

# NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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## Voters Give Forced Unionism a 'Shellacking' *But Big Labor Retains Hold Over U.S. Senate, Key State Assemblies*



**Voters fed up with the Tax & Spend, forced-unionism agenda that Democratic U.S. House leaders have been pushing**

Not just on November 2, but throughout this past election year, voters across most of the country sent two clear messages to Big Labor politicians on Capitol Hill: They are dismayed by what the politicians have done at union lobbyists' behest, and determined to stop them from doing more of the same.

One major object of voters' ire was the controversial "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act" (ARRA), otherwise known as the "stimulus" package. In early 2009, AFL-CIO and Change to Win union lobbyists twisted arms to secure majorities in both chambers of Congress for this \$800 billion legislation.

Since it became law, ARRA has bilked taxpayers of hundreds of billions of dollars to ensure that

**consigned them to minority status on November 2. See p. 3 of this Newsletter for details.**

bloated, unionized government payrolls stay bloated, but furnished no detectable net benefit for America's private sector.

Another key source of voters' displeasure was ObamaCare.

More even than President Obama or any other elected official, top union bosses and their arm-twisting union lobbyists are responsible for Congress's narrow votes to reconstruct America's enormous health-care system in late 2009 and early 2010.

November 2's exit polls clearly indicate that voters across the country punished vulnerable U.S. representatives and senators for doing what Big Labor told them to do.

Undoubtedly compounding the woes of many of the politicians who

had voted for the government union boss-crafted "stimulus" package and ObamaCare was that they were also on the record in support of forced-unionism initiatives that, due to stiff Right to Work opposition, have yet to be enacted.

Millions of freedom-loving citizens were furious with their incumbent politicians for having backed Big Labor's now-moribund "card check" forced-unionism bill and its so far-stalled scheme to federalize government union monopoly bargaining over state and local public-safety employees.

### **Big Labor Appeasers in GOP Were First Casualties Of Voter Backlash**

While it was overwhelmingly Democrat politicians who paid the price on November 2 for having kowtowed to union bigwigs, the earlier casualties of the voter backlash against President Obama's forced-unionism agenda were mostly Republicans.

For example, roughly 18 months ago, Republican Arlen Specter (Pa.) decided he had no choice but to abandon his efforts to obtain the 2010 GOP nomination for the U.S. Senate seat he had held for three decades.

Mr. Specter was no doubt correct in calculating that his long record of appeasing Big Labor, including a 2007 vote to shut down a Right to Work filibuster and ram the "card check" scheme through the Senate and an early 2009 vote for government union bosses' ARRA, had become unpalatable to primary voters.

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# Right to Work Still Endangered

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With the help of the Obama Administration, Mr. Specter tried unsuccessfully to do a quick pivot and capture the Democrat nod for his seat. Finally, on November 2, former GOP Congressman Pat Toomey, who has pledged to support Right to Work 100% on Capitol Hill, became Pennsylvania's senator-elect by defeating the Big Labor Democrat who had defeated Mr. Specter in his new party's primary.

The following spring, a second union boss-"friendly" GOP U.S. Senate primary candidate fell so far behind due to his avowed support for ARRA and his shiftiness on other key issues for Right to Work supporters that he dropped out and declared he would run as an independent.

Florida Gov. Charlie Crist's maneuver to capture his state's open U.S. Senate seat was no more successful than Mr. Specter's. On November 2, 100% pro-Right to Work Florida Republican Marco Rubio was elected to the Senate.

## Blanche Lincoln and Russ Feingold Ignored Constituents For Too Long

The fact that several establishment incumbent Republicans like Mr. Specter, and establishment favorites for open GOP seats, like Mr. Crist, went down to defeat in congressional primary contests during the 2009-2010

cycle is clear evidence that issues, not party label, drove November's results.

On Election Day, union-label incumbent Senate Democrats Blanche Lincoln (Ark.) and Russ Feingold (Wisc.) were ousted not because of their partisan affiliation, but because of their voting records. Both had voted for the "card check" bill in 2007, ARRA in 2009, and ObamaCare in 2010. Both also had repeatedly voted to federalize union monopoly bargaining control over public-safety employees.

