NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 65, NUMBER 9 www.nrtwc.org September 2019

Beltway Big Shots Target Local Public Workers

Pervasive Government-Sector Unionization Linked to Higher Taxes

Today special-interest laws on the books in more than 30 states explicitly force local governments, under certain conditions, to hand monopoly-bargaining control over some or all of their front-line civil servants to Big Labor.

State laws promoting so-called "exclusive" union representation in public workplaces have made union bosses like American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) kingpin Lee Saunders and American Federation of Teachers (AFT) czarina Randi Weingarten into political powerbrokers.

Government union chiefs wield enormous clout over taxpayers and politicians.

However, thanks to the determined and persistent opposition of National Right to Work Committee members, the union political machine has so far not succeeded in ramming through Congress legislation federally mandating union monopoly-bargaining control over state and local public employees nationwide.

credited t: U.S. House, Committee on Education and the Workforce.

As Right to Work staff attorney Glenn Taubman (right) told a U.S. House panel this March, "[F]orcing an individual to be represented by a private organization is antithetical to American values of free speech and free association."

Considered Decisions of State Lawmakers Would Be Overturned

Now rabidly pro-forced unionism U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) and Congressman Matt Cartwright (D-Pa.) are out to eliminate the sovereign authority of states to protect their own employees and employees of their localities from government union-boss tyranny.

On June 25, Ms. Hirono and Mr. Cartwright simultaneously introduced in their respective chambers the cynically mislabeled Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act (S.1970 and H.R.3463).

This legislation would force hundreds of thousands of American teachers, police officers, firefighters, and other public employees to accept, as their monopoly-bargaining agent, a union they never voted for and want nothing to do with.

This federal power grab would obliterate state statutes in North Carolina and Virginia that expressly prohibit officers of those states and their localities from delegating a portion of their authority to set the terms and conditions of employment for civil servants to government union chiefs.

It would also override the wishes of generations of lawmakers in states like Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, and South Carolina who have again and again rejected demands by union lobbyists that they pass legislation to foist monopoly bargaining on state and local public employees.

Testifying before a U.S. House panel this March, National Right to Work staff attorney Glenn Taubman cited the most compelling reason of all why Congress should not go down this road:

"[F]orcing an individual to be represented by a private organization is antithetical to American values of free speech and free association."

State Monopoly-Bargaining Density Closely Correlated With Higher Taxes

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented:

See **Usurpers** *page 2*

Congressional Usurpers

Continued from page 1

"While public servants who value their personal freedom to affiliate or not affiliate with a private organization are the primary victims of government-promoted union 'exclusivity,' many other citizens are also harmed.

"For example, everyone who pays state and local taxes has a stake in opposing monopolistic unionism in public workplaces.

"Government union bosses are the most aggressive advocates of higher taxes and more government spending in state capitals as well as in Washington, D.C.

"While bigwigs of unions like AFSCME and the AFT push hard for Tax & Spend policies everywhere, they naturally do so with greater success in states that authorize and promote union monopoly bargaining over public workers' terms and conditions of employment."

Mr. Mix pointed to a recent analysis by the National Institute for Labor Relations Research demonstrating a close correlation between the pervasiveness of union monopoly control over public employees in a state and its overall state-local tax burden as a share of income.

Under Government Unionism, a Lower Return For Taxpayers On Their Education Dollar

The Institute ranked the 50 states according to their share of public servants who were subject to union monopoly bargaining in 2016, using data reported in the 2017 edition of the *Union Membership and Earnings Data Book*, edited by labor economists Barry Hirsch and David Macpherson and published by Bloomberg BNA.

The Institute next looked at these data in conjunction with data on state-and-local tax collections in 2016 as reported by the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center.

"Among the 17 states with the highest share of public employees under union monopoly control," noted Mr. Mix, "state and local taxes combined consumed 11.0% of all personal income in 2016.

"That represents an aggregate state and local burden 22% higher than the aggregate burden for the 16 states ranking in the middle for monopoly-bargaining density and 26% heavier than the average for the 17 states where government union bosses wield the least coercive power over public employees.

