



# NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 61, NUMBER 12

[www.nrtwc.org](http://www.nrtwc.org)

January 2015

## Right to Work on State Legislators' Agenda

### *Bans on Forced Union Dues Expected to Come up For Roll-Call Votes*

With the vast majority of state legislatures across the country convening for their 2015 sessions this month or next, proponents of compulsory union dues and fees are clearly on the defensive.

Thanks in significant part to the enactment in 2012 of the 23rd and 24th Right to Work laws in Indiana and Michigan, respectively, today roughly 45% of all private-sector workers are employed in one of the states that prohibit forcing workers to bankroll a union as a job condition.

As recently as 2010, fewer than four in 10 private-sector employees held jobs in states protected by Right to Work laws. And just a quarter-century ago, fewer than 34% of private-sector jobs were located in Right to Work states.

### **'Where Indiana Goes, So Goes the Nation'?**

"The enactments of the Indiana Right to Work law in February 2012 and the Michigan Right to Work law 10 months later have, it seems, greatly loosened Big Labor's grip over elected officials in many other states," commented National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"In early 2012, Abby Rapoport, then a staff writer for the pro-forced unionism *American Prospect*, publicly expressed her fear that the Right to Work victory in Indiana would represent 'a turning point in American labor history' and 'not simply a loss in power' for Hoosier union officials.

"An article by Ms. Rapoport published online the day then-Gov. Mitch Daniels signed the Right to Work Bill into law even bore the title, 'Where Indiana Goes, so Goes the Nation.'

"And since Indiana's ban on forced union dues was adopted, Right to Work activism has indeed spread like wildfire in

state after state.

"It seems the fears of Abby Rapoport and the *American Prospect's* editors were well-grounded."

### **Support to Pass Right to Work Laws Advancing In Multiple States**

Mr. Mix cited West Virginia as just one example of a longtime Big Labor dominion where momentum for enactment of a state Right to Work law has increased significantly in the wake of the 2014 elections.

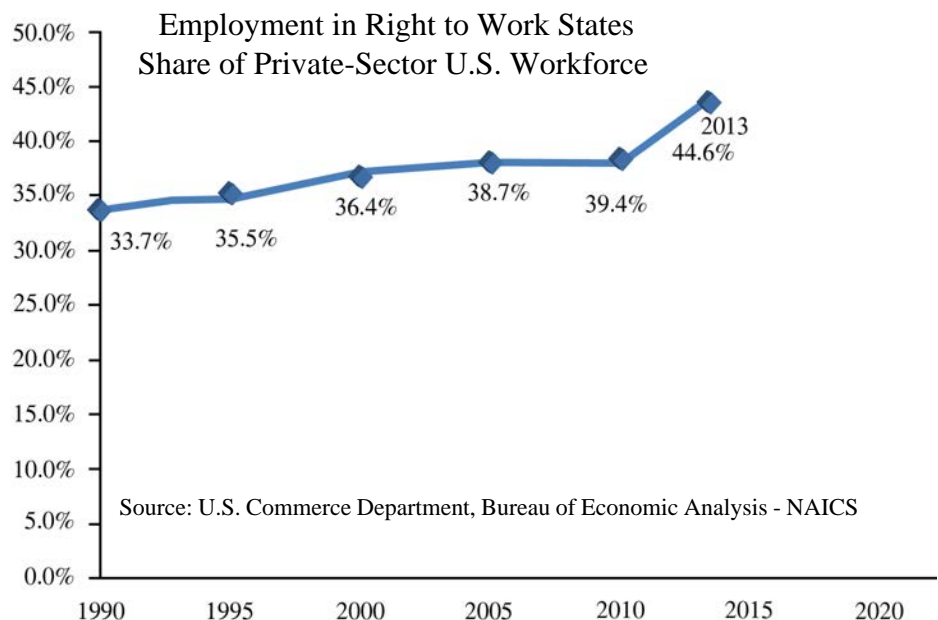
"Last year, Mountain State voters elected a total of 37 avowedly pro-Right to Work members to their state House of Delegates. Prior to the elections, just

16 of the chamber's members had gone on record in opposition to the firing of employees for refusal to bankroll a union," explained Mr. Mix.

