



NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 60, NUMBER 11

www.nrtwc.org

November/December 2014

Another ‘Shellacking’ For Compulsory Unionism *But Big Labor Retains Control Over White House, Federal Agencies*

On November 4, voters in every region 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.

In the U.S. Senate, union-label incumbents Mark Begich (D-Alaska), Kay Hagan (D-N.C.), Mark Pryor (D-Ark.), and Mark Udall (D-Colo.) were all defeated, and in three of four cases by unabashedly pro-Right to Work challengers.

Yet another Big Labor senator, Louisiana Democrat Mary Landrieu, now trails 100% pro-Right to Work challenger Bill Cassidy in a run-off election scheduled to take place soon after this Newsletter edition goes to press.

Right to Work advocates also picked up open Senate seats previously held by forced-unionism militants in Iowa, Montana, and South Dakota. And Right to Work gained a net total of 12 U.S. House seats located in districts stretching from Maine to Nevada.

After Backing Big Labor Schemes to Corral Workers Into Unions, Senators Were Defeated

Why were Americans who went to the polls this year so angry with union-label politicians? It appears clear that, just as they were key sources of voters’ displeasure when they shellacked Big Labor candidates in the 2010 elections, the so-called “Affordable Care Act” (ACA) of 2010, otherwise known as ObamaCare, and “card check” forced unionism were again major objects of public ire in 2014.

More even than President Obama or any other elected official, top union bosses and their arm-twisting union lobbyists are



CREDIT: GETTY IMAGES

INSET CREDIT: BEGICH - DAILY KOS; HAGAN - NATIONAL REVIEW; PRYOR - CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY; UDALL - ABC NEWS

After the defeats of union-boss incumbents Mark Begich, Mark Pryor, Mark Udall and Kay Hagan (inset,

clockwise, starting from upper left), Harry Reid won’t be Senate majority leader next year.

responsible for Congress’s narrow votes to reconstruct America’s enormous health-care system in late 2009 and early 2010.

In the fall of 2010 and again this year, voters punished vulnerable senators and representatives for doing what Big Labor had told them to do.

(In the presidential election year of 2012, the union bosses’ \$1.7 billion, forced dues-fueled campaign mobilization was able to get the Obama-Biden ticket reelected, but support for Right to Work actually increased in both chambers of Congress.)

American voters were also undoubtedly angry with union-label incumbents for having backed compulsory dues and Big Labor power grabs specifically aimed

at making it easier for union officials to secure monopoly-bargaining privileges over employees.

Voters in Forced-Unionism States Show They Also Oppose Big Labor Monopolies

Mr. Pryor, for example, had voted in 2007 for the “Card Check” Unionization Bill that would have virtually eliminated secret-ballot voting for union certification and handed Big Labor a huge new weapon to force workers into unions.

In 2009, Mr. Begich, Ms. Hagan, Mr. Pryor, and Mr. Udall all voted to kill

See **Forced Dues** page 2

Forced Dues Unpopular Everywhere

Continued from page 1

a national Right to Work amendment sponsored by then-Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.), and thus forced hardworking Americans to continue paying union dues or fees just to get a job or keep their job.

And in 2012, Mr. Begich, Ms. Hagan, Mr. Pryor, and Mr. Udall joined with 50 other senators in voting to give the Obama National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) a green light to rewrite longstanding rules for how Big Labor acquires monopoly-bargaining control over workers. The barely disguised aim of this rewrite was to make it far easier for union organizers to accomplish that objective.

Most of the 2014 Senate and House races in which candidates vowing full support for the Right to Work captured seats that had been held by union-boss lackeys occurred in states that already have on the books laws prohibiting compulsory union dues and fees.

However, when given a clear choice between a forced-unionism apologist and a supporter of the individual employee's freedom, voters in the currently non-Right to Work state of Colorado's Senate race opted against their Big Labor incumbent.

