



# NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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## Big Labor Targets Fence-Sitting Senators *Committee Program to Highlight Forced-Unionism Issue in Key Races*

Six years ago this November, voters across most of the country sent two clear messages to Big Labor politicians on Capitol Hill:

They were dismayed by what the politicians had done at union lobbyists' behest, and determined to stop them from doing more of the same.

For example, millions of freedom-loving citizens were furious with their incumbent politicians for having unsuccessfully backed Big Labor's "card check" forced-unionism bill.

Two of the bitterest 2010 electoral defeats for union-label President Barack Obama (D) and his Administration were the ousters of anti-Right to Work U.S. Sens. Russ Feingold and Arlen Specter in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, respectively.

Mr. Feingold and Mr. Specter (who passed away in 2012) were replaced by two candidates pledging 100% opposition to compulsory unionism, Republicans Ron Johnson (Wis.) and Pat Toomey (Pa.).

### Union Political Machine Now Gearing up to Recapture Senate Leadership Positions

The "shellacking" that President Obama grudgingly acknowledged voters dealt his congressional allies in 2010 was not so complete as to dethrone Big Labor politician Harry Reid (D-Nev.) from his perch of Senate majority leader.

But a second shellacking of Capitol Hill's union-boss lackeys by angry voters in late 2014, when former "card-check" cosponsors Mary Landrieu (D-La.) and Mark Pryor (D-Ark.) went down to defeat, finally consigned Mr. Reid to his chamber's minority caucus.

This fall, AFL-CIO czar Richard



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**AFL-CIO czar Richard Trumka boasts, "We'll have literally millions of phone calls, leaflets, door knocks,**

**[and] rallies," largely to install one of his lackey politicians as Senate majority leader.**

Trumka and his cohorts are determined to take back the reins of the Senate.

Last month, Mr. Trumka boasted to *Washington Post* reporter Kelsey Snell about the vast electioneering scheme, funded primarily by union dues and fees forked over by millions of employees on pain of losing their jobs, he has in the works for 2016:

"We'll have literally millions of phone calls, leaflets, door knocks, rallies and seminars."

Drawing on a variety of published sources, the National Institute for Labor Relations Research estimates that Big Labor spent roughly \$1.7 billion on politics and lobbying in 2013 and 2014.

Since the 2015-16 campaign cycle features an extraordinarily unpredictable presidential election, it's safe to assume Mr. Trumka and his fellow union bosses will siphon off even more money from Big Labor's forced-dues treasuries than they did the last time around.

And the union hierarchy will be funneling a disproportionately large share of its forced-dues-fueled money and manpower into states with "competitive Senate battles," notably including Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

### 'Keeping a Low Profile' Doesn't Help Senators Stay Out Of Big Labor's Cross-Hairs

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented:

"Ron Johnson, Pat Toomey, and Charles Grassley [R-Iowa] are three of the U.S. senators whom the union bosses are most optimistic about being able to defeat as part of their bid to remove Mitch McConnell [R-Ky.] from his Senate majority leadership position and replace him with one of their puppets.

"In addition to being high on Big Labor's political 'hit list,' these three

*See Federal Survey page 2*

# Federal Survey Prods Candidates

Continued from page 1

senators have at least two other important things in common.

“They all pledged to support Right to Work across-the-board during their successful 2010 campaigns.

“However, none of them has, up to now, cosponsored legislation to revoke the forced-dues privileges granted to Big Labor by federal law in the current Congress.

“Perhaps Sens. Johnson, Toomey and Grassley think that, if they keep low profiles on the Right to Work issue this year, Big Labor will be less likely to wage an all-out campaign to unseat them.

“But the fact is, ‘keeping a low profile’ has never been a good way for an elected official to stay out of union kingpins’ cross-hairs.”

## Committee’s Goal Is to Revoke Longstanding Big Labor Privileges

To convince fence-sitting politicians to cosponsor and seek roll-call votes on national Right to Work legislation and also persuade Big Labor politicians to change course and stop supporting compulsory unionism, the Committee recently launched its federal Survey 2016 program.