"Thanks to the major shift in the composition of the House of Delegates, this year the chamber's former minority leader, Republican Tim Armstead [Kanawha County], will be the speaker. And Mr. Armstead is an unabashed advocate of making West Virginia a Right to Work state.

"Moreover, a number of rank-and-file West Virginia legislators have already expressed strong public support for debating and voting on Right to Work legislation this year."

*See Laws Sought page 2*



**Largely because Right to Work states' economic growth consistently exceeds the U.S. average, the share of U.S.**

**private-sector employees residing in Right to Work states has been expanding for decades.**

# New State Right to Work Laws Sought

Continued from page 1

One very notable example is Saira Blair, an 18-year-old West Virginia University freshman and incoming delegate (R-Martinsburg) who will be the youngest active lawmaker in the U.S. this year.

## Kentucky Court: ‘Political Subdivisions’ Have ‘No Power’ to Bar Forced Dues

When Eliza Gray of *Time* magazine asked Ms. Blair what she intended to do in Charleston after first ousting a 67-year-old GOP incumbent in a May primary election and then defeating union-label Democrat Layne Diehl in the general election, the incoming delegate focused immediately on employee freedom:

“I’ve watched too many people get a high school and college education and then leave the state because they cannot get a good-paying job. I want to get jobs to West Virginia and one of the biggest ways would be making West Virginia a Right to Work state.”

In addition to West Virginia, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, New Mexico,

Pennsylvania, Montana, Missouri, Delaware and Maine are some of the states where legislative debates and roll-call votes on Right to Work measures are likely or very possible this year.

One other way elected officials have recently responded to intensifying public support for the Right to Work is to try to address the evils of compulsory unionism at the local level.

Just before this edition of the National Right to Work Newsletter went to press, one county (Warren) in Kentucky adopted an ordinance prohibiting forced union dues and fees, and two other Bluegrass State counties (Fulton and Simpson) seemed to be moving towards adoption of similar measures.

Mr. Mix commended pro-Right to Work Kentucky legislators in Warren County, especially the two Democrats who voted “aye,” for standing up to United Auto Workers (UAW) and other union bosses who have viciously attacked them.

Unfortunately, although the Warren County leaders’ hearts are in the right place, the only way Kentucky citizens can really protect employees’ Right to Work is

to fight with all their strength for passage of a statewide Right to Work law.

The fact is, in 1990, a federal court ruled in *Local 1564 v. City of Clovis* that, under the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act, cities and other localities may not protect private-sector employees from being fired for refusal to bankroll a union. Even if state lawmakers have explicitly authorized localities to safeguard the Right to Work, they can’t, the opinion indicated.

And in 1965, the Kentucky Court of Appeals similarly overturned a local Right to Work ordinance.

According to the holding of the Kentucky court, “Congress has preempted the field of regulation of [forced union dues and fees] to the extent that local political subdivisions of a state have no power to legislate” in the field.

## ‘There Is No “Royal Road” to Right to Work Passage’

The reality is that it takes strong grass-roots mobilization programs, carefully planned and implemented by Right to Work supporters over multiple election cycles, to pass a statutory ban on compulsory unionism that will withstand Big Labor legal attacks and truly protect workers’ freedom of choice.

In assessing Kentucky localities’ current efforts to combat Big Labor, Mr. Mix commented:

“Euclid is said to have replied to King Ptolemy’s request for an easier way of learning mathematics that ‘there is no royal road to geometry.’”

“Multiple attempts by well-intentioned citizens in state after state to deal with the scourge of forced union dues and fees quickly by somehow circumventing opposition in their state legislatures have all proven futile.

“Just as there is ‘no royal road to geometry,’ there is no ‘royal road’ to Right to Work passage.

“The only proven means of counterbalancing Big Labor’s forced dues-funded clout is to get Right to Work supporters actively involved in lobbying their legislative candidates on this issue through state Survey programs.

“Through persistent work over the course of several election cycles, citizens can indeed bring about fundamental change in the character of their state legislatures. And such change will ultimately lead to passage of Right to Work legislation.”