"In other words, every year, residents of government-union-stronghold states have to work an average of an extra week, plus an extra Monday after that, just to pay off their state and local taxes, compared to residents of states where relatively few, if any, public employees are forced to accept union representation.

"In addition to having a lighter burden, citizens in low-union-density states apparently get a better return on their tax dollar.

"A landmark 2018 study by economist Stan Liebowitz and researcher Matthew Kelly showed that six of the nine states where ethnically and racially diverse students do best relative to how much schools spend are Texas, Virginia, Arizona, Georgia, North Carolina and Colorado.

"All of these states either expressly prohibit or do not statutorily authorize union monopoly bargaining in K-12 public education."

Hirono-Cartwright is so extreme it would force many, if not all, states that already authorize union monopoly bargaining in the public sector to grant even more sweeping special privileges to government union bosses.

Credit: Troy R. Bennett, Bangor (Maine) Daily News

Even union-label Maine Gov. Janet Mills scoffs at the idea that control over public workplaces should be ceded to Big Labor-friendly "arbitrators." Radical D.C. politicians want to mandate anti-taxpayer "binding arbitration" anyway.

'Forfeiting This Responsibility Is Contrary to the Principle Of Representative Democracy'

For example, this legislation would mandate that the terms and conditions of employment for unionized public workers be set by private "arbitrators" if public officials and government union chiefs reach an "impasse" in their negotiations.

Forced-unionism Maine is one of many states with a monopoly-bargaining statute that currently do not require such anti-taxpayer "binding arbitration."

In fact, just this summer, Democrat Gov. Janet Mills, elected in 2018 with the support of many union officials, vetoed a binding-arbitration bill, explaining that there are "good reasons why our state has previously rejected this approach."

Ms. Mills elaborated: "To delegate to private binding arbitrators the authority to set [salaries, pensions and insurance] is to forfeit a fundamental responsibility of our school boards, city councils, town select boards, boards of trustees and governmental branch leaders.

"Forfeiting this responsibility is contrary to the principle of representative democracy . . . ."

Freedom-Loving Citizens Must Prepare to Launch a Grassroots Counterattack

"S.1970/H.R.3463 is so extreme it would wipe out even minimal constraints on Big Labor 'exclusivity,'" commented Mr. Mix. "It is alarming that nearly 150 members of Congress had already cosponsored this scheme by the beginning of August.

"Fortunately, with avowed Right to Work supporters currently serving as President and Senate majority leader, S.1970/H.R.3463 is unlikely to become law this year or next.

"But depending on the outcome of the 2020 elections, a bid to federalize government-sector union monopoly bargaining could become a major threat in less than a year-and-a-half. That's why the Committee is already preparing to help freedom-loving citizens nationwide launch a grassroots counterattack."

Right to Work's Documented Economic Benefits

A 'Positive Effect on Employment, Output and Personal Income'

All across America, Right to Work states have long benefited from economic growth far superior to that of states in which millions of employees are forced to join or pay dues or fees to a labor union just to keep their jobs.

And union bosses and their allies have long tried to argue that no one should pay any attention to the data showing that Right to Work status is correlated with faster growth in jobs and aggregate employee compensation.

In recent years, however, Big Labor's task in trying to distract public attention from forced-unionism states' comparatively poor economic performance has become increasely difficult.

Economists Contend Right To Work Laws *Cause* Accelerated Growth

A key reason why is documented in scholarly studies that identify an undeniable positive relationship between the presence of a Right to Work law and accelerated economic growth.

A 2018 overview by Jeffrey Eisenach, an economist currently affiliated with NERA Economic Consulting, the American Enterprise Institute, and George Mason Univiersity, summarized the growing body of evidence regarding the economic impact of state Right to Work laws.

As Dr. Eisenach noted at the outset of his May 2018 paper ("Right to Work Laws: The Economic Evidence"), much of the debate over Right to Work laws, now on the books in 27 states, "has focused on their potential economic impact."