As their poll numbers plummeted, Ms. Lincoln and Mr. Feingold adopted contrasting strategies.

Ms. Lincoln tried to backpedal from her past votes for the "card check" measure and other employee-coercing, economy-crushing schemes. Mr. Feingold dug in his heels and lectured voters that mandatory "card checks," ARRA, and ObamaCare are all actually good policy.

Neither strategy worked. Voters weren't fooled by Ms. Lincoln's election-year "conversion," nor were they persuaded by Mr. Feingold's harangues. Republicans John Boozman and Ron Johnson, both of whom are pledging to support Right to Work consistently, will be the new senators from Arkansas and Wisconsin, respectively.

Despite significant setbacks for Big Labor in U.S. Senate primary and general elections, and despite steep losses for Big Labor in U.S. House and

state-level contests (see pp. 3 and 6 of this Newsletter, respectively, for details), the 2009-2010 election news was not all bad for the union bosses.

## Union Bosses' Forced Dues-Fueled Machine Churns Out A Harry Reid Victory

In Washington State and in Colorado, the union political machine, which runs on dues and "agency" fee money extracted from millions of workers as a condition of employment, helped pro-forced unionism incumbent Democrats fend off strong challenges from candidates who vowed to support Right to Work.

But the biggest federal victory for the union brass was the reelection of their pet Senate majority leader, Harry Reid of Nevada. As the head of a 53-member caucus in a 100-member chamber, Mr. Reid will continue to hold the Senate reins in January.

Another positive for the union hierarchy is its retention, despite experiencing very substantial losses in state races overall, of complete control over the legislatures and the governorships in California and Illinois, and possibly (pending recount results) in New York as well.

With the ample executive power of the Obama Administration (see p. 4 for more information), the Senate, and the governments of some of the largest states in the country still at their disposal, the union bosses are already plotting their comeback. Right to Work supporters must also prepare for the coming battles. 📌



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Big Labor-appealing Republican politicians like Sen. Arlen Specter (center) as well as union-label

congressional Democrats like Sens. Blanche Lincoln and Russ Feingold were given the boot by voters in the 2009-2010

cycle. Conversely, Right to Work supporters made gains in primary as well as general-election congressional races.

# Federal Candidate Survey Mobilizes Millions

## *Program Maximizes Right to Work Gains in 'Year of Opportunity'*

Thanks to National Right to Work Committee members' generous assistance, the Committee's federal-candidate Survey 2010 checked a massive Big Labor electioneering blitz and sharply increased support in Congress for repeal of federally-imposed forced union dues.

To mobilize Right to Work supporters, the Committee distributed a record-smashing total of nearly 8.4 million federal candidate Survey "information packets" through the U.S. Postal Service this year. Above and beyond that, the 2010 program had a massive Internet component, including nearly half a million e-mails transmitted in October alone. All this plus radio, TV, and newspaper advertising.

The packets, e-mails and ads let pro-Right to Work citizens know where their candidates stood on compulsory unionism.

And most of the packets were mailed out during the during the last five weeks of the general election campaign to specifically targeted states and districts across the country.

In a year in which voters were already extremely concerned about Big Labor encroachment of employee freedom and destruction of private-sector jobs, the fall program maximized Right to Work gains in both the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate.

### **Pro-Right to Work Candidates Won in 76 of 106 Targeted Congressional Contests**

Compared to the House that will permanently disband after a December "lame duck" session, the House that convenes in January will have 55 more members identified, based on their campaign pledges and voting records, as 100% Right to Work supporters.

In the Senate, where just 37 out of 100 seats were up for election this year, compared to 435 out of 435 House seats, Right to Work reaped a net gain of five seats.

Given the unpopularity of the agenda they helped President Obama ram through the 2009-2010 Congress, Big Labor strategists clearly expected to lose ground in the House and Senate this fall.

At the same time, union kingpins calculated that their forced dues-funded



**The Committee's federal survey program ensured that politicians like the supposedly "independent" U.S. Rep.**

**Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (D-S.D.) were held accountable for their votes to expand Big Labor's forced-unionism privileges.**

phone banks, get-out-the-vote drives, and propaganda mailings would help dozens of otherwise doomed Big Labor politicians secure reelection this year.

