikely even to try to reverse federal policies that currently force millions of workers to accept monopoly union "representation," like it or not, and pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment.

Unlikely, that is, unless pro-Right to Work citizens nationwide are mobilized in unprecedented numbers to put the heat on GOP politicians to act.

Right to Work Movement Hasn't Forgotten About GOP's 1995-2007 Record

"From 1995 through 2007, Republican politicians like Newt Gingrich [Ga.], Tom DeLay [Texas], Dennis Hastert [Ill.], and John Boehner [Ohio] were calling the shots in the U.S. House," recalled Doug Stafford, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"For more than 10 of those 12 years, GOP solons were also in charge of the U.S. Senate. And for six of the 12, Republican President George W. Bush sat in the White House.

"Unlike Speaker Pelosi, Speakers Gingrich and Hastert weren't products

of the Big Labor political machine. But very much like Speaker Pelosi, they kept measures to repeal federally-imposed forced union dues and fees bottled up in committee throughout all the years they were in power.

"Committee leaders, members and supporters haven't forgotten. And our goal now isn't merely to help forge a House and Senate that will refuse to hand union officials even more special privileges.

"Rather, our goal is a Congress with the fortitude to move to take away, even over the objections of a Big Labor President, the forced-unionism powers that union bosses have already.

"The Committee's Survey 2010 is critical for this long-term objective."

Committee Survey 2010 Now in High Gear

Throughout the year, Right to Work leaders have been pouring the Committee's resources into its Survey 2010 program, which informs freedom-loving Americans about where their candidates stand on compulsory unionism.

Through the federal survey program, hundreds of thousands of pro-Right to Work citizens are now contacting candidates in targeted close races, urging them to pledge opposition to union-boss power grabs and support for forced-dues repeal. (For more information about key U.S. Senate races targeted by the Survey 2010, see this Newsletter's cover story.)

"Now's the time when politicians, Democrats and Republicans alike, are paying most attention to what the people in their home districts and states have to say," commented Mr. Stafford.

"That's why the Committee must do everything possible now to get candidates to go on the record as 100% Right to Work supporters. Our success will greatly enhance the effectiveness of our future efforts to advance the Right to Work principle.

"Mobilizing huge numbers of forced-unionism opponents through the mail and TV and newspaper advertising, as well as the Internet, isn't cheap. But it is incredibly important. In fact, the survey is the lynchpin of the Committee's entire lobbying program." 📞



CREDIT: JAY MALLIN

Breaking Big Labor's stranglehold over federal labor policy will require far more than ousting union-label House Speaker

Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif., shown here with government union czar Jerry McEntee) from the seat of power.

Forced Unionism vs. Private Health Insurance

Big Labor Bastions See Steep Decline in Job-Based Benefits

On average, residents of Right to Work states have higher real, spendable incomes than their counterparts in non-Right to Work states. And Right to Work states have a much better track record of creating and sustaining private-sector jobs that come with health benefits.

The evidence confirming these two points comes from the U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and Bureau of the Census (BOC), as well as the nonpartisan Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC).

Last month, the National Right to Work Committee's research affiliate, the National Institute for Labor Relations Research, conducted an analysis of the BEA-reported 2009 disposable (after-tax) income data for each of the 50 states.

The Institute adjusted the data to account for interstate differences in living costs with the help of a quarterly index created and reported by MERIC.

The analysis found that, in 2009, the cost of living-adjusted disposable income per capita for the 22 Right to Work states was \$35,543.

Productive, Well-Compensated Jobs Disappearing in Forced-Unionism States

But in the 28 states that don't have Right to Work laws protecting employees from being fired for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union, cost of living-adjusted disposable income per capita was just \$33,389 -- or roughly \$2150 less.

And new BOC data show that, while the total number of people in forced-unionism states covered by job-based private health insurance declined by 7.74 million from 1999 to 2009, in Right to Work states over the same period the ranks of the privately insured actually increased by roughly 570,000.

Big Labor's allies sometimes concede that states with Right to Work laws enjoy accelerated job creation. Whenever they do, they insist the jobs created are "the wrong kind."

But the fact is, it is the non-Right to Work states as a group where the number of jobs productive enough to come with important benefits like health insurance has plummeted over the past decade.



CREDIT: SPH.UMD.EDU

Between 1999 and 2009, the number of people with job-based private health insurance grew by 570,000 in Right to

Work states, but declined by 7.74 million in forced-unionism states. Big Labor can't explain why.