CREDIT TO: SAIRA BLAIR CAMPAIGN PHOTO

Incoming West Virginia Delegate Saira Blair (R-Martinsburg), the youngest active state legislator in the U.S. today,

focused on passage of a state Right to Work law during her successful campaign.

# Committee Members' Free Speech in Jeopardy

## *Your Signature May Stop the FEC From Trampling on Your Rights*

This month the National Right to Work Committee is providing supporters across the country with a much-needed opportunity to protect themselves, one by one, from Big Labor-friendly bureaucrats at the Federal Election Commission (FEC).

Given FEC bureaucrats' long track record of bullying pro-Right to Work Americans who try to exercise their First Amendment rights, this is an opportunity you can't afford to pass up.

Over the years, FEC lawyers have repeatedly buried Right to Work officers under mountains of harassing subpoenas about the Committee's Survey program, which informs members about which U.S. senators and congressmen support Right to Work -- and which ones don't.

### **FEC's Biased Definitions Of 'Member' Have Been Rejected by Courts**

Starting three decades ago, the FEC has tried to concoct rules that disqualify some or even all Right to Work members from "true" membership status.

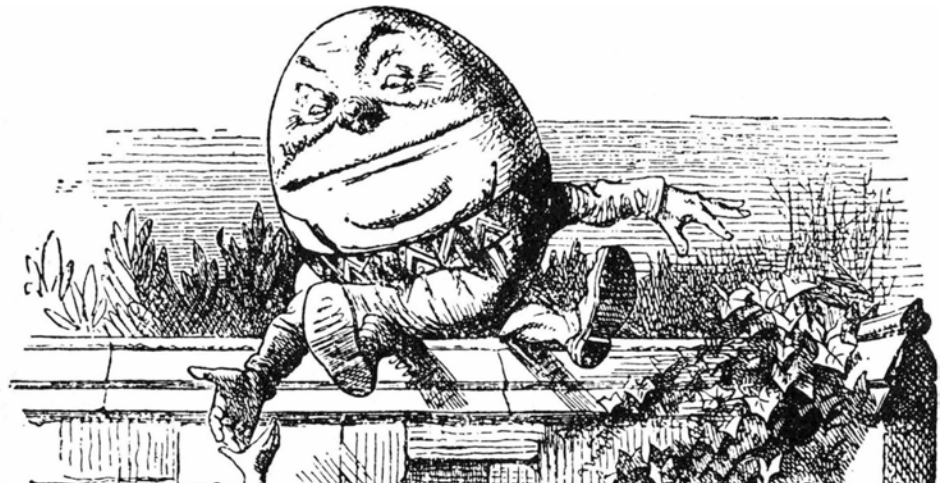
Many members would thus be denied a voice in the legislative process.

Fortunately, Right to Work attorneys and attorneys representing other citizens' groups have succeeded time and time again in getting the FEC's artificial and biased definitions of "member" and "membership organization" struck down in court.

But as a safeguard, the Committee has long encouraged members to certify each year that they still consider themselves to be members and wish to retain the freedom to participate fully in the Committee's federal lobbying activities.

Of course, Committee supporters' signed membership ballots cannot prevent every kind of FEC harassment -- such as the sweeping demand for Committee documents made by FEC lawyers a few years ago in connection with the Committee's successful efforts to overturn the so-called "Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002."

(Until the U.S. Supreme Court eliminated this law's tight restrictions on the ability of the Committee and other



CREDIT: JOHN TENNIEL/THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

**Echoing Humpty Dumpty as imagined by Lewis Carroll in *Through the Looking Glass*, FEC bureaucrats have long insisted**

**that the word "member" means "exactly what" they "choose it to mean, neither more nor less."**

grass-roots groups to expose anti-Right to Work politicians' records through TV and radio ads, it steepened the electoral playing field's tilt in favor of Organized Labor.)

### **Mark Mix Urges Members To Return Ballots Promptly**

However, your signed and returned ballot will make it almost impossible for the FEC to declare that you have no associational free-speech rights.

To make it easy for Right to Work supporters to certify their Committee membership, Committee President Mark Mix, working with independent attorney Michael Avakian, recently sent out letters including membership ballots and pre-posted reply envelopes all around the country.