Dr. Eisenach, a specialist in issues concerning market competition, regulation and consumer protection, has written or edited 19 books and monographs, and served as a vice president of the Economic Club of Washington, D.C., from 2011 until 2018.

His paper cited the findings of earlier studies regarding the impact of Right to Work laws and forced unionism by economists such as Thomas Holmes of the University of Minnesota, Michael Hicks of Ball State University in Indiana, and Barry Hirsch of Georgia State University.

Dr. Eisenach concluded that, other things being equal, "businesses are more likely to locate in states" with Right to Work laws.

There is also evidence, he added, that Right to Work laws have "a direct, positive effect on employment, output, and personal income."

'Businesses Are More Inclined to Open Plants' In Right to Work States

Economic models indicating that Right to Work protections for employees foster higher capital investment levels and enhanced productivity, leading to higher employee pay and more job security, are consistent with straightforward comparisons of growth performance, emphasized Dr. Eisenach.

The data backing up researchers' conclusion that "businesses are more inclined to open plants" in Right to Work states than in non-Right to Work states are especially strong.

For example, U.S. Census Bureau data cited by Dr. Eisenach show that, from 2001 to 2015, the number of private firms located in the 22 states that were already Right to Work as of 2001 grew by 10.2%.

That increase is nearly seven times as great as the paltry overall gain of just 1.5% for the 25 states that were still forced-unionism as of 2015.

(See the chart below for more information.)

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Greg Mourad commented:

"The vital protections state Right to Work laws furnish for personal freedom and the economic energy they foster have been a boon for the entire country."

Mr. Mourad continued:

"Unfortunately, under the pro-forced unionism National Labor Relations Act and Railway Labor Act, millions of employees in the 23 non-Right to Work states and even some employees in Right to Work states are still forced to fork over money to Big Labor bosses in order to keep their jobs.

"The Committee and its 2.8 million members and supporters are determined to abolish such unjust coercion of workers from coast to coast."

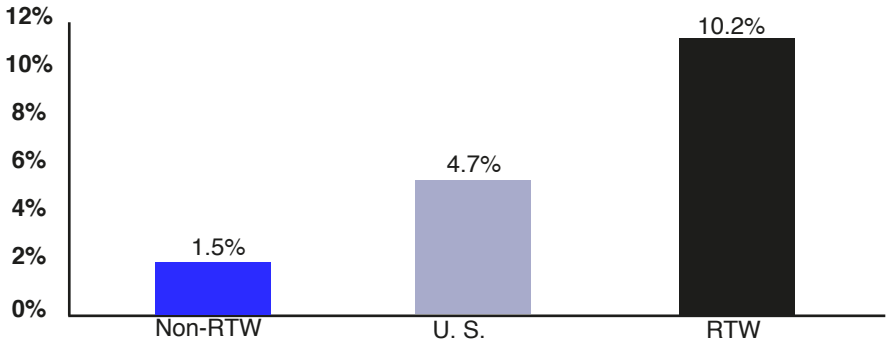
Committee Leads Charge For Bill Repealing Forced Dues Nationwide

"Adoption by Congress of S.525/H.R.2571, the National Right to Work Act, would be a major step in the right direction," said Mr. Mourad.

"S.525/H.R.2571 would repeal all the current forced-dues provisions in federal labor law, ensuring that every private-sector employee in America has the Right to Work.

"And thanks primarily to Right to Work members' persistent lobbying of their elected officials, as of the beginning of August, 70 U.S. representatives and 21 U.S. senators had already signed on as sponsors of federal compulsory-dues repeal."

Figure 10. **Change in Number of Firms (2001 - 2015)**



Source: US Census Bureau. Note: [1] Data exclude the District of Columbia and US Territories. [2] RTW includes states that had RTW legislation enacted in or before 2001.

Credit: Chart reproduced from "Right-to-Work Laws, The Economic Evidence" by J. Eisenach for NERA Economic Consulting, May 2018.

A growing body of economic literature suggests businesses are more inclined to locate in Right to Work states than in forced-unionism states. And, as economist Jeffrey Eisenach recently noted, real-world experience strongly supports such findings.

