

## American Voters Reject the Employee Free Choice Act.

**Voters Want To Protect A Worker's Right To Have A Federally Supervised Private Ballot Election When Deciding Whether To Organize A Union.**

**Further, Voters Believe that the Employee Free Choice Act Will Hurt Jobs In the Unites States.**

Americans believe that every worker should have the right to have a federally supervised private ballot election when deciding whether to organize a union. The vast majority of voters oppose the Employee Free Choice Act, which would replace a federally supervised private ballot election with a process that requires a majority of workers to sign a card to authorize organizing a union.

Three out of four voters (74%) oppose the "The Employee Free Choice Act". It is interesting to note, union households also strongly oppose the Employee Free Choice Act, 74% oppose to only 20% support.

***There is a bill in Congress called the Employee Free Choice Act which would effectively 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?***

	<u>Jan.</u> <u>2009</u>	<u>Union</u> <u>HH</u>	<u>Non Union</u> <u>HH</u>	<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dem.</u>	<u>Ind.</u>
Support	15%	20%	14%	16%	17%	11%
Oppose	74%	74%	75%	77%	73%	73%

When given a more detailed description of the Employee Free Choice Act, nearly 9 out of 10 voters, 86%, feel the process should remain private and only 8% feel it should be public information. Again, even union workers feel strongly that the process should be kept private, as 88% said private and only 8% said public.

***With a federally supervised secret ballot election, each worker's ballot remains private. With the card signing process, the information would be made public and union organizers, employers and co-workers would know how each worker voted. In deciding whether to organize a union, do you think a worker's vote should remain private or be public information?***

	<u>Jan.</u> <u>2009</u>	<u>Union</u> <u>HH</u>	<u>Non Union</u> <u>HH</u>	<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dem.</u>	<u>Ind.</u>
Private	86%	88%	86%	88%	86%	86%
Public Information	8%	8%	8%	7%	8%	7%

Four out of five voters, or 82%, favor having a federally supervised election as a means to "protect the individual rights of workers". The voters clearly see this as a basic right, especially given that only 11% of voters felt the card check would be the best way to protect the individual rights of workers.

***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?***

- 1. 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.***
- 2. Having a federally supervised secret ballot election where workers privately vote yes or no on whether to authorize union representation.***

	<u>Jan.</u> <u>2009</u>	<u>Union</u> <u>HH</u>	<u>Non Union</u> <u>HH</u>	<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dem.</u>	<u>Ind.</u>
Sign Card	11	11	12	10	14	9

Secret Ballot	82	85	81	86	79	82
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Not only do the voters see the Employee Free Choice Act as a violation of a workers right to a secret ballot, the American voter also considers this to the wrong time to be debating this legislation. Four out of five voters (79%) felt Congress should “focus on issues like jobs and healthcare first”, compared to only 13% who thought Congress should focus on this issue now. Clearly the economy trumps this issue.

**Now that you have heard about this issue of union organizing elections, do you feel this is an issue Congress should focus on right now, OR, should Congress focus on other issues like jobs and healthcare first and wait until this issue could be solved in a compromise between businesses and labor unions on their own.**

	<u>Jan. 2009</u>	<u>Union HH</u>	<u>Non Union HH</u>	<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dem.</u>	<u>Ind.</u>
Focus Right Now	13%	16%	12%	15%	13%	9%
Focus/Other Issues	79%	79%	80%	79%	79%	83%

Further, American voters believe that the Employee Free Choice Act is not good for job creation. Even among union households, the plurality believes that the Employee Free Choice Act will cost America jobs.

**Do you think that if American businesses are forced by a federal government arbitrator to pay their workers wages and benefits set by a federally imposed government contract, it will help keep labor jobs in America, or will it cost America jobs?**

	<u>Jan. 2009</u>	<u>Union HH</u>	<u>Non Union HH</u>	<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dem.</u>	<u>Ind.</u>
Keep Jobs	26%	33%	24%	19%	34%	22%
Cost Jobs	52%	48%	53%	61%	43%	52%

Given the current economic climate, the voters are particularly opposed to any measure that would risk jobs or job growth.

**In these tough economic times, labor unions are pushing for new laws that will make it easier to force workers into labor unions without a secret ballot by the workers. If more American businesses are then forced by federal law to use union workers, do you believe it will help American workers keep their jobs, or will they see more businesses close and American workers will lose their jobs?**

	<u>Jan. 2009</u>	<u>Union HH</u>	<u>Non Union HH</u>	<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dem.</u>	<u>Ind.</u>
Keep Jobs	25%	33%	23%	18%	33%	21%
Lose Jobs	52%	45%	55%	65%	43%	50%

Further exemplifying the electorates distaste for the Employee Free Choice Act, 71% agreed that this legislation would be “unwise” and “risky”. In today’s economic climate, the electorate has little confidence in the federal governments ability to make such major business decisions.

**Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding Government imposed contracts between businesses and labor unions?**

**It’s unnecessarily risky and unwise to place the fate of a company and the jobs and livelihood of the employees, and their families, in hands of a federal government bureaucrat, who may lack much business experience and know little to nothing about the company, its business operations, the industry in which it operates and the financial pressure and competition the company may face.**

	<u>Jan. 2009</u>	<u>Union HH</u>	<u>Non Union HH</u>	<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dem.</u>	<u>Ind.</u>
Agree	71%	72%	72%	74%	69%	72%
Disagree	18%	21%	18%	18%	19%	18%

Finally, voters are less likely to vote for a member of Congress who votes in favor of the Employee Free Choice Act, as 61% said they were less likely to vote for a member of Congress who voted for the Employee Free Choice Act. Conversely, voters were more likely (67% more likely) to vote for a member of Congress who opposed the legislation. .

**Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a member of Congress who voted to guarantee worker protection through the continued use of a federally supervised secret ballot election so that personal decisions about whether to join a union remains private? If it would make no difference, just say so.**

	<u>Jan.</u> <u>2009</u>	<u>Union HH</u>	<u>Non Union</u> <u>HH</u>	<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dem.</u>	<u>Ind.</u>
More Likely	67%	73%	66%	71%	65%	66%
Less Likely	10%	10%	10%	11%	10%	8%
No Difference	16%	12%	18%	13%	17%	20%

**Methodology:** This poll of 1,000 likely general election voters in the United States was conducted from January 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009. An oversample of 193 union households was conducted, which brings the combined total of union households to 400. All interviews were conducted via telephone by professional interviewers. Interview selection was random within predetermined election units – in this case, the fifty states. These units were structured to correlate with actual voter turnout in a general election. This poll of 1,000 likely general election voters has an accuracy of +/- 3.1% at a 95% confidence interval. The 400 sample of union households has an accuracy of +/- 4.9% at a 95% confidence interval.