As many Committee members know, the federal survey asks candidates to commit themselves to oppose forced unionism and support national Right to

Work legislation if elected.

(Current senators who are seeking reelection, such as Mr. Johnson, Mr. Toomey, and Mr. Grassley, are also asked to demonstrate they mean what they say by cosponsoring S.391, the federal forced-dues repeal measure now before their chamber.)

Senate and House candidates are given several chances to return their surveys and answer 100% in favor of American employees’ Right to Work.

This year, as in previous federal election years, millions of grass-roots Right to Work supporters are being mobilized to lobby candidates to respond to their Committee surveys.

## Ideal Is For All Candidates to Oppose Forced Unionism

“All major-party candidates as well as key significant third-party and independent candidates in every Senate and House race are asked to participate in the Right to Work survey program,” said Mr. Mix.

“And pro-Right to Work citizens in every state where there’s a Senate race and every House district are contacted and requested to help turn up the pressure on their candidates to respond to their surveys.

“But the Committee pours the vast majority of its survey resources and

mobilizes far more freedom-loving activists for Senate and House races that are at least potentially close and in which at least one candidate has taken a strong stand in favor of Right to Work.”

The ideal for Right to Work leaders and members alike, said Mr. Mix, is for all the general-election candidates in a race to vow to oppose forced unionism.

But at the very least Right to Work supporters want one major-party candidate in each close race this November to be a credible opponent of Big Labor’s monopoly privileges.

“If, for example,” he said, “the Committee’s grass-roots mobilization over the next few months persuades Ron Johnson, Pat Toomey, and Charles Grassley to reaffirm what they said in their 2010 campaign pledges by cosponsoring S.391, that will be a major step in the right direction for Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Iowa citizens.

“And let’s suppose the Survey 2016 program does not succeed in persuading the yet-to-be determined fall opponents of Mr. Johnson, Mr. Toomey, and Mr. Grassley to join them in supporting Right to Work.

“In that case, the Committee will do everything feasible to let freedom-loving people in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Iowa know about the contrasting positions of their Senate candidates on the Right to Work issue.

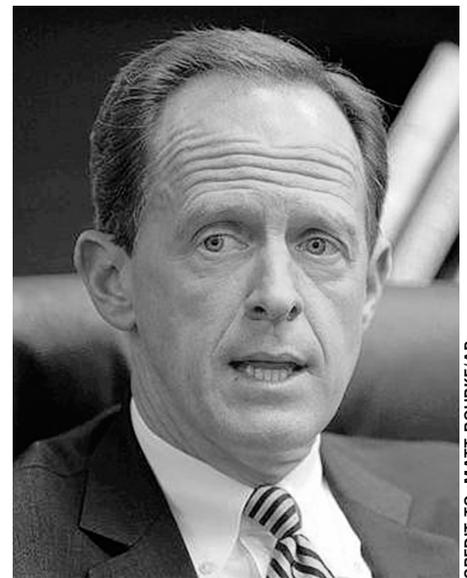
“I’m confident that, if there is a choice between a strongly pro-Right to Work candidate and a union-boss candidate, the pro-Right to Work candidate can prevail in all three states.”



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CREDIT TO: MATT ROURKE/AP

Sens. Charles Grassley (left), Ron Johnson (center), and Pat Toomey all pledged full support

for employees’ Right to Work in 2010. But none of the three is now cosponsoring federal forced

dues-repeal legislation. All the same, Big Labor is targeting all three for defeat this year.

# Some Workers Are ‘More Equal’ Than Others?

## *Michigan Politician Selectively Favors ‘Tyranny of the Majority’*

It was three years ago last month that Michigan’s Right to Work law, adopted in December 2012 over the loud and angry objections of Big Labor bosses, first took effect.

The only thing this law does is prohibit the firing of employees for refusal to pay dues or fees to a union they don’t want, and never asked for.