But throughout the final weeks of campaign 2010, the Committee's federal candidate survey program ensured that politicians who had carried water for the union bosses time and again were held accountable.

Three-term South Dakota Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, who loved to tout her "independence" on the campaign trail even after voting for Big Labor schemes like the so-called "card check" bill and the federalization of union monopoly bargaining over state and local public-safety officers, is a characteristic example.

### **Candidates Got to Choose: Repudiate Forced Unionism, or Face Potential Consequences**

During the final weeks of the South Dakota campaign, the Committee put the spotlight on Ms. Herseth Sandlin's pro-forced unionism stance by repeatedly contacting roughly 40,000 targeted households. In the end, more than 100,000 pieces of Right to Work surface mail alone were sent to South Dakota as part of the federal survey program.

After being mobilized by the Committee, thousands of South Dakotans asked the congresswoman to


repudiate her support for forced unionism. She never complied.

Apparently, Ms. Herseth Sandlin believed she could pull through with Big Labor on her side. Union bigwigs poured roughly a million dollars in cash alone into her campaign, plus an unknown, but undoubtedly far larger, sum in hidden, "in-kind" support.

It wasn't enough. In the end, GOP challenger Kristi Noem, the owner of a ranch in Hamlin County, S.D., and a 100% Right to Work supporter, defeated the union-label incumbent by roughly 7000 votes.

"The sole purpose of the survey program is to highlight candidates' positions and voting records on Right to Work and to mobilize freedom-loving citizens to lobby the candidates," observed Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Candidates who don't like their constituents hearing about their votes for compulsory unionism can always renounce those votes, and pledge to support Right to Work in the future. In the instances when candidates actually do that, freedom-loving citizens are typically very forgiving.

"But candidates who thumb their noses at Right to Work supporters' pleas must be prepared to accept the potential political consequences." 

# Obama NLRB to Ignore Mid-Term Election Results

## *Independent Workers, Firms Face 'Card-Check Lite' Implementation*

It's been more than a century since Mr. Dooley, the immortal comic character created by Chicago-based journalist Finley Peter Dunne, opined that "th' Supreme Court follows th' election returns."

In the High Court's consideration of controversial legal cases over the years, it often really has seemed that majorities of unelected justices were reluctant, for good or ill, to ignore recent electoral results.

But Mr. Dooley's adage doesn't appear to have made any impression whatsoever on the forced-unionism zealots who now hold all but one of the four occupied seats on the powerful National Labor Relations Board, or NLRB.

(The fifth NLRB seat has been vacant for several months.)

Despite the fact that voters in the November 2 general elections sent a clear message they oppose the imposition of new federal policies to help Organized Labor increase the share of workers who are under union monopoly-bargaining control, the Obama NLRB is signaling that is exactly what it intends to do.

For example, on October 21, when a wide array of polls were already showing that pro-forced unionism politicians would suffer major losses in both chambers of Congress on Election Day, NLRB member Mark Pearce publicly discussed one way the Board may make corralling workers into unions easier in 2011.

Mr. Pearce, until this year a union lawyer in private practice in Buffalo,

N.Y., suggested in a speech at a law school in Boston that the NLRB may soon rewrite federal rules for unionization campaigns in order to tilt the playing field even more steeply in union organizers' favor.

In particular, Mr. Pearce indicated that the NLRB may soon cease allowing an average of 38 days from the time an employer is notified that a union is seeking monopoly-bargaining control over his or her employees to the time the workplace election occurs, and instead allow only 5-10 days.

### **'Quick-Snap' Elections Would Deny Workers A Meaningful Vote**

"Effectively, the kind of 'quick-snap' elections Mr. Pearce is talking about would deny employees the opportunity to hear both sides of the story before they vote on unionization by denying employers enough time to make their case," charged Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"The bottom-line impact of this bureaucratic sop to Big Labor would be very similar to the impact of the mandatory 'card check' legislation, or S.560 and H.R.1409, that union lobbyists tried unsuccessfully to ram through the 2009-2010 Congress: more union power over workers and more forced dues in union coffers.