Right to Work advocates also captured House seats that have been held up to now

by Big Labor politicians in non-Right to Work Maine, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.

"For years, polls have shown that citizens in every U.S. region, and not just in states that already bar the firing of employees for refusal to join or pay dues to an unwanted union, overwhelmingly agree that unionism should be voluntary," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"The November 4 election results in state after state simply reconfirmed what scientific surveys have said all along."

President Likely to Keep Ignoring Election Returns

After a pro-Right to Work voter backlash wiped out his Democratic Party's House majority in 2010, and after Big Labor's machine fell far short of reinstating union-label Democrat Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) as House speaker in 2012, President Barack Obama didn't even briefly back away from his forced-unionism agenda.

And seasoned political observers do not expect the Democrats' loss of the Senate and their House caucus's apparently

shrinking to a lower level than any seen since the 1929-30 Congress to sway the President from his chosen course.

During his first six years in office, Mr. Obama repeatedly expressed virulent opposition to Right to Work laws and tried to get the "Card Check" Unionization Bill passed.

After that measure failed due to intense and vigilant opposition by Committee members and their allies, the Obama Administration backed bureaucratic proposals designed to shove millions of additional workers into forced-unionism arrangements.

Today, militant proponents of forcing workers to pay union dues appointed by Mr. Obama hold a controlling majority on the powerful NLRB. This winter, after being held in check for some time by the courts, they are expected to rewrite the ground rules for determining whether an employer must recognize a particular labor union as employees' "exclusive" bargaining agent.


Businesses May Soon Be Forced To Turn Over Workers' Phone Numbers to Union Organizers

Among the proposals the Obama NLRB is considering are new rules mandating that the employer hand over employee phone numbers and e-mail addresses to union organizers at the outset of each certification campaign.

"Current NLRB rules already seriously infringe on employees' privacy by requiring employers to hand over their names and their physical addresses to union officials," said Mr. Mix.

"But the new scheme the Obama NLRB clearly wants to push for would expose employees who don't sign a union card or promise to vote for a union to even more intense Big Labor intimidation.

"Fortunately, Committee members and leaders still have at our disposal legislative tools to bring to a halt the Obama Administration's guerrilla attacks on American employees' Right to Work. We will use them all if necessary.

"Even with avowed Right to Work supporters set to hold the reins of both chambers of Congress in 2015, this will be an uphill battle. But employees' personal freedom and America's hopes for sustained economic growth depend to a large extent on our success." 



CREDIT TO: AP PHOTO/GERALD HERBERT

In a run-off election scheduled to occur soon after this Newsletter edition goes to press, Mary Landrieu (La.) is likely

to become the fifth Big Labor U.S. Democratic senator to be ousted in 2014.

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 2014 has 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 total of roughly 5.5 million federal candidate Survey “information packets” through the U.S. Postal Service this year. Above and beyond that, Survey 2014 had a massive Internet component, including approximately two million e-mails transmitted in October and early November 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 last five weeks of the fall 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 jobs, the survey program maximized Right to Work gains in both the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate.

Big Labor Had Calculated Forced-Dues Machine Would Minimize Electoral Losses

Compared to the House that will permanently disband after an end-of-the-year “lame duck” session, the House that convenes in January will have 12 more members identified, based on their campaign pledges and voting records, as 100% Right to Work supporters.

In the Senate, where just 36 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 at least seven seats, and quite possibly eight, depending on the outcome of the Louisiana run-off still pending as this Newsletter edition goes to press.

Given the persistently low public approval ratings of union-label President Barack Obama, Big Labor strategists clearly did not expect to do very well in



CREDIT TO: MOONEY FOR CONGRESS

After heeding freedom-loving West Virginians’ pleas to pledge 100% support for Right to Work if voters sent him to

Congress, U.S. House candidate Alex Mooney beat his Big Labor-backed opponent by roughly 4900 votes.

congressional races this fall.