Runaway costs associated with Medicare and Medicaid, the two largest taxpayer-funded health insurance programs, are helping to bust the federal budget and put many state governments deeply in the red.

And the accelerated creation of good jobs that are sufficiently productive to absorb the high cost of family health-care benefits is a key component for resolving the Medicare and Medicaid crises.

Over the past decade, even as the cost to employers of offering health insurance soared, job-based private insurance coverage expanded somewhat in Right to Work states, while declining by nearly 7% in forced-unionism states.

Had the number of people covered by job-based insurance in forced-unionism states instead increased by 0.9%, as it did in Right to Work states, an additional 8.74 million Americans would be privately insured today.

Congress Created Problem Of Compulsory Unionism

"Where forced dues are legal, union bosses use their power to dislocate job markets, jack up costs, and bankroll Tax & Spend, regulation-happy politicians,"


charged Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

"The evidence indicates fewer well-compensated jobs are created and more disappear as a consequence."

Mr. Leen added that, in the private sector, Congress is clearly responsible for the forced-dues problem: "Among the nearly seven million non-farm, private-sector workers who are forced to pay union dues to keep their jobs, not one is forced to do so by state law. Congress created this mess; Congress should clean it up."

"That's why, regardless of what happens in the upcoming elections, the Committee will press hard for recorded votes on the National Right to Work Act, legislation that would repeal all federally imposed forced union dues."

"Restoring the Right to Work for private-sector employees in all 50 states would ensure a genuine, sustainable recovery from the recent harsh recession."

"Of course, building enough support in Congress to pass such a law, and prevailing upon whomever is President to sign it, will require a major investment of time and effort. But the payoff in expanded freedom and opportunities will definitely be worth it." 

Pennsylvania Worker Fights Union-Only PLAs

Obama Executive Order Denies Union-Free Workers a 'Fair Shake'

John Falk, a genial 59-year-old glass worker from Red Lion, Pa., made a five-day trek on foot last month from his home state to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Falk and the three people who accompanied him -- a friend, a fellow worker, and his employer, Debra Zarfoss -- walked 89 miles to help mobilize public opposition to federal and state policies that discriminate against union-free employees and businesses.

As Mr. Falk puts it, "We're not looking for a handout, bailout, or any other special favor. We just want a fair shake."

Unfortunately, President Barack Obama and most current U.S. congressmen and senators are opposed to letting union-free workers like John Falk compete on a level playing field.

Back in February 2009, one of the first major actions the President took after settling in at the White House was to issue Executive Order 13502, which promotes union-only "project labor agreements" (PLAs) on federally funded public works.

This April, the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Council published a "final rule" implementing E.O.13502.

'Job Discrimination Because . . . of a Worker's Union Membership Is Flat Wrong'

"E.O.13502 pressures federal agencies to acquiesce to PLAs on all large public works," noted Matthew Leen, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"That means, until further notice, to participate in public works using \$25 million or more in federal funds, nonunion companies will have to consent to impose union monopoly bargaining on their employees and hire new workers through discriminatory union hiring halls.

"Independent workers who already have their own retirement funds will nevertheless be forced to contribute to Big Labor-manipulated pension funds.

"Rather than compromise the freedom of their employees and the efficiency of their operations, most independent construction firms will, in most cases, simply refuse to submit bids on federal projects."



CREDIT: DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS—JASON PLOTKIN

On September 17, John Falk and a few companions set off on foot for Washington, D.C. At the end of the

journey, they pled with Congress to stop PLA discrimination against union-free workers and firms.

As Mr. Falk points out, the small firm for which he works, Debra's Glass, is a case in point. Recently, the company had to back off from bidding on a project at a U.S. Army Reserve Center in New Jersey because submission to a PLA was a precondition.

"Eighty-five percent of the workforce in [Pennsylvania] is not in a union," said Mr. Falk. ". . . I just want every American worker to have the equal right to bid for a project."

For him, the problem with PLAs is very simple: "Job discrimination because of a worker's color, religious affiliation, or union membership is flat wrong, and it's got to stop."

Of course, when a PLA sharply reduces the number of bidders on a project, taxpayers' bills are invariably jacked up.

Mr. Leen specified: "The nonpartisan, Boston-based Beacon Hill Institute estimates that construction costs will be inflated by at least 12% to 18% on every project that uses a PLA as a result of E.O.13502."

Battle Likely to Heat up In the 2011-2012 Congress

John Falk and his companions arrived, sore-footed but in high spirits,


on Capitol Hill September 21.