"On November 2, 31 U.S. House and Senate incumbents who had voted for



**Mark Mix: More monopolistic unionism means fewer jobs and less income growth for private-sector workers.**

the 'card check' scheme lost their election bids.

"This is about as clear an electoral repudiation as any bill ever gets.

"Unfortunately, the NLRB is ignoring voters' unmistakable message and appears determined to foist 'card check lite' on American workplaces. Only determined congressional action can stop President Obama's NLRB bureaucrats."

### **Committee President Vows To Back Legislation Thwarting 'Card Check Lite'**

"'Card check lite' means more monopolistic unionism, and that in turn means fewer jobs and less income growth for private-sector workers," Mr. Mix continued.

He vowed that the Committee would work closely with Capitol Hill allies to craft legislation blocking implementation of quick-snap elections and any other variety of "card check lite" by the NLRB.

"Enactment of legislation reining in NLRB abuses will be a tall order in 2011, given Big Labor Sen. Harry Reid's [D-Nev.] continuing control over Congress's upper chamber and President Obama's continued veto power," acknowledged Mr. Mix.

"But it's a battle Right to Work supporters can't afford to pass up. Before we can make things better, we have to stop them from getting even worse."

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# Workers Forced to Bankroll Agenda They Oppose

## *New Nationwide Poll Shows Union Members Support Right to Work*

A scientific survey of union members nationwide, conducted the week before the November elections by well-known pollster Frank Luntz for the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, shows that Big Labor bosses are out of touch with the people they purport to represent as well as the public at large.

The poll gauged the opinions of both private- and government-sector union members regarding key aspects of the agenda Big Labor bankrolls with union treasury funds, which consist primarily of dues and fees that workers are forced to fork over as a condition of employment.

In the 2009-2010 campaign cycle, union officials funneled forced dues and fees extracted from an estimated nine million union members and forced union fee-paying nonmembers into what appears to have been their largest ever federal mid-term electoral war chest.

Top bosses of the AFL-CIO-affiliated American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) union openly admit to having spent a total of nearly \$87.5 million, mostly union treasury money, on mid-term electioneering.

Service Employees International Union (SEIU) bosses acknowledge pouring \$44 million, primarily forced-dues money, into 2009-2010 politics. National Education Association (NEA) teacher union chiefs have owned up to siphoning \$40 million into politicking over the past two years.

Altogether, it's safe to say Organized Labor shelled out more than a billion dollars in reported and unreported contributions, including "in-kind" support like phone banks and get-out-the-vote drives as well as cash, to its favored 2010 congressional candidates.

### **Four Out of Five Union Members Reject Forced Union Membership, Dues**

In every election year, union strategists deploy Big Labor's enormous campaign war chest to defeat pro-Right to Work candidates and elect and reelect candidates who support forced unionism.

Yet the Luntz survey shows that union members agree with the vast majority of Americans who support the Right to Work.



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**Union bosses like AFL-CIO czar Richard Trumka claim that forced-unionism policies are in union members'**

**best interest. But a new scientific poll shows union members overwhelmingly support the Right to Work principle.**

Most (54%) union members "strongly agree" that workers should "never be forced or coerced to join or pay dues to a union as a condition of employment." An additional 26% "somewhat agree," whereas only 14% disagree, either "somewhat" or "strongly."

And the survey results indicate that support for the Right to Work is even stronger among government-sector union members than it is among private-sector union members.

In the 2009-2010 election cycle, Big Labor was also determined to defend politicians who had voted in early 2009 for President Obama's \$800 billion "stimulus" package.

AFL-CIO czar Richard Trumka and other union bigwigs have stubbornly insisted, despite the distinct lack of tangible benefits, that this legislation has been a success.


But the union members who were forced to finance the union brass's efforts to protect pro-"stimulus" politicians don't agree at all. They are nearly four times as likely to regard the "stimulus" as "very much a failure" than as "very much a success." Overall, a 53% to 41% majority of union members see the stimulus as a failure.