Since March 2013, thousands and thousands of Michigan employees who are harmed, economically or otherwise, as a consequence of being subject to Big Labor monopoly bargaining have exercised their freedom under the 24th state Right to Work law to stop bankrolling the union that is hurting them.

### **Key Purpose of American Constitution Is to Protect Private Decision-Making**

Polls and recent election results alike show that Michiganders overwhelmingly agree the individual employee ought to have the prerogative to withhold financial support for a union if he or she believes it is unnecessary or is doing a poor job.

Unfortunately, Big Labor Michigan politicians like state Rep. Robert Kosowski (D-Westland) are still trying to gut the Right to Work. And to accomplish his goal, Mr. Kosowski is willing to trample the U.S. Constitution.

Under the principles of limited government, public decisions are generally made by majority rule, but private decisions are not unless all parties affected by the decision agree to it.

Protecting the ability of the individual to make personal decisions without being bound by others’ dictates was a key objective of our Founding Fathers when they forged the Constitution two-and-a-quarter centuries ago.

### **Right to Work Foes Oppose Free Choice For Employee Who Opposes Unionization**

The vast majority of Americans today want to preserve the liberties treasured by our Founding Fathers.

That’s why no one seriously claims that, when a majority of the defendants in a criminal case choose to be represented by one attorney, all the defendants have to be represented by that lawyer.



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**The individual employee has an unconditional legal right to support a union financially without being fired as**

**a consequence. But Rep. Kosowski opposes equal protection for any employee who doesn’t want a union.**

And when a majority of businesses in a community join and pay dues to the local chamber of commerce, other businesses remain free not to support it. No one questions that that is their prerogative.

But Right to Work foes insist there should be a glaring labor-law exception to the principle that private parties who refuse to consent to group decision-making can’t be legally bound by the decisions of the group.

Just like many other Americans, Right to Work foes endorse the provisions in federal law and every state law that protect the worker’s individual right to join and bankroll a union, even if a majority of his or her fellow employees don’t want one.

However, Right to Work foes like Mr. Kosowski oppose equal protection for the individual employee who doesn’t want a union.

His or her right not to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union must hinge on what other employees think, they insist.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen commented: “To paraphrase George Orwell’s *Animal Farm*, Rep. Kosowski believes some workers are ‘more equal’ than others.”

### **Committee Members Will Vigilantly Defend Right To Work in Michigan**

“In late February,” Mr. Leen continued, “Mr. Kosowski introduced two measures

that would gut the Wolverine State’s Right to Work law by making it permissible to fire an employee for refusing to pay money to a union he or she would never join voluntarily.

“The two bills, H.B.5398 and H.B.5399, would permit such firings as long as the majority of the employees in a ‘bargaining unit,’ or a supermajority of those voting in an ‘election’ over the imposition of a forced-dues regime, side with Big Labor.

“It would be shocking if a union-friendly politician like Mr. Kosowski didn’t regard the individual worker’s freedom to join and bankroll a union as a right that must be, as U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson famously put it in his 1943 *Barnette* opinion, ‘beyond the reach of majorities and officials.’

“At the same time, Mr. Kosowski wants to make individual employees’ ability to withhold financial support for a union they haven’t joined contingent on the opinions of union members.

“The only plausible explanation for Mr. Kosowski’s selective advocacy of a ‘tyranny of the majority’ is that he cares only about what’s good for union bosses, and not a whit about what’s good for employees.”

Mr. Leen vowed that Committee members would do everything necessary to ensure H.B.5398 and H.B.5399 are defeated, and fight vigilantly to defend the Right to Work in Michigan. 🗳️

# Right to Work States Lead U.S. in Job Growth

## *New Research Cites Greater Technological Dynamism as Key Factor*

On March 14, the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) issued its estimates for 2015 annual payroll employment in the 50 states.

The BLS also issued revised state payroll-employment estimates going back a number of years.

Last month's release added yet another layer to the pile of evidence that new job seekers and employees vying for better opportunities alike benefit from the accelerated economic growth experienced in states, now 26 in number, that prohibit compulsory union dues and fees.