Resolved: Children Aren't NEA Dons' 'Priority'

Teacher Union Activists Expressly Refuse to Focus on Education

This summer, roughly 6,000 National Education Association union operatives and activists, having gathered in Houston for their highly political organization's annual convention, considered a host of non-binding resolutions directing the NEA as a whole to take certain actions.

Out of the more than 160 such "business items" proposed this year, a motion pledging that the NEA would "re-dedicate itself to the pursuit of increased student learning," might have seemed to an outside observer to be the least likely of all to meet with any opposition.

No One Should Be Surprised By Anti-Learning Vote

As education-policy specialists Nat Malkus and R.J. Martin noted in a post-convention commentary for the American Enterprise Institute, the resolution exhorting the NEA to make "the development of students as lifelong reflective learners" its "priority" contained "no obvious poison pills."

Nevertheless, the NEA convention delegates unceremoniously rejected it!

"Anyone who has even a passing familiarity with how teacher union bosses across America operate understands that NEA officials' agenda is bound to conflict with the best interest of schoolchildren," said National Right to Work Committee Vice President John Kalb.

"Of course, some people might suppose the union brass would at least be worried about the PR consequences of openly acknowledging that the NEA hierarchy doesn't protect the interests of schoolchildren.

"But teacher union delegates' bald-faced rejection in July of the notion that student learning should be their 'priority' is not unprecedented."

Interests of Talented, Hard-Working Teachers Are Also Routinely Shortchanged

More than 40 years ago, appearing on *ABC News Closeup*, the president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT/AFL-CIO) sent basically the same message to the public that the convention of the U.S.'s other nationwide teacher union conveyed in July.

In a broadcast airing on May 27, 1976, Al Shanker, who headed the AFT from 1974 until his passing in 1997, said:

"I don't see a voice for students in the bargaining process; I think it's one of the facts of life . . . . It's very much like a strike, let's say, or negotiations in the private sector. The consumer, basically, is left out."

Credit: David Bloomfield

More than 40 years ago, then-American Federation of Teachers union President Al Shanker (pictured at left in this 1979 photo) openly acknowledged in an interview that teacher union officials don't protect the interests of schoolchildren.

Mr. Kalb commented: "Effectively, Mr. Shanker believed that the interests of schoolchildren are 'left out' of the process, now mandated by law in more than 30 states, in which union officials act as teachers' monopoly-bargaining agents, and that it's pointless to worry about that, because it's a 'fact of life.'

"And schoolchildren aren't the only people whose interests are 'left out' of the monopoly-bargaining process.

"The interests of many talented and hardworking teachers also get shortchanged.

"It is thanks largely to the impact of monopolistic unionism that school systems across the country, in the words of Obama Education Secretary Arne Duncan, 'pay teachers billions of dollars each year for earning credentials that do very little to improve the quality of teaching.'

"Meanwhile, as Mr. Duncan further noted, 'many schools give nothing at all to the teachers who go the extra mile to make a difference in students' lives.'"

Today, there is not a single one of the 50 states where education policymaking is free from the inordinate influence of teacher union bosses.

However, thanks in large part to the persistent and determined lobbying efforts of Right to Work members and supporters, 15 states have refused to impose mandatory union bargaining over teachers' pay, benefits, and work rules.

North Carolina, Virginia Statutes Prohibit All Government-Sector Bargaining

"For decades, with the National Committee's leadership, Right to Work members have successfully opposed Big Labor schemes to repeal or gut the state statutes in North Carolina and Virginia that expressly prohibit any government-sector bargaining," noted Mr. Kalb.

"An additional 13 states do not currently have and have never had a court decision, statewide statute, or constitutional provision forcing K-12 public school employers to engage in any form of bargaining with any union.

"And according to a carefully documented 2018 study for the Cato Institute, states that expressly prohibit or at least do not statutorily authorize monopoly bargaining in K-12 public education typically do a better job of educating schoolchildren at a more reasonable cost to taxpayers."