While union members are far more likely to vote for the candidates promoted by Big Labor than they are to support Big Labor's forced-unionism, Tax & Spend agenda, the divide between the union rank and file and the hierarchy on candidates is still wide.

### **Making, or Not Making, Campaign Contributions Is A Personal Decision**

According to the latest accounting, 93% of union federal PAC contributions in 2010 went to Democratic candidates, while more than one in three union household members voted for the GOP candidate in their U.S. House district.

"Regardless of how the individual unionized worker votes, it should be up to him or her to decide which candidates, if any, to support financially," said Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee and the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation.

"To ensure that what should be a personal decision truly is one, forced union dues must be abolished. And that is pro-Right to Work Americans' unchanging goal." 

# Iowans Repudiate Pro-Forced Unionism Governor

## *Right to Work Makes Major Gains in State Legislative Contests*

It takes a lot to convince Iowa citizens to oust a sitting governor. Until this fall, the last time a Hawkeye State chief executive failed to get another term after seeking one was in 1962! But over the past four years, Big Labor Democrat Gov. Chet Culver wore out Iowans' considerable patience.

On November 2, he was one of 13 incumbent governors on the ballot across America. Eleven of these incumbents won, but Mr. Culver lost by a hefty 53% to 43% margin.

What had Chet Culver done to receive such a harsh rebuke from normally amiable Midwesterners? He tried to gut Iowa's popular Right to Work law -- and he was sneaky about it.

After saying nothing about the Right to Work issue during his successful 2006 gubernatorial campaign, Mr. Culver announced, almost as soon as the votes were counted, his support for legislation imposing forced union dues and fees on Iowa workers as a condition of employment.

Since Mr. Culver's fellow Democrats controlled substantial majorities in both chambers of the Iowa Legislature that greeted him upon his inauguration in early 2007, it seemed Big Labor's stealthy scheme to bring back forced unionism to the state six decades after it had been banned would succeed.

But the National Right to Work Committee and the Iowans for Right to Work Committee were already mobilizing resistance.

### **Pro-Right to Work Iowans Stopped Forced-Union-Fee Schemes in 2007 and 2009**

Even before the new Legislature convened in January 2007, the National Committee began sending out a series of statewide and targeted mailings to members and supporters in Iowa, with a focus on selected House and Senate members in vulnerable seats.

In the end, although a forced-union-fee bill (S.F.413) was rubber-stamped by the Senate, union-label Speaker Pat Murphy (D-Dubuque) and his cohorts were never able to round up the votes to get it through the House. Consequently, they never put it up for a House floor vote.



CREDIT: IOWADEMOCRATS.ORG

**For four years, Gov. Culver tried to help union bosses extract forced fees from workers who choose not to join. But**

**freedom-loving Iowans first thwarted him legislatively and then defeated him at the polls.**

In 2009, Big Labor-backed Rep. Bruce Hunter (D-Des Moines) introduced another forced-union-fee bill, H.R.555. It too failed to secure a House floor vote due, once again, to well-mobilized Right to Work opposition.

But it wasn't until November 2, 2010, that Right to Work supporters got a chance to show how they *really* felt about a governor who wanted to empower Big Labor to compel workers to pay fees to a union they would never voluntarily join.

"While there were other issues in the gubernatorial race, Chet Culver's pandering to the union bosses and their forced-unionism agenda sufficed in itself to kill his re-election hopes," commented Greg Mourad, director of legislative affairs for the National Committee.

"Pro-Right to Work Iowans also sent a strong message in state legislative races. Union-label Speaker Murphy's Democratic House caucus shrank from a 56-44 majority to a 40-60 minority. Union boss-backed incumbents as well as 'open-seat' candidates were swept up in the wave.

"In the state Senate, only half of the 50 seats were up for grabs. That allowed Big Labor Majority Leader Mike Gronstal [Council Bluffs] to hold on to his post, but just barely, as his Democrat caucus shrank from 32 to 26."

While, thanks to National Committee members and grass-roots activists, Iowa's Right to Work law has remained intact during the Culver years, incoming pro-Right to Work Gov. Terry Branstad (R) and House Speaker Craig Paulsen (R-Hiawatha) will have a lot of union boss-inspired damage to undo once they take office.