At the same time, union kingpins calculated that their forced dues-funded phone banks, get-out-the-vote drives, and propaganda mailings would help a number of otherwise doomed Big Labor politicians in both legislative chambers win close races this year.

But throughout the final weeks of campaign 2014, the Committee’s federal candidate survey program ensured that politicians who had sought to conceal their pro-forced unionism agenda were held accountable.

West Virginia lawyer Nick Casey, who this year sought to capture his state’s Second Congressional District, a narrow, but 300-mile long jurisdiction spanning from the Ohio to the Maryland border, is a characteristic example.

Candidates Got to Choose: Repudiate Forced Unionism, or Face Political Consequences

During the final weeks of his U.S. House campaign, the Committee called public attention to the fact that Mr. Casey was gratefully accepting massive campaign support from Big Labor even as he refused to say how he would vote on Right to Work-related legislation. As part of its federal Survey program, the Committee repeatedly contacted roughly 9300 targeted households in the district.

In the end, roughly 37,000 pieces of

Right to Work surface mail alone were sent to households in West Virginian’s Second Congressional District.

After being mobilized by the Committee, thousands of citizens asked Mr. Casey to take a clear stand against forced unionism. He never complied.

Apparently, Mr. Casey believed he could pull through with Big Labor on his side. Union bigwigs poured nearly \$200,000 in cash into his campaign, plus an unknown, but surely far larger, sum in hidden, “in-kind” support.

It wasn’t enough. In the end, GOP candidate Alex Mooney, the former executive director of the National Journalism Center and a 100% Right to Work supporter, defeated Mr. Casey by roughly 4900 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,” said Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

“Candidates who don’t like the public hearing about their close ties to Big Labor special interests can always distance themselves from union kingpins and pledge to support Right to Work in the future. 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.” 📌

Factory Payrolls Expand in Indiana, Michigan

Two Newest Right to Work States Enjoy Out-Sized Employment Gains

As the National Right to Work Newsletter reports in detail elsewhere in this issue (see the article starting on page eight), state public officials who helped pass the two most recent Right to Work laws in Indiana and Michigan and/or promised to help keep these laws on the books were rewarded by voters on November 4.

Many of the Hoosiers and Michiganders who lobbied for enactment of their state Right to Work laws and continue vigilantly fighting to protect them from Big Labor attacks have always believed their states would benefit economically from rolling back union bosses' special privileges.

And more and more data are now coming out that indicate Right to Work is indeed furnishing much needed boosts for employees and businesses in the two Midwestern states.

One compelling example pertains to manufacturing employment.

While the total number of factory jobs in the U.S. as a whole has rebounded only modestly since payrolls bottomed out in 2010, Right to Work states as a group have enjoyed out-sized gains.

Manufacturing Jobs in Hoosier State Are up By 8.9% Since March 2012

And Indiana's record since its Right to Work law took effect in March 2012 is extraordinary.

From that month through October 2014 (the latest month for which state jobs data are available as this edition of the Newsletter goes to press), seasonally-adjusted factory payroll employment grew by 8.9% in Indiana, by 3.6% in Right to Work states as a group, and by just 0.8% in forced-unionism states as a group.

Indiana's manufacturing job percentage gain was the third greatest of

any state's, and far exceeded those of all of the remaining forced-unionism states in the Midwest.

(Since seasonally-adjusted monthly jobs data are not available for Alabama and Oklahoma, they are excluded from all the analyses in this article.)

Michigan's Right to Work law did not take effect until a year later than Indiana's.

But its record over the past year and a half is impressive.

Detroit, Grand Rapids Are 'Beginning to Shed Their "Rust Belt" Reputation'

From March 2013 through October 2014, Michigan's manufacturing payroll job gain of 3.3% was the 11th highest in the nation.

Overall, during that period, Right to Work states had a factory job increase of 2.4%, and forced-unionism states had an increase of just 0.6%.