"The Committee is fighting for our freedom to ask all members -- including new members who have not yet had an opportunity to fill out a membership ballot -- to participate in our efforts to get federal candidates to pledge to support Right to Work," said Mr. Mix.

"But signing and returning a membership ballot is the quickest and easiest way for each individual Right to Work member to protect his or her rights.

"If you don't want the FEC ever to tell you that you have no right to be informed where your presidential and U.S. Senate and House candidates stand

on Right to Work or to lobby them to change their position when appropriate, then the smartest thing you can do this month is sign and return your ballot to the Committee.

"Please verify that you got your letter and ballot in the mail.

"And then try to return your ballot immediately, so you can't possibly forget."

### **Letters Also Seek Members' Input Regarding Committee Legislative Objectives**

Mr. Mix's letters also include surveys allowing members to offer their opinions on how much of the Committee's resources should be devoted to federal and state lobbying programs over the coming year.

"Many members care most of all about our efforts to secure U.S. House and Senate votes on a national Right to Work law this year," said Mr. Mix.

"But other members want us to focus on passing new state Right to Work laws and protecting existing ones. These are also very important battles.

"We need a wide variety of members' input and their ever-more generous financial support in order to combat effectively the Big Labor political machine, which is estimated to spend roughly \$1.7 billion in mostly compulsory-dues money on politics and lobbying over the course of every two-year election cycle."

# Big Labor Pension Promises Prove to Be Hollow

*'I Never Dreamed They Would Pull the Rug Out From Under Us'*

In one of the most controversial actions undertaken during the lame-duck session of Congress that just concluded, lawmakers in both chambers voted to approve a measure altering 40 years of federal law to pave the way for unprecedented cuts in benefits for current retirees in troubled multi-employer pension plans.

Media reports estimated that the pensions of 1.5 million future and current retirees, the vast majority if not all of them unionized, could be reduced by 30% or more as a consequence of the legislation, which President Obama signed into law on December 16.

## 'The Question Is When And How [Benefit Cuts Are] Going to Happen'

The deal was harshly denounced by habitual allies of Big Labor in the media such as Michael Hiltzik of the Los Angeles Times. Mr. Hiltzik warned that it would allow trustees to "slash the benefits of already retired workers to shreds."

But the fact is, the so-called "Solutions, Not Bailouts" (SNB) plan could never have been adopted without the support of the bosses of several unions whose rank-and-file members face pension "shreddings."

In 2013, William Hite, general president of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry (UA), endorsed the original SNB plan issued by a commission on multiemployer pension reform.

Mr. Hite declared that this proposal, which ultimately served as the blueprint for legislation introduced by Reps. George Miller (D-Calif.) and John Kline (R-Minn.) and adopted by Congress, would make "retirement plans in our industry more secure."

Tom Nyhan, executive director of the Teamster Union's Central States Southeast and Southwest Areas Pension Fund, was unapologetic about the fact that the SNB plan would cut retiree benefits sharply:

"We are going -- it's not a question of if there are going to be benefit cuts. There are going to be benefit cuts. The question is when and how they are going to happen."



CREDIT: AP/JULIE JACOBSON

Today, retirees who paid forced union dues for years feel betrayed by Teamster kingpin Jim Hoffa (pictured

here with Vice President Joe Biden) and other union officials who promised them safe pension benefits.

The SBN plan was worthy of support, Mr. Nyhan continued, because it would "provide a measure of retirement security," though "maybe not at the level [forced dues-paying unionized workers] thought they were going to get . . ."

## Retirees Would Be Far Better Off if Only Union Bigwigs Had Leveled With Them Before

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen commented:

"Over the course of much if not most of their working lives, the current and future retirees who belong to the plumbers, Teamsters, sheet metal workers, and other unions whose pension plans are now under the knife were forking over forced dues and fees to Big Labor bosses.

"And one of the handful of jobs that union officials were supposed to do in exchange for the millions and millions of dollars in conscripted money they took in was to ensure that the pensions those workers had been promised were there when the workers needed them.

"But now it's clear that a large share of forced dues-paying workers in multiemployer plans did not have secure pensions -- and union pension trustees and other union officials who had access to the books must have been aware there was a grave problem for decades.