### **Right to Work States' Job Gain 68% Greater Than Forced-Dues States'**

According to new and revised data now available on the BLS web site, from 2005 to 2015 private-sector payroll employment in Right to Work states grew by 9.7%.

That increase is 68% greater than the one achieved by forced-unionism states as a group.

(Because Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin recently adopted Right to Work laws that took effect in 2012, 2013 and 2015, respectively, they are excluded from this analysis.)

Since the 26th Right to Work state, West Virginia, did not prohibit forced

union dues and fees until this year, it is counted as a forced-unionism state here.)

In addition to data from the BLS, other federal agencies, and nonpartisan private groups showing accelerated economic growth in Right to Work states, a growing number of scientific studies offer compelling evidence that prohibiting forced unionism as a job condition actually fosters faster growth.

### **Results 'Point to a Direct Impact' of Right to Work on 'Firm-Level Output Per Worker'**

For example, the Winter 2016 edition of the *Cato Journal* features a research article, entitled "New Evidence on the Effect of Right-to-Work Laws on Productivity and Population Growth," and authored by Ball State University (Muncie, Ind.) economist Michael Hicks and two associates.

The three scholars' analysis focuses in part on the relationship between Right to Work policies and total factor productivity (TFP), which they define as "the growth in output attributable to technological change in the capital and base model."

Their results "point to a direct impact of location" in a Right to Work state "on productivity, as measured by firm-level output per worker," based on "a random sample of almost 50,000 manufacturing

firms in 2007."

"The hard, objective statistics from the U.S. Labor Department as well as scientific research found in the *Cato Journal* and other publications help show why H.R.612 and S.391 are extraordinarily important pieces of legislation," commented Mary King, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

H.R.612 was introduced in January 2015 by pro-Right to Work Congressman Steve King (R-Iowa.).

S.391 was filed the following month by Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), a stalwart foe of compulsory unionism.

### **Restoring Employees' Personal Freedom Is Primary Purpose Of H.R.612 and S.391**

"H.R.612 and S.391, also known as the National Right to Work Act, would simply repeal the current federal labor-law provisions that authorize compulsory union dues and fee payments as a condition of employment," Ms. King explained.

"When forced-dues repeal becomes law, private-sector employees in all 50 states will have the freedom to choose as individuals whether or not to join or pay dues to a union, without facing job loss as a consequence of their decision.

"Restoring the personal freedom of millions of American employees is the direct and primary purpose of H.R.612 and S.391.

"This legislation wouldn't add one word to federal law.

"But of all the economic reforms Congress may consider this year, King-Paul would probably have the strongest impact for incomes and jobs.

"With all due respect to the research done on the effects of Right to Work protections by scholars like Dr. Hicks, it's really just common sense that compulsory unionism is economically detrimental.

"When you divert vast sums of forced-dues money into the hands of union bosses who favor higher taxes on everybody and more red-tape regulation of business, you get less job creation.

"And I'm confident that, once forced-dues repeal is adopted and signed into law, it will spur job growth in all 50 states." 📌



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Indiana economist Michael Hicks is the lead author of a new research article finding that manufacturing-

sector total factor productivity in forced-unionism states is only 57-64% "of the level" in Right to Work states.

# Government Union-Boss Extortion Pays Off To Avert New Jersey Strike, Taxpayers Forced to Pay a High Price

Roughly 105,000 daily commuters to and from New York City depend on New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ Transit) trains to get to work. But on March 13, union bosses who wield monopoly-bargaining power over 4200 rail employees of state-owned NJ Transit were ready to order them off their jobs.

Had the strike occurred, NJ Transit would by its own account only have been able to provide expanded bus services for roughly 40,000 of its rail commuters. That means 65,000 would have been left without a reliable way to get to and from the Big Apple.

Late on March 11, Gov. Chris Christie (R) and other New Jersey officials knuckled under to union-boss blackmail in order to avert a strike.