In the Midwest alone, Michigan's percentage manufacturing job gain was roughly double the average for forced-unionism states.

As a recent analysis by Michigan business reporter Jim Harger noted, Detroit and Grand Rapids, the Wolverine State's two largest cities, "are beginning to shed their 'rust belt' reputation for a shinier, high-tech image that emphasizes growth in advanced manufacturing and engineering jobs."

And the evidence strongly indicates the state's popular Right to Work law is playing a major role in helping Michigan transform itself.

Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee, cautioned that repairing the damage that federally-imposed compulsory unionism did to Indiana and, to an even greater extent, Michigan over the course of three-quarters of a century will take time:

"I expect the good economic news to keep coming in from America's 23rd and 24th Right to Work states. However, it may take some years before they are fully competitive with states where employees have enjoyed Right to Work protections for decades.

"But Indiana and Michigan are now clearly headed in the right direction." 

Goose That Lays The Golden Eggs

CREDIT: ED HOLLAND/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/ADAPTED BY NRTWC



The long experience of Right to Work states, now 24 in number, clearly indicates that compulsory unionism

cuts the amount and size of job-creating investments even as it kills employees' personal freedom.

'Big Lie' Strategy Gets IUOE Lawyer Nowhere

State High Court Rejects Big Labor's Top Excuse For Forced Dues

Since Indiana adopted its Right to Work law in early 2012, top bosses of Chicago-based Local 150 of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) have been attempting to base a lawsuit to overturn the statute on an outrageous premise that contradicts decades of federal case law.

The premise is that the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) prohibits employers from recognizing and bargaining with unions that represent their members only, and not workers who opt not to join and pay dues.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Greg Mourad observed:

"The fact is, even if members-only bargaining were not permitted under federal labor law, IUOE Local 150's claims that the Indiana Right to Work law violates the state constitution would still be false."

Union Lawyer's False Claim: 'The Law Does Not Allow Members-Only Representation'

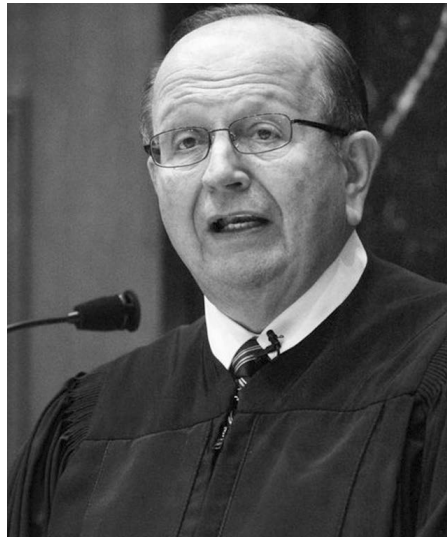
"Justice Brent Dickson reached precisely this conclusion," Mr. Mourad continued, "in his November 6 opinion for a unanimous Indiana Supreme Court rejecting IUOE Local 150 bosses' suit and upholding the state Right to Work law.

"However, Americans who care about the truth and the integrity of our legal system should be pleased to know that, even though it wasn't strictly necessary to do so, the opinion of the court directly rebutted IUOE kingpins' 'big lie' regarding the permissibility of members-only bargaining.

"To be specific, Justice Dickson flat-out rejected the brazen contention of union lawyer Dale Pierson, made again and again at oral arguments on the case in September, that 'the law does not allow members-only representation.'"

It Keeps Getting Harder For Forced-Dues Apologists To Evade the Truth

Justice Dickson and the three other justices who unequivocally agreed with his ruling (there was one separate concurring opinion) appeared to be puzzled by union lawyers' stubborn



Justice Brent Dickson: Big Labor's so-called "burden" of monopoly bargaining is actually "optional."

clinging to a false contention that would not have won their case even if it were true.

