

# CITIZENS TO PROTECT PA JOBS

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## **GOP voters 'check' strong NO to Employee Free Choice Act**

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**Harrisburg, PA (Feb. 25, 2009)** - Republicans in Pennsylvania overwhelmingly oppose the proposed Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), according to a recent poll conducted on behalf of Citizens to Protect PA Jobs, a broad-based coalition of business and industry groups in the Commonwealth.

The poll of 500 likely GOP Primary voters was conducted by McLaughlin & Associates on Feb. 8-9, 2009. A polling memo is attached. It revealed that the legislation, also referred to as "Card Check," is a hot button issue for GOP voters in the Keystone State and has a high level of awareness among those who consider themselves "voters."

"It is clear that GOP voters throughout the Commonwealth believe that passage of EFCA and the effective elimination of the private ballot to determine union representation will result in the closing of businesses and the loss of jobs," said Gene Barr, vice president of government and public affairs for the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry. "Respondents to the poll believe Congress should be focused on other issues, such as jobs and health care, which are far more pressing than EFCA."

There is a clear consensus among those concerned with the legislation that it is particularly ill-timed given the current economic climate.

"At a time of economic uncertainty, Congress should not enact measures that threaten employer-employee relationships," said Carolyn F. Scanlan, president and chief executive officer, the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania.

"I was surprised that nearly half of all Republican voters were aware of the Employee Free Choice Act," said pollster Jim McLaughlin. "And this is before the issue has been fully debated in Congress and the media. The numbers indicate that voters are paying attention to EFCA."

Opposition to the legislation is consistent throughout all geographic sections of Pennsylvania.

With the signing of the Economic Stimulus Legislation, EFCA could be the next major initiative to be considered by Congress.

*Citizens to Protect PA Jobs* is a broad-based coalition of business and industry formed to educate Pennsylvanians about the need for state and federal policies that promote job creation and economic growth. For more information, visit [www.protectpajobs.com](http://www.protectpajobs.com).

**EDITOR'S PLEASE NOTE: A summary of the poll results is attached below.**

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**McLaughlin & Associates** is one of the nation's premier Republican polling firms. The firm has been recognized by the media as "truly trustworthy" and "the best at scientifically taking the public's pulse and advising those who significantly shape public perception." Jim McLaughlin has worked for over 50 members of Congress, 12 U.S. Senators and 7 Governors. He also serves as a consultant and research strategist to Fortune 500 companies and small businesses.

**To: Citizens to Protect Pennsylvania Jobs**  
**From: McLaughlin & Associates**  
**Re: PA GOP Primary Voters Strongly Oppose Employee Free Choice Act**  
**Date: February 2009**

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**Methodology:** This survey of 500 likely Republican primary election voters in Pennsylvania was conducted on February 8th and 9th, 2009. All interviews were conducted via telephone by professional interviewers. Interview selection was random within predetermined election units. These units were structured to correlate with actual Republican primary turnout. The survey of 500 likely Republican primary election voters has an accuracy of +/- 4.5% at the 95% confidence interval.

**Summary:** The survey results clearly illustrate that Republican Primary voters oppose the Employee Free Choice Act. They believe a federally supervised private ballot election is the best way to protect the rights of workers in deciding whether to organize a union and is the best way to protect workers from interference or intimidation by employers or labor unions. This is a hot button issue among Republican primary voters.

- Nearly half (46%) of all Republican primary voters are aware of the Employee Free Choice Act issue.
- An overwhelming majority (81%) of Republican primary voters opposes the Employee Free Choice Act. Close to three-quarters (74%) “strongly” oppose the proposal. Only 11% support it. This overwhelming sentiment against the Employee Free Choice Act cuts across all voter segments. The opposition is even strong among union households (72%). Geographically, the opposition is high across the state: northwest (77%), southwest (81%), southeast (81%), northeast (80%) and central (84%).
- In deciding whether to organize a union, Republican primary voters believe a worker’s vote should remain private (90%) instead of being public information (7%).
- By greater than a 12 to 1 ratio (88% to 7%) Republican primary voters believe having a federally supervised private ballot election rather than a majority signing a card is the best way to protect the individual rights of workers in deciding whether to organize a union.
- When asked which election process is better to prevent interference or intimidation by employers or labor unions, 89% says having a federally supervised private ballot election is better than a majority signing a card (6%).
- About three-quarters (72%) believes if more American businesses have to use union workers more businesses will close and American workers will lose their jobs instead of helping American workers keep their jobs (10%).
- Nearly 9 in 10 (89%) believe Congress should be focusing on other issues like jobs and health care first and wait until this issue could be solved in a compromise between businesses and labor unions on their own. Only 6% says Congress should focus on this issue right now.

*Have you seen, read or heard about the issue of allowing workers to sign a card authorizing a union to organize instead of the workers having a federally supervised private ballot election to decide whether or not to organize a union?*

	Total	Northwest	Southwest	Southeast	Northeast	Central	Union	Non Union
Yes	46	48	51	42	42	48	40	47
No	52	48	47	54	58	52	56	51
Don't Know	2	3	2	5	0	0	4	2

*When a union wants to organize in a workplace, they must obtain approval from a majority of the workers. Under the current process, workers generally vote in a federally supervised private ballot election where a majority vote is needed to organize a union. There is a bill in Congress called the Employee Free Choice Act which would effectively replace a federally supervised private ballot election with a card check 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?*

	Total	Northwest	Southwest	Southeast	Northeast	Central	Union	Non Union
<b>Support</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>
Strongly	6	10	5	7	6	4	11	5
Somewhat	5	5	7	5	4	4	6	5
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>83</b>
Somewhat	7	3	5	8	20	5	6	8
Strongly	74	74	77	73	60	78	66	76
<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>

*With a federally supervised private 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?*

	Total	Northwest	Southwest	Southeast	Northeast	Central	Union	Non Union
Private	90	88	91	93	84	90	88	91
Public	7	10	9	4	10	6	11	6
Don't Know	3	2	0	3	6	4	1	3

*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.*

**OR,**

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

	Total	Northwest	Southwest	Southeast	Northeast	Central	Union	Non Union
Sign a Card	7	10	9	9	8	4	13	6
Private Ballot	88	89	88	86	86	90	83	89
Don't Know	5	1	2	5	6	6	4	5

*In your opinion, which election process is better to prevent interference or intimidation by employers or labor unions?*

**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.**

**OR,**

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

	Total	Northwest	Southwest	Southeast	Northeast	Central	Union	Non Union
Sign a Card	6	8	9	6	8	4	10	5
Private Ballot	89	90	88	87	86	92	88	90
Don't Know	5	2	2	7	6	5	2	5

*In these tough economic times, labor unions are pushing for new laws that will make it easier to organize workers into labor unions without a private 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?*

	Total	Northwest	Southwest	Southeast	Northeast	Central	Union	Non Union
Keep Jobs	10	12	7	14	6	7	21	8
Lose Jobs	72	65	74	71	76	76	54	77
Don't Know	18	23	19	15	18	17	26	16

*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?*

	Total	Northwest	Southwest	Southeast	Northeast	Central	Union	Non Union
Right Now	6	3	7	12	4	2	5	6
Focus Other	89	91	88	81	92	93	90	89
Don't Know	5	6	5	7	4	5	5	5