## Transit Union Kingpins 'Won on Just About Every Point in the Deal . . .'

The headline given on the NJ.com web site to a March 15 story filed by Larry Higgs, the commuting reporter for NJ Advance Media and the Newark, N.J.-based *Star-Ledger*, aptly summed up the outcome of the government-sector strike:

Transit union bigwigs "won on just about every point in the deal . . ."

What interest is so important to rail union bosses that they were willing to hold the New York City region hostage to advance it?

According to media reports, the main issue over which a transit rail strike nearly occurred last month was Big Labor's insistence that no more than 2.5% of unionized government employees' base cash pay (not including overtime) be used to help cover the cost of their health insurance.

In other words, union kingpins demanded that the overwhelming majority of the cost continue to be covered by transit passengers and New Jersey taxpayers as additional compensation, above and beyond government employees' cash pay. And Big Labor prevailed.

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented:

"It's common for well-paid employees of successful private-sector companies in New Jersey and elsewhere to have 10% or more of their cash compensation deducted from their paychecks to help pay for their health and dental insurance.



CREDIT TO: FOX BUSINESS

**Mark Mix: Achieving genuine reform in the Garden State "will be a long, difficult process."**

"Yet union bosses who hold monopoly power to speak for NJ Transit employees insisted that they pay no more than a quarter of what private employees with company-provided health insurance routinely pay -- and transit users and taxpayers will have to cover the rest!"

## New Jerseyites' State-and-Local Tax Burden Already Third Highest in U.S.

"Forced-unionism New Jersey already has a state-and-local tax burden equivalent to 12.2% of personal income, higher than all but two other states," Mr. Mix noted. "And NJ Transit passenger fares covered only about 47% of the cost of operations

last year.

"Now it seems likely even heavier burdens will be inflicted on NJ Transit passengers and state taxpayers in the near future so that union bosses can perpetuate an ultimately unsustainable system.

"To prevent rail union bosses from ever again threatening commuters and businesses with a paralyzing strike, state lawmakers and Gov. Christie ought to move promptly to revoke government-sector union bosses' monopoly-bargaining privileges.

"But the sad fact is, the New Jersey Legislature is currently dominated by Big Labor politicians who are totally uninterested in protecting taxpayers and people who rely on vital public services from predatory government unionism."

## Taxpayers Fork Over \$1 Billion Annually to Subsidize Unionized Transit Agency

"Moreover," Mr. Mix continued, "even if there were better legislative leadership, Gov. Christie has never demonstrated he would be up for a fight to curtail public-sector union bosses' special privileges.

"Achieving genuine labor-policy reform in the Garden State will be a long and difficult process.

"But the status quo can't continue. NJ Transit has already raised fares on passengers twice in a little more than five years, including a 25% hike in 2010. This agency is kept afloat by more than \$1 billion a year in taxpayer subsidies. Eventually, the public will say, 'Enough's enough.'" 

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# 'It's Kind of an Airy, Dismissive Attitude'

## Judge Berates Obama Bureaucrats for Violating Workers' Privacy

Right to Work advocates are hopeful that a federal judge's willingness to stand up to union-label President Barack Obama's National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) bureaucrats will help steel the spines of congressional leaders to do the same.

For well over a year now, the National Right to Work Committee and its members have been urging Congress to use its appropriations power to block implementation of the NLRB's "ambush election" scheme.

Key provisions in this sweeping overhaul of the procedures through which Big Labor may obtain "exclusive" bargaining control over workers force employers to hand over employee phone numbers, e-mails, and work schedules to union bosses within three days after an election is directed.

Last month, a three-judge panel on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit heard oral arguments in a legal challenge to the NLRB power grab brought by the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of Texas.

(The National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, the Committee's sister organization, has submitted a brief in the case supporting the ABC challenge on behalf of independent-minded employee clients.)

### 'We Told the Unions Not to Misuse [the Information], So That Solves the Problem?'

At the hearing, NLRB lawyer Marissa Ann Wagner tried to defend her clients' insistence that employers hand over to union organizers the personal information of all employees who may be unionized, including even employees who expressly ask their employer not to do it.