But they remained firm in their insistence that the truth be acknowledged:

"The union's federal obligation to represent all employees in a bargaining unit is optional; it occurs only when the union elects to be the exclusive bargaining agent, for which it is justly compensated by the right to bargain exclusively with the employer."

The Indiana Supreme Court ruling in the IUOE Local 150 case, added Mr. Mourad, should make it even harder for forced-dues apologists to evade the truth about members-only bargaining.

"For decades," he said, "union bosses'

favorite rationalization for forced union dues has been that their federal monopoly-bargaining privileges amount to a 'burden' for which they deserve compensation.

"But monopoly bargaining is actually a privilege avidly sought by Big Labor, and Indiana's highest court has just officially recognized it as such."

Steelworkers Union Petition Got It Right Back in 2007

Ironically, Mr. Mourad noted, lawyers for another union that has filed a still-pending suit to overturn Indiana's Right to Work law admitted in a petition filed with the National Labor Relations Board just a few years ago what IUOE Local 150 kingpins have tried so hard to cover up:

"In 2007, United Steelworkers [USW] bosses affirmed without qualification that, under NLRA Section 7, in any workplace where no union is recognized as employees' 'exclusive' bargaining agent, employees' right to bargain with their employer through a union [on a members-only basis] remains 'available and protected"

"As anyone who has a good understanding of federal labor statutes and court precedents knows, the union lawyers for the USW brass, along with the bosses of six other AFL-CIO-affiliated unions who signed on to the same petition, were totally correct about the permissibility of members-only bargaining in 2007.

"And they are still correct today." 📌

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

www.nrtwc.org

November/December 2014

Written and Distributed by:

National Right to Work Committee®

8001 Braddock Road

Springfield, Va. 22160

E-mail: Members@NRTW.org

Stanley Greer Newsletter Editor

Greg Mourad Vice President

Mary King Vice President

Matthew Leen Vice President

Stephen Goodrick Vice President

Mark Mix President

Editorial comments only: stg@nrtw.org

Contact the Membership Department by phoning 1-800-325-RTWC (7892) or (703) 321-9820, or faxing (703) 321-7143, if you wish to:

- Report address changes or corrections
- Receive the NEWSLETTER or request, renew, or cancel Committee membership
- Obtain more information

Because of NRTWC's tax-exempt status under IRC Sec. 501 (C)(4) and its state and federal legislative activities, contributions are not tax deductible as charitable contributions (IRC § 170) or as business deductions (IRC § 162(e)(1)).

© 2014 by the National Right to Work Committee®. Permission to reprint individual articles granted. Credit requested.

Forced Dues Help Politicians Who Hurt Workers

Voluntary Unionism Key to Curtailing Big Labor Political Abuses

In this year's general elections, at least 70% of union household members nationwide either cast their ballots for U.S. House and/or Senate candidates opposed by Big Labor, or preferred not to vote at all. But union bosses, it often seems, feel free to ignore what workers think due to their forced-dues privileges.

After reviewing union bosses' reported expenditures in the 2013-2014 election cycle, National Right to Work Committee Vice President Mary King observed:

"Just like other Americans, union household members should have the right to choose personally which candidates, if any, they will financially support."

Lies Help Union Bosses Grab Compulsory-Dues Dollars For Electioneering Schemes

Federal law grants union officials extraordinary power over individual workers. Except in Right to Work states, federal law authorizes Big Labor to get workers in a broad array of industries fired for refusal to fork over forced union dues or fees.

But in theory, Big Labor shouldn't be able to get away with using a worker's forced-dues money to cancel out his or her own vote, or to help one candidate in a race when the worker favors none.

Under court precedents won by the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, forced dues-paying workers who never join or resign from the union have the right to pay a forced, but reduced, union "agency" fee rather than full forced dues.