‘Do Your Job Act’ Introduced on Capitol Hill

Right to Work Leader: Legislation a ‘Step in the Right Direction’

For decades, federal union bosses have been paid by U.S. taxpayers to file “unfair labor practice” charges against the government, often on behalf of unmotivated and/or unruly federal employees.

This is, of course, a completely indefensible misuse of taxpayers’ money.

Unfortunately, longstanding federal policies empower government union bosses who are also governement employees to conduct a wide array of union business activities while billing taxpayers for their time and expenses.

Doing business on the taxpayer dime is commonly referred to, with a nod to George Orwell, as “official time.”

Official time stems from widespread union monopoly bargaining at federal agencies such as the Department of Veterans Affairs.

According to the White House’s Office of Personnel Management, in 2016 federal employees racked up a total of 3.6 million “official-time” hours during which they were compensated by taxpayers to represent a union rather than do the government job they are paid to do.

On July 26, shortly after conferring with Committee President Mark Mix, pro-Right to Work Congressman Francis Rooney (R-Fla.) introduced legislation to stop taxpayer-funded Big Labor lobbying and class warfare in the federal civil service.

Union Bigwigs Insist It’s Their ‘Constitutional Right’ to Bill Taxpayers For Union Work

When Donald Trump first took office as President, National Right to Work leaders urged him to use his executive power to curtail abusive official time.

And Mr. Trump clearly understands there is a problem.

In May 2018, he signed Executive Order 13837, which aims to lessen the anti-taxpayer impact of official time.

E.O.13837 prohibits lobbying on federal time, prohibits government managers from allowing union bosses to use federal property for free, and prohibits the use of federal time to file union grievances against federal employers.

But top officers of federal government unions are determined to prevent even this modest curtailment of their special privileges from ever taking effect.

Just weeks after E.O.13837 was issued, American Federation of Government Employees President J. David Cox and other federal union chiefs filed suit against the Trump Administration.

In August 2018, a district judge largely upheld their complaint in a lawless ruling that simply ignored the plain fact that Mr. Cox and his cohorts were required to bring their arguments before the Federal Labor Relations Authority before going to court.

The district judge’s decision was recently overturned, but her injunction against enforcing E.O.13837 remains in place as this Newsletter edition goes to press.

Meanwhile, top federal union bosses are contending in a separate lawsuit that even modest regulatory curtailments of official time violate the First Amendment!

Pending House Legislation Would Mitigate Harm Inflicted By Monopolistic Unionism

National Right to Work President Mark Mix commented:

“The claim of federal union kingpins and their lawyers that President Trump and his appointees don’t even have the authority to put limits on this monopolistic union scheme is absurd and unlikely to prevail in the end.

“But the Trump Administration’s ability to prevent taxpayer abuses on its own definitely is limited by the fact the Civil Service ‘Reform’ Act [CSRA] of 1978 explicitly authorizes official-time deals between managers and union bosses.

“That’s why H.R.4090, a bill introduced on July 26 by pro-Right to Work Florida Congressman Francis Rooney, represents an important additional step in the right direction.

“Mr. Rooney’s bill, which he aptly calls the ‘Do Your Job Act,’ would repeal the two provisions in the CSRA that authorize official time and bar federal agencies from paying Big Labor operatives to conduct union business.”

Law Herding Federal Workers Into Unions Should Be Voided

Mr. Mix vowed that the Committee and its members would help mobilize grassroots support for H.R.4090 and push for hearings and roll-call votes on this legislation.

But he argued that a more sweeping solution is needed to end the abuses perpetrated against independent-minded civil servants and taxpayers by government union bosses.

To achieve this goal, repeal of the entire CSRA is needed, Mr. Mix argued:

“The CSRA statutorily imposes union monopoly bargaining over federal employee disciplinary procedures and other work rules.

“Effectively, this Jimmy Carter-era law makes power-mad federal union bosses like J. David Cox co-managers over hundreds of thousands of civil servants.

“As a consequence of the CSRA, union bosses have the power to block federal managers from assigning workers to new tasks, changing their shifts, or even disciplining them for shoddy work.