They immediately delivered thousands of petitions from freedom-loving citizens around the country who are eager for Congress to pass legislation overturning E.O.13502 and barring discriminatory PLAs on federal taxpayer-funded public works.

"Ever since E.O.13502 was first issued more than a year-and-a-half ago, the Committee has assisted efforts by pro-Right to Work members of Congress to craft and advance legislation revoking this pro-PLA presidential edict," recalled Mr. Leen.

"In the current Big Labor-controlled Congress, this has been a steeply uphill fight.

"However, if, as recent polls indicate is very possible, Right to Work makes major gains in both chambers of Congress in the November elections, the battle to pass legislation promoting equal competition in federal contracts will intensify in the next Congress.

"Public opposition to union-only PLAs is already intense, and growing more so. Ultimately, even quite a few normally pro-forced unionism members of Congress may decide they don't want to risk losing their seats by continuing to defend these special-interest schemes." 

Big Labor Appeasers Pay Price

Continued from page 8

Since GOP Sen. Scott Brown (Mass.) took office in February, there have never been more than 59 senators in Mr. Reid's majority caucus. But it takes 60 to bring up a piece of legislation for a final vote if opponents seek to block it by launching an extended debate.

The reason Mr. Reid nearly succeeded this summer in making his pet scheme the law of the land was because six out of the 41 GOP senators were sponsoring S.1611, monopoly-bargaining legislation virtually identical to the Reid bill.

All-Out Right to Work Mobilization Stalled Union Lobbying Blitz

On July 1, the House monopoly-bargaining legislation sailed through the lower chamber as a provision of H.R.4899, a massive, unrelated defense spending bill. Union strategists eagerly anticipated the Senate passing the whole measure later that month.

But then, for several weeks in July, freedom-loving Americans mobilized by the National Right to Work Committee contacted their senators again and again, urging them to oppose H.R.4899 on all votes unless and until the public-safety union monopoly-bargaining amendment was removed.

Several organizations representing the interests of local governments and

public-safety departments, such as the National Sheriffs' Association, joined with the Committee in lobbying against the forced-unionism sneak play.

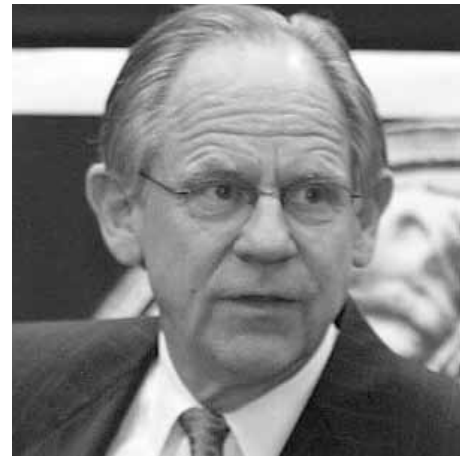
The message clearly got through to a number of senators who normally vote with Big Labor, but were getting antsy and antsy about their next election.

On the evening of July 22, the Senate voted down the House-passed version of H.R.4899, and then approved a war spending bill without the monopoly-bargaining provision. Finally, on July 27, a chastened House acquiesced to the Senate's action, and sent a stripped-down war supplemental to President Obama's desk.

Right to Work Supporters Have Continued Turning up the Pressure, Month After Month

The following month, voters in Alaska sent a clear message that politicians who face potentially competitive primary or general-election campaigns ought to be deeply concerned about backing the Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill.

On August 22, 100% pro-Right to Work challenger Joe Miller dumbfounded most political pundits when he defeated Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, the only GOP sponsor of S.1611 seeking re-election this year, by roughly 2000 votes, out of a total of fewer than 110,000 cast in the primary.



CREDIT: DENNIS BRACK/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Delaware voters showed the door to pro-union monopoly GOP Congressman Mike Castle in September.

During the final weeks before the vote, the Committee put the spotlight on Ms. Murkowski's pro-union monopoly stance by repeatedly contacting roughly 30,000 targeted households. TV ads, "snail" mail, and e-mail messages urged Alaskans to ask the senator to change her stand on S.1611.

Thousands of Alaskans complied, but Ms. Murkowski never repudiated her support for expanding government union bosses' monopoly-bargaining privileges. She is now striving to retain her seat in a quixotic "write-in" campaign.