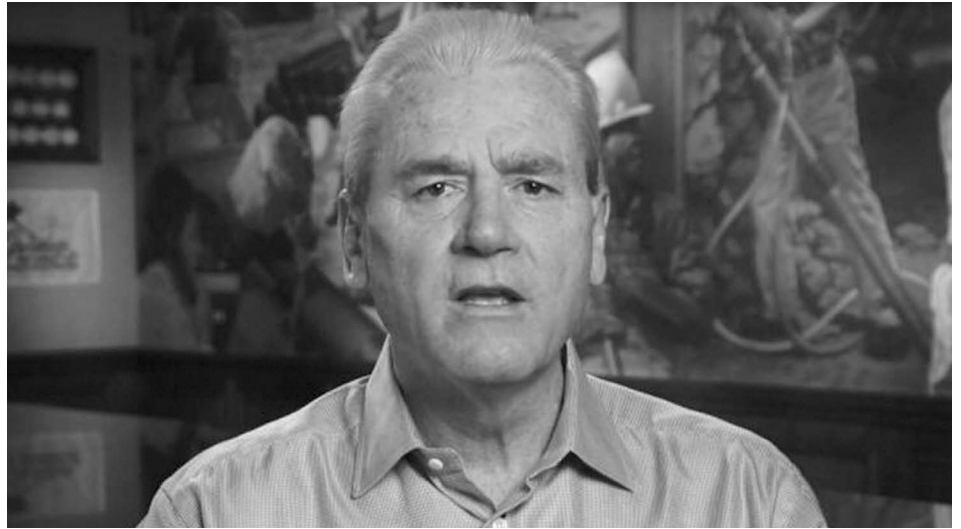
And objecting workers' forced fees are not supposed to be spent on politics or electioneering.

However, as countless Foundation cases show, union bosses routinely lie to workers. Workers are falsely told they have to join the union, or that they can't automatically resign.

Time again, workers are tricked by such falsehoods and pay full union dues to save their jobs.

"By exploiting their legal privileges and intimidating workers, Big Labor was able to pour an estimated \$1.7 billion into electioneering and lobbying in the 2011-2012 campaign cycle," said Ms. King.

Roughly 38% of the 12.7 million union household members who voted in



CREDIT: LIUNA-NGDC.ORG

Laborers Union bigwig Terry O'Sullivan just admitted that the Democrat politicians to whom his

campaign machine funneled 89% of its 2013-14 contributions "have lost . . . their purpose and their base."

the November congressional elections cast their ballots for Republican candidates. And fewer than half of the union household members nationwide who were eligible to vote this fall cast any ballot at all.

Yet regardless of which party candidates union members, their spouses, and other adult members of their households voted for, if any at all, Big Labor bosses overwhelmingly bankrolled the campaigns of union-label Democrat politicians with money extracted out of the unionized workers' paychecks.

Top Union Boss Admits Big Labor-Backed Politicians 'Have Lost Their Way'

Big Labor doesn't funnel vast sums of workers' forced dues and fees into backing Democratic candidates because union officials believe those candidates will do what's best for unionized workers. Rather, union chiefs believe a close political alliance with the Democratic Party advances their institutional interests.

A compelling case in point is Terry O'Sullivan, general president of the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA/AFL-CIO).

Mr. O'Sullivan publicly claims, and undoubtedly sincerely believes, that securing federal approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, which would facilitate the

transport of crude oil from Canada into the U.S., is a very important issue for the workers whom he purports to represent.

After a filibuster backed by 41 Senate Democrats, but no Republicans, blocked approval of the Keystone XL on November 18, Mr. O'Sullivan bitterly complained:

"The majority of Democrats in the Senate and the White House just don't get it, even though the recent election results surely should have sunk in by now. They have lost their way, their purpose and their base."

But when Mr. O'Sullivan aired this grievance, Laborers Union bosses had just directed 89% of the two million dollars their national PAC spent on federal politics in 2013-2014 into congressional Democrat politicians' campaigns.

And the union's unreported, forced dues-funded "in-kind" contributions doubtless also went overwhelmingly to "lost" Democrat politicians.