"But plumbers, Teamster, and sheet metal worker union officials only began sharing the truth with the rank-and-file quite recently, when they backed the establishment of a multiemployer pension commission and then endorsed the severe cuts it recommended."

Last month, as the Miller-Kline legislation speeded through Congress, Michael Fletcher of the Washington Post reported that many unionized retirees "feel betrayed."

Mr. Fletcher quoted 66-year-old Greg Smith, a shipping clerk who retired in 2011 "with a \$3000-a-month pension after 42 years on the job": "I never dreamed they would pull the rug out from under us."

Mr. Leen acknowledged that, as sad as the plight of retirees like Mr. Smith is, the legislation just adopted by Congress authorizing pension cuts might be the least-bad solution if the only other alternatives are a massive taxpayer bailout of multiemployer pensions and doing nothing.

"Of course," noted Mr. Leen, "if Big Labor had only been honest with workers about their pensions from the start, people like Mr. Smith would have had time to prepare. This is a distressing and powerful illustration of just how little union bosses deserve their forced-dues privileges." 📌

# Will Big Labor's Chattanooga Power Grab Succeed?

## *Union Dons Want VW to Ignore Worker Vote Against UAW Monopoly*

It's been less than a year since a clear majority of the front-line employees at the Volkswagen (VW) plant located in Chattanooga, Tenn., voted against handing United Auto Workers (UAW) union bosses monopoly power to bargain with their employer on matters related to pay, benefits, and work rules.

By casting their ballots against "exclusive representation" by UAW officials, VW production employees opted to retain the labor policy, in effect since the plant's opening in 2010, under which any worker is free to discuss his or her views on compensation and work-rule issues with managers. Managers are similarly free to listen, respond, and act on what they hear.

### **Union Bosses Insist VW Has Secretly Agreed to Hand Workers Over to Them**

Had UAW officials been certified as employees' monopoly-bargaining agent, any manager who had dealings with employees regarding their complaints about UAW policies would have been potentially culpable of an "unfair labor practice" for which VW could have been branded as a lawbreaker.

But thanks to workers' secret-ballot vote, supporters and opponents of the UAW union, as well as fence-sitters, remain free to communicate back and forth with VW management.

This does not sit well with UAW union President Dennis Williams and Secretary-Treasurer Gary Casteel.

UAW bosses are now unabashedly calling on VW executives to give the recently created UAW Local 42 "exclusive" negotiating privileges without a secret-ballot vote.

Mr. Williams and Mr. Casteel insist VW can legally do this because a putative majority of the company's front-line employees are now Local 42 "members," but many independent-minded workers at the facility strenuously contest this union-boss assertion.

And UAW bosses have definitely not made public any evidence whatsoever that what they claim is true.

Rather than appeal to workers, Mr. Casteel boasts that the union hierarchy is "in discussions with the company" regarding "what the pathway is to exclusive representation."



CREDIT: ERIK SCHELZIG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Under VW's current labor policy at its Chattanooga assembly plant, any worker is free to discuss his or her**

**views on compensation and work-rule issues with managers. This does not sit well with UAW bosses.**

It can and will happen virtually without employee input, Mr. Casteel insisted in a December interview with the *Chattanooga Times-Free Press*, citing a "commitment" VW allegedly made in Germany several months ago to "recognize the UAW" as employees' monopoly-bargaining agent.

### **VW Executives Have Already Bent Over Backwards to Help UAW Union Organizers**

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Mary King pointed out that Mr. Casteel's contention that he and his cohorts have forged a secret deal with VW chiefs is at least somewhat credible, because the company has certainly bent over backwards to help UAW organizers in the past.

The company's behavior during the run-up to last February's up-or-down vote over UAW monopoly representation is illustrative, Ms. King added. (It is worth noting this vote occurred only after employees opposed to a union monopoly, assisted by National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation attorneys, collected more than 600 signatures for a petition stating they did not want to have the UAW foisted on them.)

"Over the course of the nine days between when the election was

announced and its onset," Ms. King recalled, VW "allowed union activists to canvass inside the plant, while forbidding employees opposed to unionization an equal chance to argue the other side," as a *Washington Times* editorial reported at the time.