Just last month, yet another pro-union monopoly politician suffered a surprise defeat in Delaware's "open seat" Senate primary. Republican Congressman Mike Castle, widely regarded as "popular," endured a 3500-vote primary loss to his underdog rival, unabashed Right to Work supporter Christine O'Donnell. This summer, Mr. Castle had voted for H.R.413 as part of H.R.4899.

In Delaware, as in Alaska, the Committee had demonstrated Mr. Castle's pro-forced unionism record was a cutting issue by repeatedly contacting 30,000 targeted households to alert them about the congressman's vote for H.R.413, and also for similar legislation in 2007.

"Potentially vulnerable senators whose seats are up in 2012 or 2014, and are considering helping government union barons sneak through the Reid bill in the 'lame duck' session beginning next month, should consider what happened to Lisa Murkowski and Mike Castle," commented Committee President Mark Mix.

"And they should avoid playing with fire." 🔥



CREDIT: WEASELZIPPER.US

Federally mandated union monopoly bargaining over public-safety employees is a top objective of AFL-CIO President

Richard Trumka and union-label U.S. President Barack Obama. But stiff Right to Work opposition has thwarted it so far.

Right to Work Close to Securing Historic Win

Voters Reject Pro-Union Monopoly Politicians in Alaska, Delaware

National Right to Work Committee members and supporters are now tantalizingly close to securing a major legislative victory that seemed like a near impossibility when the 2009-2010 U.S. Congress convened 21 months ago.

At the end of September, Congress adjourned without having rammed through the top power grab on government union bosses' agenda this year, the so-called "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act."

If union lobbyists also fail to get this scheme (introduced as S.1611 and S.3194 in the upper chamber and H.R.413 in the lower) rubber-stamped in a post-election "lame duck" session, Committee members and supporters nationwide will deserve the lion's share of the credit for a remarkable accomplishment.

At the beginning of 2009, well over 60 of the 100 senators and roughly 70% of House members were on the record in support of this legislation. President Obama was publicly vowing to sign it as soon as it reached his desk.

The only possible hope of blocking the government union power grab in the 2009-2010 Congress was a Senate filibuster -- and mustering the 41 votes needed to sustain one seemed to be a long shot at best.

Nevertheless, from the beginning, Committee members and supporters have been ready to fight to the hilt, because the stakes are so high.

Bill 'Further Empowers An Already Strong Lobby'

S.1611/S.3194/H.R.413, referred to unofficially, but accurately, as the Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill, would empower Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) bureaucrats to survey all 50 states and identify which have failed to meet the legislation's "core standards."

And the key "core standard" is mandatory union monopoly bargaining. Localities in all 50 states would be denied 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 police, firefighters, and other public-



CREDIT: ROB STAPLETON/AP

Lisa Murkowski was the only GOP Senate sponsor of Big Labor's Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill to seek

re-election this year. Her support for this scheme became a cutting issue in her failed primary campaign.

safety employees nationwide. And in most states that already authorize public-safety monopoly bargaining, this legislation would widen its scope.

As *Wall Street Journal* reporter Kris Maher noted late this spring, under S.1611/S.3194/H.R.413, if any state refused to institute monopoly bargaining and comply with other mandates, FLRA bureaucrats "would step in and implement" them themselves.

This April, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) signaled his determination to see this legislation enacted by introducing it himself as S.3194, a bill he could bring to the floor at any time, without any preliminary committee action.

A wide range of political observers, including the liberal *Washington Post* and the conservative *National Review*, blasted the Reid bill as a budget busting power grab.

"What this bill would do," charged the *Post's* editors, "is impose a permanent, one-size-fits-all federal solution in an area -- public-sector labor relations -- that has traditionally been left to the states, and where state flexibility is probably more necessary than ever. . . . The bill further empowers an already strong lobby . . ."

The editors of *National Review*

(online edition) were even more forthright:

"Government employees' unions already maintain a death grip on the finances of most state and local governments, and a remarkably bad piece of legislation -- the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act -- threatens to tighten that stranglehold . . ."

Harry Reid Nearly Succeeded Because of GOP Collaborators

Of course, the fact that liberal, conservative and moderate analysts recognized S.3194 as bad in principle and extraordinarily ill-timed didn't trouble Mr. Reid.

The bottom line for him is that the legislation would empower and enrich union officials who are one the Democratic Party's "most important constituencies," as *National Review's* editors put it.

However, Democrat politicians, despite controlling the White House and substantial majorities in both chambers of Congress, weren't in a position this year to make the Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill, in any of its versions, the law of the land all on their own.

See **Big Labor Appeasers** page 7