Despite appearances to the contrary, the Obama NLRB is "sensitive" to employee privacy concerns, she claimed. But Judge Catharina Haynes was having none of it.

"See, I'm not seeing the sensitivity," she told Ms. Wagner.

"I'm just seeing the [NLRB] go, 'Oh, well, yeah, could be a problem, but we told unions not to misuse [the information], so that solves the problem.' It's kind of an airy, dismissive attitude."

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Greg Mourad commented:



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**Last month, Judge Catharina Haynes decried the lack of "sensitivity" regarding employee personal**



CREDIT TO: U.S. HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

**information displayed by President Obama-appointed NLRB Chairman Mark Pearce and his cohorts.**

"Based on the statements made by a majority of the judges on the panel, there's a good chance the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals will rule against the Obama NLRB's ill-disguised effort to bolster monopolistic unionism.

"NLRB Chairman Mark Pearce, an ex-union lawyer, and his cohorts' manifest aim is to make it almost impossible for aggressive, high-pressure unionization campaigns to fail.

"Toward that end, they are willing to violate employees' privacy and curb their ability to share information with one another about the possible ill effects of unionization."

### Court Battle Against 'Ambush Election' Scheme Could Easily Drag on For Years

Mr. Mourad cautioned Right to Work supporters that a Fifth Circuit ruling against NLRB bureaucrats, assuming it happens, will only be a first step toward quashing the "ambush election" scheme.

"The Fifth Circuit has jurisdiction only over districts in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi," Mr. Mourad pointed out.

"And if the Fifth Circuit panel rules against Mr. Pearce and company, they will almost certainly file an appeal with the Supreme Court. In the meantime, Big Labor-dominated appellate courts in other regions of the country may well rule in the NLRB's favor.

"It could easily take years before there is a judicial resolution of the 'ambush election' scheme.

"Fortunately, pro-Right to Work U.S. representatives and senators can wield Congress's appropriations power to stop the NLRB in its tracks much sooner than any court would likely be able to do so."

### Appropriations 'Rider' Could Rein in Rogue NLRB, But It Won't Be Easy

Mr. Mourad called on House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Minn.) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) to allow floor votes this year on FY 2017 appropriations measures including a "rider" that bars the NLRB from continuing to implement the "ambush election" rules it put into effect in April 2015.

"Congress has the constitutional power to rein in the NLRB, but union-label President Barack Obama will almost surely veto any appropriations measure that does that," Mr. Mourad acknowledged.

"And overriding such a veto, or persuading the President to back down, will be extraordinarily difficult.

"Until a pro-Right to Work President is elected, protecting employees and business owners from NLRB extremism will remain an uphill battle. But it's one freedom-loving Americans and lawmakers specifically must fight." 

# State Laws Only a Partial Remedy

*Continued from page 8*

dues contracts forged prior to the West Virginia Right to Work law's effective date expire, the Mountain State still won't be able to protect all of its employees from compulsory unionism."

## Congress Has the Duty to Correct the Evils Federal Labor Policy Sustains

"Because of federally-imposed loopholes," Mr. Mix explained, "union bosses will still wield the power to get West Virginia airline and railroad employees and employees on so-called 'exclusive federal enclaves' fired for refusal to pay dues or fees.

"Fortunately, H.R.612 and S.391 would close these loopholes, which were drilled into every state Right to Work law by Congress and the federal courts.

"The West Virginia victory shouldn't blind us to the fact that Congress even today is perpetuating the problem of private-sector forced union dues.

"Ultimately, Congress must solve it for once and for all by passing the National Right to Work Act."

Mr. Mix emphasized that Committee members and legislative staff are pressing for hearings and floor votes on both of the two pending federal Right to Work measures.

## Americans Overwhelmingly Oppose Forced Unionism

H.R.612, the House Right to Work Bill, and S.391, the upper chamber's Right to Work Bill, have a total of 139 sponsors as this Newsletter edition goes to press.

