

MEMORANDUM

To: The Coalition for a Democratic Workplace
 From: John McLaughlin
 Re: Minnesota Statewide Survey Results
 Date: May 23, 2008

2008 Senate Races

In a key U.S. Senate race in Minnesota, labor union support for the Democratic candidate is extremely significant. However, the unions' top issue to take away a worker's secret vote to decide to form a union could be a significant liability to the Democratic candidate.

On the Minnesota Senate ballot, voters favor Norm Coleman over Al Franken (46% to 40%). Coleman's support increases among non-union households, while the Democratic candidate leads among union households.

If the general election for US Senate were held today and the candidates were Norm Coleman, the Republican, and Al Franken, the DFL candidate, for whom would you vote? If you had to choose today, which candidate are you leaning towards, Norm Coleman, the Republican, or Al Franken, the DFL candidate?

| | MN Total | Union HH | Non- Union HH |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Norm Coleman | 46 | 39 | 49 |
| Al Franken | 40 | 48 | 37 |
| Undecided | 14 | 13 | 14 |

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

Right now, the issue of protecting a worker's right to a secret ballot may not be part of the election agenda, but if it becomes an issue, it would be a liability to those Democrats who take union support.

Voters in Minnesota favor federally supervised secret and private 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 and private ballots are the cornerstone of democracy and should be kept for union elections. Voters are concerned that intimidation of workers by management or union leaders could be a serious problem in union organizing elections.

When it comes to Congress taking action on this issue, Minnesota voters prefer leaving federal union laws the way they are now. The majority of voters opposes a bill in Congress called the "Employee Free Choice Act" which would replace federally

supervised secret and private ballot elections with a process that requires the majority of workers to simply sign a card to authorize organizing a union.

More specifically, half of voters in Minnesota (50%) think federal laws regarding the formation of unions should be left the way they are now. This sentiment increases slightly among voters in non-union households (52%).

Should federal laws be changed by Congress to make it much easier for unions to hold elections in non-union work places to organize more workers into unions or should the laws be left the way they are now?

| | MN Total | Union HH | Non- Union HH |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Make Easier | 30 | 41 | 26 |
| Left the Way They Are Now | 50 | 45 | 52 |

More than seven in ten voters in Minnesota (72%) say having a federally supervised secret and private ballot election is the best way to protect workers’ rights when organizing a union.

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 and private ballot election where workers privately vote yes or no on whether to authorize union representation.

| | MN Total | Union HH | Non- Union HH |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Sign Card | 16 | 15 | 16 |
| Secret Ballot | 72 | 72 | 73 |

Eight in ten voters in Minnesota (82%) agree that secret and private ballot elections are the cornerstone of democracy and should be kept for union elections.

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

| | MN Total | Union HH | Non- Union HH |
|----------|---------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Agree | 82 | 82 | 82 |
| Disagree | 10 | 13 | 9 |

By a three to one ratio, voters in Minnesota (62%) say that intimidation of workers by management or union leaders could be a serious problem in union organizing elections. Results are consistent among union and non-union households.

Which of the following opinions comes closest to your own personal opinion? Some people who say that intimidation of workers by either management or union leaders could be a serious problem in union organizing elections. OR, other people who say that intimidation by unions or management is not a big problem in union organizing elections.

| | MN Total | Union HH | Non- Union HH |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Serious Problem | 62 | 62 | 62 |
| Not a Big Problem | 21 | 25 | 21 |

Nearly two-thirds of voters in Minnesota (65%) oppose Congress’s “Employee Free Choice Act”, which would replace a federally supervised secret and private ballot process with one that requires a majority of workers to simply sign a card to authorize a union.

There is a bill in Congress called the Employee Free Choice Act which would replace a federally supervised secret and private 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?

| | MN Total | Union HH | Non- Union HH |
|---------|---------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Support | 22 | 21 | 23 |
| Oppose | 65 | 69 | 64 |

Voters Are Less Likely to Support Pro-Card Check Candidates

Voters in Minnesota would be less likely to vote for a candidate for U.S. Senate who supports legislation to replace a secret and private ballot system with a card check system. A plurality of voters would be less likely to vote for Al Franken (41%) if he supports 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 Al Franken for US Senate if you knew that he supported legislation to take away a worker’s right to have a federally supervised secret and private ballot election when deciding whether to organize a union and replace that secret and private 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.

| | MN Total | Union HH | Non- Union HH |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------|------------------|
| More Likely | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Less Likely | 41 | 37 | 45 |
| No Difference | 25 | 27 | 24 |

Methodology: McLaughlin & Associates conducted a statewide survey of 500 general election voters in Minnesota between March 6th and 9th, 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 sample of 500 likely general election voters is within +/- 4.5% at a 95% confidence interval.