"Federal labor law clearly prohibits an employer from granting one side in a certification campaign access to its work areas, while denying access to the other. Some company executives were evidently willing to take the risk of being charged with violating the law in order to ensure a UAW victory.

"More recently, VW set up a rigged 'certification' process that supposedly confirmed at least 45% of Chattanooga's production workers are union members, and thus entitled UAW officials to hold biweekly talks with top managers and be granted regular plant access.

"So far, however, VW executives have refused to acquiesce to UAW kingpins' wishes that a similar process be used to make the union the sole spokesman for union members and nonmembers alike with regard to workplace policies.

"Of course, if such an anti-worker sweetheart deal is forged, Right to Work attorneys stand ready to help the many freedom-loving VW employees in Chattanooga fight back." 🗳️

# Eroding ‘Choice to Remain Unrepresented’

## President Obama’s NLRB Bureaucrats Bolster Monopolistic Unionism

Back in the 1990’s, radical union lawyer Craig Becker publicly complained about the fact that U.S. labor law does not “mandate” union monopoly bargaining in the workplace.

Specifically, Mr. Becker thought it was very problematic that U.S. labor law does not require employees in a workplace to select an “exclusive” union bargaining agent, if they don’t want to. In Mr. Becker’s ideal world, employees would have no individual or collective “choice to remain unrepresented.”

And in March 2010, President Barack Obama did the bidding of the union hierarchy by “recess” appointing Mr. Becker to the powerful National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Thanks to strong grass-roots opposition, largely mobilized by the National Right to Work Committee, Mr. Becker never secured a full-term NLRB appointment. Instead, since 2012, he has been co-general counsel to the AFL-CIO.

And today the NLRB is taking major steps towards implementing Mr. Becker’s extremist vision of what federal labor policy should be.

### ‘Christmas Came Early For Big Labor Bosses’

On December 12, the NLRB, now made up entirely of Obama appointees, gave its final approval to a scheme to impose sweeping changes to decades-old procedures under which Big Labor may obtain monopoly control over workers.

One obvious effect of the package of new rules adopted by the Obama NLRB will be to sharply reduce the current



**Lauren McFarren, the latest Obama NLRB appointee, formerly worked for rabidly pro-Big Labor Sen. Tom Harkin.**

CREDIT: CENTER FOR PROGRESSIVE REFORM

median time frame of 38 days between the filing of a petition and the conduct of a union election.

Committee Vice President Greg Mourad commented: “During a union certification drive, it can take some time for employees to decide if they want to campaign against unionization, how to do it, and what to say to their coworkers.

“By giving such employees two weeks or less between the time they learn an election will occur and the conduct of the election, the new NLRB rules will, in practice, sharply curtail their ability to speak against unionization.” (For an example of how “ambush elections” work in practice, see page five.)

Other provisions in the certification-campaign overhaul mandate that employers hand over employee phone

numbers, e-mail addresses, and work schedules to union organizers within two days after an election is directed.

Employers will be required to hand over to union organizers the personal information of all employees who potentially may be unionized, including even employees who expressly ask their employer not to do it.

Mr. Mourad concluded, “Taken as a whole, the NLRB’s new ambush union organizing election rules will make unionization campaigns even more-sided and stifle the rights of employees who may prefer to remain union-free. Christmas came early for Big Labor bosses as the Obama NLRB has made its most brazen move yet to increase union bosses’ power to corral workers into union ranks.”

### ‘Lame-Duck’ Senate Rubber-Stamped Tom Harkin Aide For NLRB Seat Last Month


Barring a successful court challenge, this severe curtailment of employees’ “choice to remain unrepresented” will go into effect this April.

And the controversial \$1.1 trillion “cromnibus” spending bill adopted by the “lame-duck” Congress last month furnishes funding for the NLRB until the end of September without putting any restrictions on implementation of its “ambush election” rules.

Consequently, the soonest the new Congress, in which Right to Work supporters will be significantly more numerous, can act to protect independent-minded workers from the Obama NLRB will be this fall.

“Freedom-loving Americans who want to stop the NLRB’s forced-unionism extremists in their tracks this year or next will have their work cut out for them,” acknowledged Mr. Mourad.

