

EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT POLL SUMMARY

In September 2008, the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry retained R&R Partners and the Summit Group to conduct a statewide poll of registered voters to assess their attitudes about the “Employee Free Choice Act” also known as card check legislation. Using a similar question methodology to the McLaughlin and Associates national poll, a poll of 600 registered Arizona voters (Margin of + - 4%) were surveyed on October 2-7, 2008. Of the survey respondents 43% were Republican, 34% Democrat, and 13% were identified as Independents.

Summary of Key Findings

The results of the poll reveal that Arizona voters overwhelmingly oppose legislation to remove the secret ballot process for organizing a union. This is true regardless of party affiliation. Those polled indicated they would be less likely to vote for a Congressional candidate who supported card check legislation.

When asked if they believed that **“Secret ballot elections are the cornerstone of democracy and should be kept for union elections”** 79% of the respondents indicated they “strongly agree” or “agree.” Again, that strong support was consistent regardless of party affiliation.

Response	Political Party Affiliation (Percentages are Rounded)			
	Sample	Republican	Democrat	Independents
Strongly Agree	47%	49%	44%	48.%
Agree	32%	29.%	37%	34%
Disagree	9%	10%	7%	12%
Strongly Disagree	5%	7%	4%	3%
No Opinion	7%	6.%	8%	4%

The respondents were asked their opinions on the idea that **“Every worker should continue to have the right to a federally supervised ballot election when deciding whether to organize a union.”** 84% of respondents either “strongly agreed” or “agreed” with the federally-supervised union election. This support was strong across all party affiliations.

Response	Political Party Affiliation (Percentages are Rounded)			
	Sample	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Strongly Agree	50%	47%	56%	49%
Agree	34%	36%	33%	32%
Disagree	8%	8%	5.%	12.%
Strongly Disagree	2%	4%	1%	1%
No Opinion	5.%	5%	5%	5%

Arizona voters strongly value maintaining the privacy of an individual’s vote to unionize. 74% either “strongly disagreed” or “disagreed” with the statement: **“In deciding whether to organize a union, a worker’s vote should be made public information.”**

Response	Political Party Affiliation (Percentages are Rounded)			
	Sample	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Strongly Agree	9%	8%	9%	9%
Agree	14%	16%	11%	12%
Disagree	43%	43%	44%	42%
Strongly Disagree	31%	30%	31%	36%
No Opinion	4%	3%	4%	1%

When given a chance to select between the current process and the card check system, an overwhelming 87% of voters endorsed the current federally supervised process: The poll identified the system they preferred by allowing them to **select one of two options.**

A. 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.

B. Having a federally supervised secret ballot election where workers privately vote yes or no on whether to organize.

Response	Party Affiliation (Percentages are Rounded)			
	Sample	Republican	Democrat	Independent
A. (Card Process)	13%	14%	14%	8%
B. (Federally Supervised/Secret)	87%	86%	86%	92%

Opposition to the Employee Free Choice Act impacts Arizona voters’ willingness to support Congressional candidates. **“Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a member of Congress who voted in favor of taking away worker's right to have a federally supervised secret ballot election to decide whether to organize a union?”** 72% said they would be less likely to do so.

Response	Party Affiliation (Percentages are Rounded)			
	Sample	Republican	Democrat	Independent
More Likely	8%	10%	7%	4%
Less Likely	72%	70%	74%	79%
No Difference	13%	13%	13%	8%
Unsure	6%	7%	5%	9%

Overall, the polling results indicate voters overwhelmingly oppose the removal of the secret ballot provision in federal labor laws. Regardless of political party, the strength of the opposition to the Employee Free Choice Act is strong. The results suggest Arizona’s voters are similar in attitude to their counterparts across the United States. Candidates

and Members of Arizona's Congressional delegation should be mindful of strong and overwhelming opposition to any Congressional attempt to weaken the right of workers to have a secret ballot when determining whether to organize workers into a union.