### **Incoming Governor, House Speaker Will Have to Undo a Lot of Damage**

One outrageous and very recent example is outgoing Gov. Culver's mid-November move to add \$200 million to already-beleaguered Iowa taxpayers' burden over the next two years as a parting contract gift to state employee union bosses.

"Even though they didn't get the Right to Work destruction law they craved, government union bosses made out big during the Culver Administration," said Mr. Mourad.

"To get Iowa's fiscal house back in order, Gov. Branstad and Speaker Paulsen should aim not just to preserve Iowa's Right to Work law, but also to roll back policies authorizing union monopoly bargaining in the government sector." 📣

# Forced Unionism Stifles Growth

Continued from page 8

The U.S.'s private-sector employment was flat over that period, but Oklahoma's grew by 4.4%."

The outstanding recent gains of Oklahoma are of a piece with the long-term economic performance of all 22 Right to Work states, including those whose forced-dues bans have been on the books for decades.

For example, from 1999 to 2009, the five Midwestern Right to Work states (Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) experienced aggregate private-sector job growth of 2.3%. Over the same period, the seven Midwestern forced-unionism states (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin) lost 8.1% of their private-sector jobs.

(See the chart below for additional related information.)

## More and More Citizens Recognize Their States Require Fundamental Reform

It shouldn't come as any surprise that forced-unionism states are lagging behind Right to Work states by all the most significant economic measures. 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 job growth or, very frequently, job losses.

On top of that, union bosses funnel a huge portion of the forced dues and fees they collect into efforts to elect and reelect state and local, as well as federal, politicians who support more forced unionism, higher taxes, and more red-tape regulation of business.

"More and more citizens of Big Labor-controlled states like Wisconsin, Missouri, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Maine recognize that their states require fundamental reform in order to get their economies back on track," noted Mr. Leen.

"That's one important reason why avowed Right to Work supporters running in slow-growth states racked up a net gain of hundreds of state House and Senate seats in this year's elections."

(For more information about 2010's state election results, see p. 6.)

"The fact is, compulsory unionism impedes private-sector job creation and income growth in every part of the business cycle. It's clear that the national recession's end won't suffice to turn Wisconsin, Missouri, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Maine around.

"On the other hand, the experiences of Oklahoma and many other Right to Work states furnish strong evidence that economically troubled states could greatly accelerate their job and income growth by passing Right to Work legislation."

## 'Getting There Is Half the Fun'

Mr. Leen added: "There is a second important point illustrated by the 'Oklahoma model': Getting there is half the fun.

"Long before forced union dues and fees were banned in Oklahoma, the state's economy was already benefiting greatly from the campaign to pass a state Right to Work law.

"From 1994 through 2000, the number of union lackeys in the Oklahoma Legislature diminished in


each election cycle thanks in large part to the Right to Work candidate survey program.