The battle over the NLRB became even more steeply uphill on December 8, when the lame-duck Senate handed a full, five-year NLRB term to Lauren McFerran, Barack Obama’s latest NLRB nominee.

Ms. McFerran previously worked as a top aide to Senate Labor Committee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), a tunnel-visioned proponent of handing more coercive privileges to union officials who is retiring this month. 

## NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

[www.nrtwc.org](http://www.nrtwc.org)

January 2015

Written and Distributed by:

**National Right to Work Committee®**  
8001 Braddock Road  
Springfield, Va. 22160  
E-mail: [Members@NRTW.org](mailto:Members@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

**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](mailto:stg@nrtw.org)

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.

# Right to Work to Play Offense

Continued from page 8

such as the “card check” forced-unionism bill, which sailed through the House in 2007. In early 2009, shortly after Barack Obama became the 44th U.S. president, this scheme seemed close to becoming law.

But in 2010, a full-fledged Committee effort to get federal candidates on the record against the “card check” bill, or “Employee Free Choice Act,” as proponents cynically mislabeled it, surpassed expectations in increasing the number of Right to Work supporters in Congress.

## Momentum Swings Toward Right to Work

To activate Right to Work supporters in 2014, the Committee distributed a total of roughly 5.5 million federal candidate Survey “information packets” through the U.S. Postal Service. 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 TV and newspaper advertising.

Lobbying by Committee members persuaded hundreds of House and Senate candidates to take a pro-Right to Work position, which in turn helped many get elected.

That’s not surprising, given the Right to Work principle’s overwhelming public support. “The

political momentum is now against forced unionism,” said Mr. Mix.

“Instead of just fending off repeated Big Labor attempts to wipe out the meager protections for workers’ freedom as individuals in current federal labor law, Right to Work advocates are ready to go on the offensive in Congress.

“This year, it won’t be enough for self-avowed Right to Work allies on Capitol Hill to oppose union-boss legislation. Pro-Right to Work Americans want the politicians they supported to help them regain the freedoms Congress has previously abrogated.”

According to Mr. Mix, Committee members will know Mr. Boehner, Mr. McConnell, and other congressional leaders are truly committed to fulfilling the pro-Right to Work pledges they, along with many other candidates, made if they ensure hearings and floor votes on legislation such as:

**The National Right to Work Act**, which would restore millions of employees’ freedom to hold a job without being forced to pay union dues by repealing compulsory-unionism authorizations in federal law.

**The Freedom from Union Violence Act**, which would close a judicially-created loophole in the 1946 Hobbs Act. Under the U.S. Supreme Court’s controversial, 5-4 decision in 1973’s *U.S. v. Enmons*, thuggish union officials and their agents are exempted

from Hobbs Act prosecutions for extortionate threats, vandalism and violence as long as these crimes are committed to advance so-called “legitimate union objectives.”

## Big Labor Retains Control Over Federal Agencies

Although the cumulative impact of the congressional elections that have occurred since President Obama moved into the White House is now creating opportunities for Right to Work supporters, Mr. Obama and his appointees will, of course, retain the power to promote forced union membership for years to come.

And the Obama team sent a clear signal of its intent to continue ignoring election returns on December 12, when three militant proponents of forcing workers to pay union dues appointed by the President issued new regulations radically revising longstanding procedures for union organizing campaigns.


The Obama National Labor Relations Board’s (NLRB) new rules are designed to dramatically shorten the time individual workers have to share information with their fellow employees about the possible downsides of unionization.

The new rules also mandate that the employer hand over employee phone numbers and e-mail addresses to union organizers at the outset of each certification campaign.

(For more information regarding the Obama NLRB’s latest attack on the Right to Work, see page six.)

“Fortunately,” said Mr. Mix, “Right to Work supporters in Congress retain the ‘power of the purse string’ to block NLRB implementation of its ‘ambush election’ scheme as soon as this fall.

“However, despite their pro-Right to Work pledges, it is not clear at this time whether John Boehner and Mitch McConnell have the will to do whatever is necessary to stop the NLRB in its tracks.