Ms. King concluded: "Whenever union bosses like Terry O'Sullivan have a choice between pouring forced-dues union treasury money into a candidate who will help workers, and a candidate who backs more special privileges for Big Labor, they invariably opt for the latter.

"And the only sure way to change the union bosses' ways is to take away their forced-dues privileges."

Elections Buoy Right to Work Cause

Continued from page 8

public policy in their own states is heading in the right direction. That's why they opted this fall to reelect pro-Right to Work incumbents, and even to expand their legislative majorities."

The Badger State, Mr. Mix added, is another great example.

In early 2011, Wisconsin became the first state to see a measure, known as Act 10, repealing government union bosses' statutory power to collect forced dues receive legislative approval, be signed into law, and take effect.

Other Act 10 provisions greatly narrowed the scope of government union bosses' monopoly-bargaining privileges. (Unfortunately, it exempts public-safety union officials.)

Because Act 10 was largely unprecedented, the national union hierarchy has been especially determined to punish GOP Gov. Scott Walker, who signed it into law, and the legislative majorities who voted to send it to his desk.

Just a couple of weeks before Election Day, in an interview with *Politico's* Jonathan Topaz, Richard Trumka labeled Mr. Walker as the "poster child" for the voluntary-unionism policies Big Labor detests and predicted that the governor would be ousted.

Mr. Trumka boasted that, because Mr. Walker is so notorious among union militants: "It's not been tough for us to get volunteers in Wisconsin . . ."

Government union star Lee Saunders went so far as to boldly predict Big Labor's political operatives would "kick" Mr. Walker's "a**."

'We Think There's a Chance Just About Everywhere Now'

But despite having a substantial part of the entire \$1.7 billion union political machine operating in Wisconsin for the express purpose of defeating him, Mr. Walker ended up prevailing over his Big Labor-endorsed opponent, Democrat Mary Burke, by nearly six percentage points.

The Walker victory was broad-based. He carried 56 of Wisconsin's 72 counties, and his GOP allies expanded their majorities in both chambers of the Wisconsin General Assembly.

Mr. Mix expressed cautious optimism that elected officials in states

where Big Labor continues to wield forced-dues privileges and extensive government-sector monopoly-bargaining power would learn from the election returns in Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin.

"The utter failure of union kingpins in November 2012 to make good on their threats to punish Indiana politicians who had supported Right to Work was certainly a major factor in Michigan's passage of a Right to Work law the following month," he recalled.

"Michigan politicians whose constituents had long pressed them to support a state Right to Work law, but had held back due to fear of Big Labor retaliation at the polls, could see for themselves that voters had actually rewarded Indiana politicians for standing up to the union bosses.

"Now that voters in Michigan, a longtime bastion of compulsory unionism, have done the same thing, I believe there may well be positive repercussions in other states.

"We think there's a chance just about everywhere now."

Right to Work Law Primarily a Moral Issue

Mr. Mix specifically mentioned several states as ripe for intensified Right to Work activism in the wake of the compelling 2014 election results:

"In West Virginia, Ohio, Missouri,




CREDIT: AP PHOTO/DETROIT NEWS, DAVID COATES

Signing a Right to Work law proved to be politically smart for Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder.

Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, and several other states, grass-roots Right to Work efforts are gaining momentum.

"Residents of these states can see that Right to Work states as a group are doing far better at attracting and retaining jobs that pay well enough to support a family, once regional differences in the cost of living are taken into account.

"But Right to Work laws are actually first and foremost a matter of principle, rather than economics.

"No American should be forced to join or bankroll a union as a condition of employment. The vast majority of citizens simply agree with this principle, and would do so even if it were the case that Right to Work laws had no impact on the economy at all." 



CREDIT: GATEWAY TECHNICAL COLLEGE, FLICKR

Just two weeks after AFL-CIO czar Richard Trumka called Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (pictured) the "poster child"

for everything union bosses hate and predicted his defeat, Mr. Walker was reelected by a 52.3%-46.6% margin.