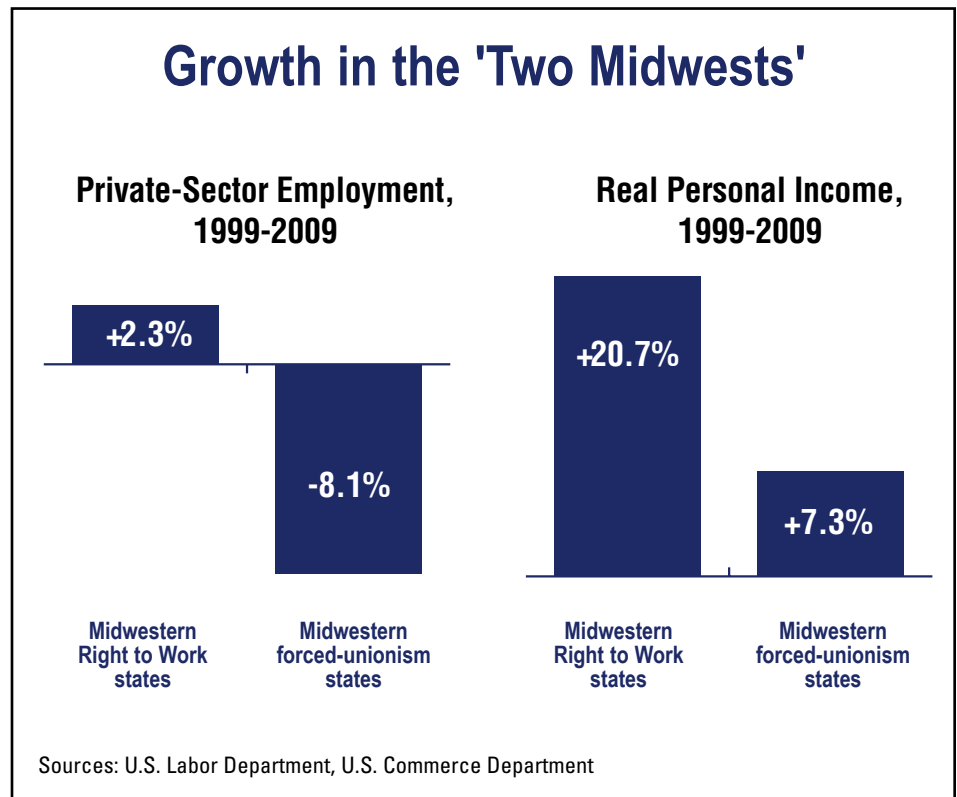
"That means, with each election cycle, the Legislature was less apt to hinder job and income growth by approving new unreasonable taxes and regulations. And the Legislature became more apt to reform existing anti-growth policies.

"Even if Big Labor had somehow in the end managed to block enactment of Oklahoma's Right to Work law, the benefits of 'getting there' would have remained.

"Unfortunately, this isn't true when well-meaning would-be reformers skip over the process of building Right to Work legislative strength and instead try to abolish forced union dues willy-nilly in a ballot initiative.

"Over the past half century, the track record of efforts to pass new Right to Work laws through ballot initiatives is poor. And unlike legislative lobbying campaigns, ballot initiatives do nothing to improve the quality of a state's elected officials.

"Concerned citizens who want to transform their state into 'another Oklahoma' should look not just at the content of the Sooner Right to Work Amendment, but also at the eight-year process by which it became law." 



In every region of the country where both Right to Work states and forced-unionism states are located, the Right to

Work states' long-term economic growth is superior. The Midwestern contrast is especially strong.

# Right to Work: Rx For Job-Losing States

## Legislators Look at 'Oklahoma Model' For Stronger Economic Growth

It's been more than seven decades since *The Grapes of Wrath*, both the John Steinbeck novel and the Hollywood movie it inspired, established the desperate migration of "Okies" from the Dust Bowl to the orchards of California as an icon of the Great Depression.

Times have certainly changed.

As an October 12 *USA Today* feature story noted, since 1999, "the number of Californians departing the Golden State for Oklahoma has outnumbered those going the opposite direction by more than 21,000 . . . ."

The net influx of people into the Sooner State from California and many other states with sub-par or abysmal job and income growth records is, as *USA Today* put it, "a sign of Oklahoma's growing economic prowess."

To explain the state's recent record of economic success, the *USA Today* feature specifically mentioned Oklahoma's low and relatively stable housing costs, its concentration of aerospace and defense technology expertise, and its oil and natural gas reserves.

But as important as these assets are, Oklahoma had them all in the early 1990's, when its long-term job

and income growth still trailed the national average.

The real turning point for Oklahoma's transition from an economic laggard to an economic leader was in 1992 -- when the National Right to Work Committee teamed up with local grass-roots activists to map out a multi-year campaign to pass a Sooner Right to Work law.

### Benefits of Right to Work Campaign Were Evident Long Before State Law Was Passed

"In the early 1990's, the 'Dust Bowl' was already a distant memory, but Oklahoma's job climate still seemed pretty dry," commented Matthew Leen, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"From 1984 through 1994, the decade before the Committee program to pass a Right to Work law in Oklahoma was initiated, private-sector employment in Oklahoma increased by less than a third as much as the national average, according to the U.S. Labor Department.