H.R.612 was introduced by Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa), while S.391 was introduced by Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.).

"After roll-call Right to Work floor votes in the House and Senate, concerned citizens across the country will know for sure which of their federal elected officials support employee freedom of choice, and which are Big Labor stooges," Mr. Mix explained.

"That alone will make a major difference. Poll after poll shows nearly 80% of Americans who regularly vote in federal elections support the Right to Work principle. Politicians who ignore what their constituents think and vote to perpetuate forced union dues may well suffer ballot-box repercussions down the

road."

To illustrate the point, Mr. Mix pointed out that, back in 2009, then-Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) had, with the Committee's assistance, put his entire chamber on the record concerning an amendment that would have revoked Big Labor's forced-dues and forced-fee privileges.

## After Voting in Favor of Forced Dues, Five Senators Were Defeated in 2014

And in 2014, five senators who had voted to kill the DeMint Amendment, and thus force hardworking Americans to continue bankrolling a union to get or keep a job, were defeated at the polls as the Committee's candidate survey program put a spotlight on their anti-Right to Work records.

"Today, Big Labor politicians Mark Begich [D-Alaska], Kay Hagan [D-N.C.],

Mary Landrieu [D-La.], Mark Pryor [D-Ark.], and Mark Udall [D-Colo.] are no longer in the Senate, in part because they were unable to hide their support for union bosses' special privileges," noted Mr. Mix.

"And except for Mr. Begich, all of these senators were defeated by strong pro-Right to Work challengers.

"But unless National Right to Work succeeds in getting recorded House and Senate floor votes on forced-dues repeal legislation in the current Congress, freedom-loving voters in key contested races this fall will not be as well-informed as Alaska, North Carolina, Louisiana, Arkansas and Colorado voters were in 2014."

Mr. Mix called on Committee members across the country to join with him in lobbying House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Minn.) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.).

"Let them know you want them to do everything they can to ensure that Americans' Right to Work without being forced to join or pay dues to a union is protected," urged Mr. Mix. 🗳️



At the outset of Ronald Reagan's second presidential term in 1985, barely more than a third of Americans

lived in Right to Work states. Now it's reasonable to predict that soon more than half will.

# Right to Work Backers Have Come a Long Way

## *Even After Recent State Victories, Movement Still Has Far to Go*

Thanks primarily to statutes adopted by four states over the course of barely more than four years, the share of all Americans living in Right to Work states has risen from 40.3% in 2010 to an estimated 48.5% today.

Back in 1955, the year the National Right to Work Committee was founded, just 28.2% of all Americans enjoyed the protection of state bans on compulsory union dues and fees.

Committee President Mark Mix commented: “The progress that Committee members, now 2.8 million strong, and their allies have made over the years is certainly worth celebrating.

“But Right to Work stalwarts won’t be satisfied until no employee, public or private, in any state faces termination for refusal to join or bankroll an unwanted union.”

### **Just Two Months Ago, West Virginia Became the 26th Right to Work State**

On February 12, pro-Right to Work West Virginia legislators overrode Big Labor Democrat Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin’s veto to make the Mountain State the 26th to prohibit union officials from forcing employees to consent to fork over a portion of their paychecks in order to get or keep a job.

And the West Virginia statute was adopted just 11 months after Wisconsin approved the 25th state Right to Work law in March 2015.

Two other Great Lakes states, Indiana and Michigan, passed bans on compulsory union financial support in 2012.

“The rapid-fire progress at the state level ought to help persuade congressional leaders to allow House and Senate floor votes on legislation to repeal the federal authorization for forced union dues and fees,” said Mr. Mix.

### **‘Collectivistic Style Of Unionism . . . Is Way Out of Touch’**

In a column written subsequently to the three Midwestern states’ handing victories to Right to Work supporters, but well before West Virginia followed suit, attorney, think-tank director, and regular *Forbes* contributor George Leaf

commented on the victories’ significance:

“The old, coercive and collectivistic style of unionism enshrined in the 1935 NLRA [National Labor Relations Act] is way out of touch with modern realities and its appeal is fading fast. . . . More states are apt to enact [Right to Work] statutes to avoid losing out on business investment . . . .”