Right to Work Wins at the Grass Roots

Voters Reward State Politicians For Barring Forced Union Dues

Just hours after GOP Gov. Rick Snyder outraged and dismayed Big Labor by listening to his freedom-loving constituents and signing private- and public-sector measures making Michigan the 24th Right to Work state on December 11, 2012, Teamster chief Jim Hoffa went on CNN to air his wrath.

The adoption of a ban on forced union dues and fees, Mr. Hoffa vowed, would be “just the first round of a battle that’s going to divide this state. We’re going to have a civil war.”

A few days later, Al Garrett and Larry Roehrig, the two top bosses of Detroit-based Council 25 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME/AFL-CIO), declared their intent to destroy the Right to Work law and get “retribution” against supporters in a taped conference call.

In Michigan, Big Labor ‘Was Routed on the Right-to-Work Issue’

“If we were to change the composition of both houses [of the Michigan Legislature],” said Mr. Garrett, “where we were the majority and had the governor, no question we would be able to get rid of it [Right to Work] right away. . . .”

“In November of 2014, we vote to change the composition of those bodies.”

This fall, union bosses from AFL-CIO czar Richard Trumka on down fired up Big Labor’s vast, forced dues-funded political machine to make good on Mr. Garrett’s vow.

But on November 4, 2014, the voters of Michigan disregarded union kingpins and gave what can only be regarded as a ringing endorsement to their two-year-old Right to Work law.

Mr. Snyder was reelected over union boss-backed Democratic challenger Mark Schauer. The number of state Senate and state House members who support Right to Work simultaneously expanded.

And voters in Michigan’s 8th Congressional District, which for years has been represented in the U.S. House by Big Labor-appeasing Republican Mike Rogers, elected Mike Bishop (R),



When Michigan prohibited compulsory union dues and fees two years ago, Teamster chief Jim Hoffa

insisted it was “just the first round of the battle.” But today Big Labor is still losing in the Wolverine State.

a former state Senate majority leader who had campaigned publicly for a state Right to Work law, to succeed Mr. Rogers.

Larry Gabriel, a columnist for Detroit’s *Metro Times* and obviously no fan of Mr. Snyder or pro-Right to Work Legislators in Lansing, aptly summed up the 2014 Michigan election results in just a few words: Organized Labor, “which has been staunchly in the Dems’ corner, was routed on the right-to-work issue.”

Union-Label Hoosier State Democrats ‘Marginalized’

In nearby Indiana, which adopted the 23rd state Right to Work law in January 2012, support for compulsory unionism continued to be a political albatross in 2014, just as it had been in 2012 and in election cycles prior to the statute’s enactment.

While pro-Right to Work Gov. Mike Pence was not on the ballot this year, the Senate and House leaders who had worked to ban forced union dues and fees saw the pro-Right to Work legislative majorities expand.

With Republicans now set to dominate the Senate, 40-10, and the House, 71-29, union-label Democratic

politicians are “marginalized,” as the *Indianapolis Star*’s headline for a post-election AP story put it.

Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee, commented:

“Since they got clocked in U.S. Senate and House races this fall, union bosses and the White House have frequently tried to claim that voters were ‘only’ expressing their unhappiness with the status quo, not with President Obama’s pro-forced unionism, Big Labor-backed agenda for the future.”

Boss Trumka Boasted: ‘It’s Not Been Tough For Us to Get Volunteers in Wisconsin’

“But the gubernatorial and state legislative election results in Michigan and Indiana, as well as in a number of other states, demonstrate the hollowness of this excuse,” Mr. Mix continued.

“In states where elected officials have recently revoked union bosses’ forced-dues privileges, voters may well be unhappy with the way things are going in the country as a whole.

“But obviously, most believe that

See Buoy page 7