“The sooner the CSRA is gone, the better.”

Union Dons Retain Vise Grip Over Apprentices

New Labor Department Head Can Green-Light Union-Free Training

Shortly before resigning as U.S. labor secretary this summer amid rising fury over his handling in 2008, while serving as a U.S. attorney in Miami, of a plea deal with alleged serial child sex abuser Jeffrey Epstein, Alexander Acosta plainly made a sweetheart deal with top construction union bosses.

Under the Department of Labor (DOL) proposed expansion of apprentice programs, released just a couple of days after Mr. Acosta had announced his resignation, no construction training programs will be approved, at least initially, and perhaps ever. Currently, programs in the building trades account for more than half of all apprentices registered by the DOL.

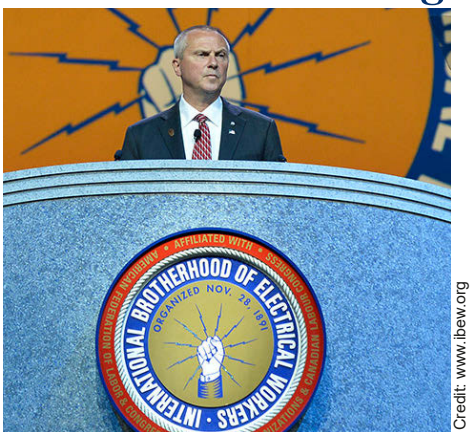
Not surprisingly, top union bosses were delighted by the exclusion.

'No Registration May Be Granted Without Giving . . . Unions a Chance to Object'

They know all too well that current federal and state laws and regulations typically make it very difficult for non-union construction firms and their partners to establish registered programs to train building-trades workers.

Consequently, independent builders must often go hat-in-hand to discriminatory Big Labor training and hiring halls to find apprentices who can participate in their projects.

A key reason why is a New Deal-era law approved by ideologically blinkered politicians who actually believed they could fight the Great Depression by reducing the number of union-free construction apprenticeships.



Credit: www.ibew.org

Union bosses like Lonnie Stephenson clearly swayed Alex Acosta to protect their apprenticeship fiefdom.

Under the National Apprenticeship Act of 1937 (NAA), the U.S. labor secretary has wide discretion to allow or stop the registration of apprenticeship programs.

However, as Dr. Charles Baird, an emeritus professor of economics at California State University, East Bay, who specializes in labor policy, has pointed out, "to this day no registration may be granted without giving construction unions a chance to object."

President Donald Trump took a significant step to mitigate the enormous harm the eight-decade-old NAA continues to cause in June 2017, when he issued Executive Order 13801, instructing the DOL to create guidelines for industry-recognized apprenticeships.

E.O.13801 potentially opened up a new avenue for young employees who want to work in the construction industry to get the training they need without having to join or pay dues to an unwanted union.

Unfortunately, in implementing E.O.13801, former Sec. Acosta, clearly acting at the behest of building-trades union bosses, championed the exclusion of builders from eligibility.

"According to the U.S. Labor Department," noted National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix, "just 14% of construction workers across the nation choose to belong to a union.

"Given that six out of seven construction workers aren't union members, it's crazy that federal policymakers continue to ensure Big Labor has a vise grip over apprenticeships, and the huge flow of federal money tied to them, in the industry. It's outrageous.

"The best solution would be for Beltway politicians to stop using the power of the federal government to limit the supply of apprenticeship opportunities that are available. This objective could be accomplished through complete repeal of the NAA.

"But President Trump's E.O.13801 could at least make it possible for certified industry groups, schools and nonprofits to set up many more viable union-free apprenticeship programs without having to clear DOL bureaucrats' hurdles.

"And fortunately, it's not too late for Patrick Pizzella, appointed by Mr. Trump as acting labor secretary after Alexander Acosta resigned, to modify the proposed rule in order to authorize industry-recognized apprenticeship programs in the construction sector."