“Committee officers will be watching the new congressional leaders closely to see how they react to the NLRB power grab. And I’m confident Committee members will be willing and able to let these leaders know what they need to do to protect the Right to Work.” 



CREDIT: WWW.CRISTYLI.COM

Despite the setbacks he has suffered in congressional elections, union-label President Barack Obama and his

appointees will, of course, retain the power to promote monopolistic unionism for years to come.

# Will Capitol Hill Restrain Big Labor President?

## *Politicians Pledging to Back Right to Work Hold Reins of Congress*

Thanks in part to the efforts of National Right to Work Committee members across the country, starting this month both chambers of the U.S. Congress will be headed by elected officials who have pledged full support for Americans' Right to Work without being forced to join or pay dues to a union.

Now Committee members' job is to make sure that U.S. House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), and other members of Congress turn their pro-Right to Work promises into action.

### **Mr. Boehner, Mr. McConnell Owe Leadership Posts to Worker-Freedom Advocates**

Mr. Boehner and Mr. McConnell enjoy their top leadership positions on Capitol Hill in part due to pro-Right to Work Americans' support for congressional candidates nationwide who have pledged to oppose compulsory unionism.

Four years ago this month, Mr. Boehner became House speaker after millions of pro-Right to Work Americans mobilized against candidates who supported compulsory unionism, or tried to hide their position on freedom in the workplace.

Now, in the wake of an election year in which 30 Senate seats came up for



CREDIT: AP

**John Boehner (R-Ohio, left) and Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) enjoy their top leadership positions on Capitol Hill in**

**part due to years of grass-roots activism by Americans who oppose government-authorized compulsory unionism.**

grabs for the first time since Big Labor zealot Barack Obama became President, union bosses have lost operational control of the Senate and seen their House strength shrink to its lowest level in more than three-quarters of a century.

The freedom-loving citizens who brought about this remarkable change in the composition of Congress since 2010 expect Mr. Boehner and Mr. McConnell to lay the foundation for a new federal labor policy, declared Committee President Mark Mix.

This new policy, Mr. Mix continued, would respect each employee's ability to decide for himself or herself whether

or not to join or financially support a union. "Poll after poll shows nearly four out of five Americans who regularly vote support the Right to Work," explained Mr. Mix.

"By first helping John Boehner become the House leader, and then by helping Mitch McConnell become the Senate leader, pro-Right to Work Americans sent an unmistakable message to Capitol Hill -- roll back Organized Labor's compulsory-unionism privileges."

Over the past four years, voters have firmly rejected Big Labor power grabs

*See Play Offense page 7*

## **Another Anti-Right to Work Senator Ousted**

On December 6, three-term Big Labor U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) was soundly defeated by her 100% pro-Right to Work challenger, Congressman Bill Cassidy (R), in a runoff election necessitated by the fact that no candidate had received a popular vote majority in the Pelican State's November 4 "jungle" primary.

Ms. Landrieu thus became the fifth anti-Right to Work Senate incumbent, along with union-label Sens. Mark Begich (D-Alaska), Kay Hagan (D-N.C.), Mark Pryor (D-Ark.), and Mark Udall (D-Colo.), to be ousted in 2014. Except for Mr. Begich, all were defeated by unabashedly pro-Right to Work challengers.

Louisiana voters were clearly angry about a series of votes Ms. Landrieu had cast at Big Labor's behest over the past few years.

### **Ms. Landrieu Cosponsored 'Card Check' Scheme**

For example, in 2009 Ms. Landrieu voted to kill a national Right to Work law 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.

The following year, Ms. Landrieu voted, this time unsuccessfully, to stifle a pro-Right to Work extended debate

and ram through police/fire monopoly-bargaining legislation, which would have corralled into unions currently independent public-safety officers across the country.

And in 2007, Ms. Landrieu cosponsored and voted for the "Card Check" Unionization Bill, which would have virtually eliminated secret-ballot voting for union certification and handed Big Labor a huge new weapon to force workers into unions.

"Mary Landrieu's unabashed forced-unionism advocacy and her support for the Big Labor-backed 'Affordable Care Act,' otherwise known as ObamaCare, were both important factors in her defeat last month," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.