

MEMORANDUM

To: The Coalition for a Democratic Workplace
 From: John McLaughlin
 Re: Louisiana, New Hampshire and New Mexico Statewide Survey Results
 Date: July 23, 2008

Voters Want to Protect a Worker's Right to a Secret Ballot Election

The issue of protecting a worker's right to a secret ballot could be a liability to Democratic candidates who support the unions' position. Voters in Louisiana, New Hampshire and New Mexico favor federally supervised secret ballot elections over a process where the majority of workers simply sign a card and workers' signatures are made public to their employers, union organizers and co-workers. In fact, the overwhelming majority of voters agrees that secret ballots are the cornerstone of democracy and should be kept for union elections. The majority of voters opposes a bill in Congress called the "Employee Free Choice Act" which would replace federally supervised secret ballot elections with a process that requires the majority of workers to simply sign a card to authorize organizing a union.

More specifically, seven in ten voters in Louisiana (71%), New Hampshire (73%) and New Mexico (77%) say having a federally supervised secret ballot election is the best way to protect workers' rights when organizing a union. This sentiment increases among union households in Louisiana (80%) and New Hampshire (81%).

*If an election were held to decide whether workers would organize a union, which one of the following types of elections is the best way to protect the individual rights of workers? Having a process where a union is organized if a majority of workers simply sign a card and the workers' signatures are made public to their employer, the union organizers and their co-workers. **OR**, Having a federally supervised secret ballot election where workers privately vote yes or no on whether to authorize union representation.*

	LA Total	Union HH	Non- Union HH	NH Total	Union HH	Non- Union HH	NM Total	Union HH	Non- Union HH
Sign Card	16	10	16	13	14	14	9	15	8
Secret Ballot	71	80	69	73	81	73	77	78	80

More than two thirds of voters in Louisiana (67%), New Hampshire (71%) and New Mexico (78%) agree that secret ballot elections are the cornerstone of democracy and should be kept for union elections. Agreement with this statement increases among union households (78% LA / 75% NH / 87% NM).

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement? “Secret ballot elections are the cornerstone of democracy and should be kept for union elections.”

	LA Total	Union HH	Non-Union HH	NH Total	Union HH	Non-Union HH	NM Total	Union HH	Non-Union HH
Agree	67	78	64	71	75	71	78	87	78
Disagree	20	15	21	18	17	19	14	7	15

The majority of voters in Louisiana (63%), New Hampshire (68%) and New Mexico (72%) opposes Congress’s “Employee Free Choice Act”, which would replace a federally supervised secret ballot process with one that requires a majority of workers to simply sign a card to authorize a union. Opposition increases among union households in Louisiana (68%) and New Mexico (76%).

There is a bill in Congress called the Employee Free Choice Act which would replace a federally supervised secret ballot election with a process that requires a majority of workers to simply sign a card to authorize organizing a union and the workers’ signatures would be made public to their employer, the union organizers and their co-workers. Do you support or oppose Congress passing this legislation?

	LA Total	Union HH	Non-Union HH	NH Total	Union HH	Non-Union HH	NM Total	Union HH	Non-Union HH
Support	22	26	20	18	29	16	16	20	15
Oppose	63	68	62	68	69	69	72	76	72

Voters Are Less Likely to Support Pro-Card Check Candidates

Voters in Louisiana, New Hampshire and New Mexico would be less likely to vote for a candidate for U.S. Senate who supports legislation to replace a secret ballot system with a card check system. A plurality of voters would be less likely to vote for Mary Landrieu (45%), Jeanne Shaheen (46%) and Tom Udall (44%) if they support this legislation. Clearly, supporting legislation to replace secret ballots with a card check system will have negative consequences for potential Senate candidates.

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for Mary Landrieu/Jeanne Shaheen/Tom Udall for US Senate if you knew that she/he supported legislation to take away a worker’s right to have a federally supervised secret ballot election when deciding whether to organize a union and replace that secret ballot system with a card check system that would make public how each worker voted to both union leaders and his or her employer? If it would make no difference, just say so.

	LA Total	Union HH	Non-Union HH	NH Total	Union HH	Non-Union HH	NM Total	Union HH	Non-Union HH
More Likely	14	22	12	13	17	11	11	33	7
Less Likely	45	44	46	46	50	47	44	35	47
No Difference	31	26	32	33	23	36	36	24	38

Methodology: McLaughlin & Associates conducted statewide surveys of general election voters in Louisiana (N=400), New Hampshire (N=300) and New Mexico (N=400) between July 8th and 10th, 2008. All interviews were conducted by professional

interviewers via telephone. Interview selection was at random within predetermined election units. These units were structured to statistically correlate with actual voter distributions in statewide general elections. The accuracy of the samples of 400 likely general election voters is within +/- 4.9% at a 95% confidence interval. The accuracy of the sample of 300 likely general election voters is within +/- 5.7% at a 95% confidence interval.