"Over that same decade, inflation-adjusted U.S. Commerce Department

data show Oklahoma's real personal income grew by just 2.3%, less than a tenth of the nationwide percentage gain.

"But in 1994, the seeds of change were planted when, thanks to the lobbying and citizen-mobilization efforts of the Right to Work movement, 12 new avowed foes of compulsory unionism were elected to the Oklahoma Legislature.

"Also in 1994, unabashedly pro-Right to Work candidates were elected as governor, lieutenant governor, and labor commissioner.

"It would take additional years of hard work, spanning the 1996, 1998, and 2000 election cycles, for grass-roots activists to get to majority support for the Right to Work in both legislative chambers.

"But the benefits of the Right to Work campaign were evident long before a state law could be passed.

"As more and more union-label legislators were replaced with Right to Work advocates during the 1990's, the state's political climate became more amenable to private-sector job and income creation in a host of ways.

"From 1995 to 2001, the year the Right to Work law was finally adopted, private-sector employment in Oklahoma grew by 15.2%, 14% more than the overall national increase. Sooners' real personal income grew by 24.1%, outpacing the national average."

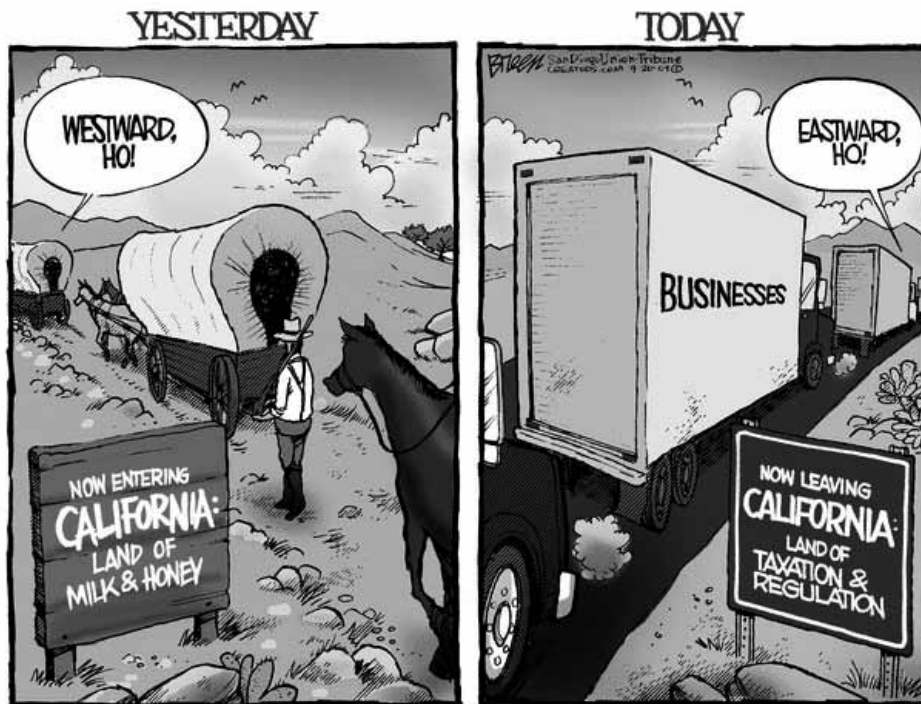
### Right to Work Edge Clear In Region After Region

"Unfortunately, the adoption of the 2001 Right to Work Amendment prohibiting the termination of employees for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union did not immediately break Big Labor's grip over roughly 65,000 private-sector Sooner workers," Mr. Leen continued.

"Until 2003, union lawyers kept the Right to Work Amendment tied up in court. But since the state Supreme Court rejected Big Labor's anti-Right to Work lawsuit late that year, Oklahoma has had one of the strongest economies in the country.

"From 2003 through 2009, real income in Oklahoma grew by nearly twice as much as in the U.S. as a whole.

See *Forced Unionism* page 7



Domestic population migration data reflect Oklahoma's "growing economic prowess." The 1994-2001 Sooner State

campaign to pass a Right to Work law, as well as the law itself, helped build that prowess.