Compulsory unionism has always been opposed by most Americans, but today it does seem clear that public support for the Right to Work has over time become even more lopsided and intense.

“More and more federal politicians as well as state legislators and governors are getting the message regarding the importance and the strong appeal of the Right to Work issue,” said Mr. Mix.

“In recent years, elected officials and candidates in Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and a host of other states have benefited by highlighting their support for the Right to Work principle during their campaigns.

“Clearly, it’s time for Congress to consider the National Right to Work Act [H.R.612/S.391], which would repeal the federal labor-law provisions authorizing forced union dues.”

H.R.612 and S.391 would abolish the

provisions in the NLRA and the 1951 Railway Labor Act (RLA) Amendment that give the federal seal of approval for terminating employees who refuse to pay union dues or fees.

### **Bad Federal Policy Is the Reason West Virginia Had to Pass a Right to Work Law**

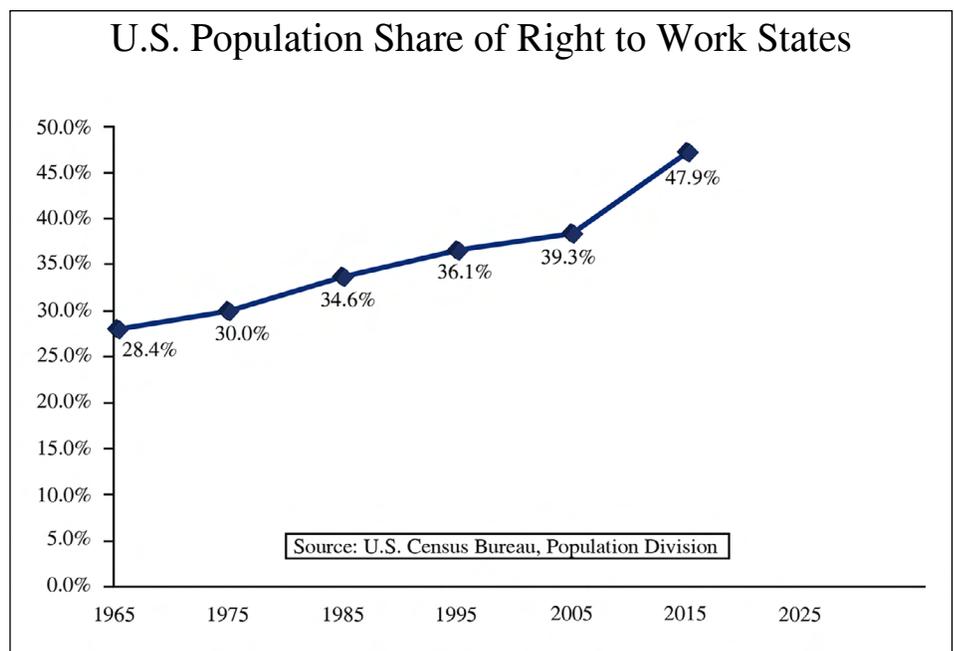
Because it denies employees who oppose irresponsible union bosses’ straitjacket work rules and hate-the-boss class warfare the freedom to fight back by cutting off their dues, federal labor law ultimately slows productivity growth and makes America poorer.

“Right to Work supporters’ entirely appropriate jubilation about our string of four state victories in four years shouldn’t cause us to forget that it’s Congress, not any state legislature, that spawned the evil of private-sector forced union dues in the first place,” said Mr. Mix.

“The only reason West Virginians had to battle against the Big Labor machine for years to enact a Right to Work law is that Congress imposed forced unionism on their state, just as it did on the 49 other states.

“Moreover, even after all the forced-

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**With the passage of the West Virginia Right to Work law this year, an estimated 48.5% of all Americans now**

**enjoy the protection of state bans on forced union dues and fees. But the problem’s main source is federal law.**