



Right-to-Work

It's All About Jobs and Fairness

By Kevin Brinegar

Right-to-Work Helps Small Businesses Survive

Of the top 20 states in the latest *Small Business Survival Index* from the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, 15 of them have right-to-work laws.

States ranked from the friendliest to the least friendly policy environments for entrepreneurship, released November 30, 2011:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. South Dakota | RTW |
| 2. Nevada | RTW |
| 3. Texas | RTW |
| 4. Wyoming | RTW |
| 5. South Carolina | RTW |
| 6. Alabama | RTW |
| 7. Ohio | |
| 8. Florida | RTW |
| 9. Colorado | |
| 10. Virginia | RTW |
| 11. Washington | |
| 12. Mississippi | RTW |
| 13. North Dakota | RTW |
| 14. Utah | RTW |
| 15. Arizona | RTW |
| 16. Georgia | RTW |
| 17. Missouri | |
| 18. Arkansas | RTW |
| 19. Oklahoma | RTW |
| 20. Indiana | |

Passing a right-to-work law is the single most impactful action our state lawmakers can take to put more Hoosiers back to work.

And that need is great. Currently, we have more than 250,000 people unemployed in Indiana and many more at risk as employers deal with a still unstable economy. A right-to-work law would open the door to attracting more new and expanding companies and the thousands of jobs they bring.

Site selection experts from across the country repeatedly say that between one third and half of all companies that hire them to find a good location won't even consider non-right-to-work states for their business growth and expansion plans. So Indiana is eliminated from consideration before we even get a chance to compete.

Right-to-Work Report

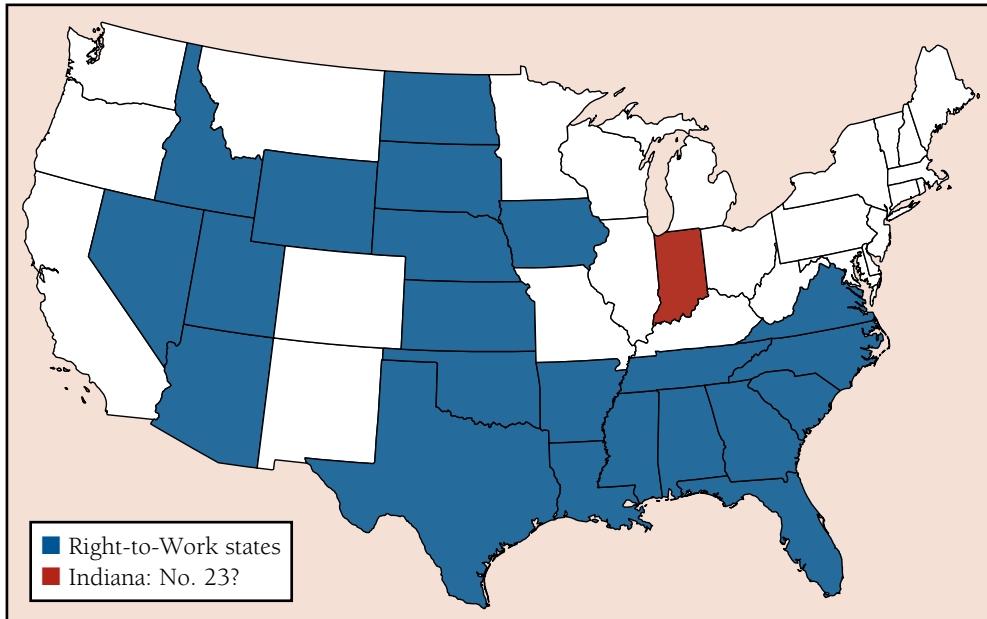
- More Jobs
- Greater Economic Growth
- Freedom of Choice for Workers

www.morehoosierjobs.com

“I can tell you from professional experience that Indiana has missed multiple project opportunities that represented thousands of high-paying jobs and billions of dollars in capital investments because my clients specified ‘right-to-work states only.’ I am by no means a Lone Ranger here.”

– David V. Brandon, senior vice president, Site Selection Group LLC, Dallas

Other Midwestern states such as Michigan and Kentucky are now looking at passing right-to-work to gain a dramatic competitive advantage for jobs. We cannot afford to fall behind. What's more, whichever state in our immediate area becomes a right-to-work state first will have a decided advantage.



In addition to job creation and economic growth, right-to-work is about fairness. It protects workers from being forced to join or pay dues and fees to a labor union. Right now, some 194,000 Indiana workers are forced to pay \$127 million in union dues (per unionstats.com).

What right-to-work does not do is prohibit labor unions or collective bargaining. Employees would still have the opportunity to join and support a labor union – only now it would be his or her decision to make. We think that's only fair.

Case in point, right-to-work legislation was passed more than 15 years ago for Hoosier teachers. It certainly didn't eliminate their unions or collective bargaining rights. And it didn't result in lower wages for teachers.

A recent comment from Heritage Foundation policy expert James Sherk sums it up best: "Unions have a place in America, but they belong at businesses where employees want them – not where union organizers wish employees wanted them."

It can't be said enough: Right-to-work is about more jobs for Hoosiers. It's about how a person shouldn't be forced to join a union – or any other organization – in order to get or keep a job. It's about the much-needed jobs that will come to Indiana if we become the 23rd right-to-work state.

For additional information and to contact your legislator regarding passage of right-to-work, go to www.morehoosierjobs.com – a new web site that includes the latest news, videos and other updates regarding this important public policy.

“...we have seen some companies choose to eliminate all or some non-right-to-work states early in the screening process. This certainly puts non-right-to-work states such as Indiana at a competitive disadvantage.”

**– Dean C. Foote,
Foote Consulting Group, LLC, Glendale, Arizona**

Economic Benefits of Right-to-Work

A January 2011 study by Dr. Richard Vedder of Ohio University found the following:

- If Indiana had adopted a right-to-work law in 1977, per capita income would have been \$2,925 higher – or \$11,700 higher for a family of four by 2008. Projecting forward, passage in 2011 would raise per capita income by \$968 or \$3,872 for a family of four by 2021.
- The presence of a right-to-work law increases economic growth rates in states by 11.5%.
- In the last 30 years, two-thirds of the difference between Indiana and national rates of economic growth can be explained by our state's lack of a right-to-work law.

The last state to pass a right-to-work law was Oklahoma in 2001. Between 2003 and 2006, real personal income in Oklahoma grew by 13.6% – more than half as fast as the national average and more than twice as fast as the overall average of non-right-to-work states.