New Acting Labor Secretary Has a Promising Track Record

By the time this Newsletter edition went to press, Mr. Mix had already spoken with several high-ranking DOL officials to convey to them how disappointed Right to Work supporters were with the Acosta-crafted apprenticeship proposal and the importance of correcting it before issuance of the final rule.

Since the nomination of Eugene Scalia, the President's choice for permanent labor secretary, is not expected to reach the Senate floor until late this year, the apprenticeship rule may well be finalized before he takes office.

"Based on his record of opposition to Big Labor special privileges, we are hopeful Mr. Pizzella will clear away the roadblock his predecessor set up for union-free construction apprenticeships," said Mr. Mix.

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

www.nrtwc.org September 2019

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
John Kalb 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 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)).

Right to Work Battleground

Continued from page 8

which is based in northern Virginia, began contacting major-party legislative candidates as their names and addresses became publicly available, urging them to complete and return a candidate survey.

The survey specifically asks candidates to "oppose all efforts to weaken or repeal Virginia's Right to Work law," as well as other bids to grant new monopoly privileges to Big Labor.

"Unfortunately," said Mr. Mix, "a large share of the candidates the Committee was able to survey before this Newsletter edition went to press in early August did not respond at the time.

"Committee officers suspect that most of the candidates who are concealing their stance on Right to Work actually support forced unionism, but hope freedom-loving citizens won't hold them accountable now for siding with Big Labor bosses as long as they don't trumpet their opposition to voluntarism."

Pressure on Nonresponsive Candidates Will Keep Mounting Until Election Day

The Committee is determined to prevent Virginia candidates from getting away this year with concealing their positions on Right to Work and forced unionism, Mr. Mix emphasized.

This month, the Committee will repeatedly mail identified Right to Work supporters in roughly 30 Virginia House districts and roughly 10 Senate districts, mobilizing them to contact their candidates regarding their refusal to answer their surveys and/or their open advocacy of compulsory unionism.

The Committee will continue mailing tens of thousands of its members and supporters in targeted legislative districts throughout October, urging them again and again to contact fence-sitting and unabashedly hostile candidates, in a persistent effort to turn them around.

"Thanks to the Committee's state survey program," said Mr. Mix, "candidates who are either covertly or overtly backing the union hierarchy's scheme to destroy Virginia's Right to Work law will have a clear choice as Election Day approaches.

"They can pledge to reverse course and support Right to Work in the future, or face the potential political fallout."

While protecting employees' personal freedom is the direct and primary purpose of Virginia's Right to Work law and the 26 other such state laws currently on the books, they also have an evident economic impact.

As an example, Mr. Mix pointed to the U.S. Commerce Department's statistics regarding annual output in automotive manufacturing, as measured in constant, chained 2012 dollars.

Workers Would Miss Out On Good Job Opportunities

"Real automotive manufacturing output in the 22 states that already had Right to Work laws in 2007 grew by 38% over the next decade," said Mr. Mix.

"But it fell by 22% in the 23 states that were still forced-unionism as of the end of 2017.

"Once you've looked at these data, it's hard to believe Volvo's largest truck manufacturing facility in the world would be located in western Virginia's Pulaski County were it not for the state's Right to Work law.

"This facility already supports more than 3,200 jobs, and this summer the Volvo Group announced it would invest nearly $400 million to expand its operation in Pulaski County.

"Thanks to the expansion, the plant is expected to create an additional 777 jobs by 2025.

"Volvo decided to expand in Virginia rather than in several other states it was reportedly considering despite the fact that the financial incentives offered by the state were quite modest by comparison with what state politicians are often willing, nowadays, to put on the table to lure a major investment."

Why Attack the Right to Work in the Old Dominion?

Since the Right to Work law clearly benefits Virginia's economy and ordinary citizens continue overwhelmingly to support it, one may wonder why the former bipartisan consensus in favor of retaining it has evaporated over the past few years.

The dismaying answer, suggested Mr. Mix, is political calculation.

"There is no doubt that a rising share of elected officials in Virginia are dependent on the Big Labor machine to get in power and stay in power," he said.

"This includes federal politicians such as freshman U.S. Rep. Abigail Spanberger [D]. She represents a staunchly pro-Right to Work district, but is currently cosponsoring H.R.2474, radical legislation that would gut all state Right to Work laws and authorize forced union fees nationwide.

"Ms. Spanberger and many of her counterparts in Richmond seem to think opposing Virginia's cherished Right to Work law is a smart political strategy. On Election Day 2019, we'll begin to find out how that works out for them."

Credit: Twitter

A rising share of politicians representing Virginia constituencies, such as freshman U.S. Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D, left), are so dependent on the Big Labor machine to stay in power that they are openly backing forced unionism.

Virginians' Right to Work in Peril

Big Labor-Backed Candidates Are Trying to Hide Where They Stand

For more than 70 years, Virginia's Right to Work law has prohibited union bosses from wielding their federal government-granted monopoly privileges to get employees fired for refusal to pay union dues or fees.

Big Labor allies in Richmond have periodically tried over the years to ram through schemes gutting Right to Work protections for employees.

In 1991, for example, 10 Virginia state senators sponsored a bill that would have forced union nonmembers to pay so-called "agency" fees to Big Labor as a condition of employment.

But over the course of the quarter century that followed, the Old Dominion Right to Work statute appeared increasingly to be safe.

'Employees Who Refuse to Hand Over Their Hard-Earned Money Will Be Fired'

Not any more. On December 28, 2018, radical socialist freshman Del. Lee Carter (D-Manassas) introduced H.B.1806, legislation that would repeal the Right to Work provision that has been in the Code of Virginia since 1947 and add a provision that explicitly authorizes compulsory union fees.

While H.B.1806 did not come up for a vote this year, Mr. Carter is sure to sponsor a Right to Work destruction measure again if he is reelected.

And an alarmingly high number of union-label lawmakers are so far refusing to let constituents know how they will vote on the forced-fee scheme when it comes to the floor.

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix explained:

"No one should be fooled. If legislation like H.B.1806 is adopted by the Virginia General Assembly, employees across the Old Dominion will be compelled to pay Big Labor bosses just to get or keep a job.

"Employees who refuse to hand over their hard-earned money will be fired -- plain and simple."

Mr. Mix added that the injustice of the forced union financial support that is authorized and promoted by federal labor policy is magnified when the victimized workers are actually getting paid less as a consequence of being under union monopoly control.

Credit: Lou Erickson/Atlanta Journal

For the first time in many years, legislation foisting forced financial support for unions as a condition of employment on workers was recently introduced in Virginia. And the pressure on Virginians' Right to Work keeps mounting.

Monopolistic Unionism 'Reduc[es] Pay of the Most Productive Workers'

Among the types of workers whose paychecks are often smaller because they are subject to union "exclusivity" are those who are especially talented and/or hardworking. In fact, over the years, a number of academic apologists for Organized Labor have made no bones about the fact that workers whose productivity is above average typically get paid less when they are unionized.

Take, for example, Richard Rothstein, now a distinguished fellow with the relentlessly pro-Big Labor Economic Policy Institute.

In a brief survey of union-friendly academic literature on the impact of "exclusive" union bargaining on the pay of employees with diverse levels of skill and industriousness, Mr. Rothstein has written:

"In [unionized] firms, wages of lower paid workers are raised above the market rate, with the increase offset . . . [in part] by reducing pay of the most productive workers. If firms with this practice are rare, competitors will be able to bid away their best workers."

Many Candidates Apparently Hope Pro-Right to Work Citizens Aren't Paying Attention

Recognizing that Virginians' Right to Work could be in grave peril in 2020, depending on the outcome of this fall's elections, the National Right to Work Committee has launched a grassroots campaign to convince legislative candidates in key districts to pledge to oppose forced unionism before Election Day.

The Old Dominion is one of a handful of states in which state legislative elections regularly occur in odd-numbered years like 2019.

This year, all 40 seats in the Virginia Senate and all 100 seats in the Virginia House of Delegates are potentially up for grabs.

In the summer, the Committee,

See **Battleground** *page 7*