

ILLINOIS' UNIONS AND THE WORKERS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT

THE STATE OF ILLINOIS' UNIONS

- Illinois added 16,000 union members in 2021, the state's first increase since 2017.
- In 2021, the success rate of union petitions in Illinois was 60%—higher than any other year in the past decade.
- Public approval of labor unions is at 71%, its highest level in six decades.
- Illinois union membership rate is 14%, the 11th-highest union density among the 50 U.S. states.
- The most unionized demographic groups are Black workers (20%) and military veterans (26%).

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND ILLINOIS WORKERS

- Unions workers earn 15% more than nonunion workers in Illinois, the 4th-highest union advantage in the nation.
- Union workers in Illinois are 9% more likely to have health insurance coverage.
- Union households have an 8% higher homeownership rate than nonunion households.
- Union workers contribute more in income and sales taxes and are half as likely to rely on Medicaid and food stamp government assistance.
- Union workers were less likely to be laid off than their nonunion peers during the pandemic.



THE WORKERS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT WOULD BE GOOD FOR ILLINOIS' ECONOMY

- The Workers' Rights Amendment would prevent politicians from passing laws that interfere in the private negotiations between businesses and workers or restrict their ability to bargain collectively.
- The Workers' Rights Amendment would protect \$43 billion in annual income for Illinois workers and ensure workers can negotiate pay raises that help deal with high inflation.
- The Workers' Rights Amendment would promote safe workplaces and save 900 lives over a decade, because Illinois experiences 32% fewer on-the-job fatalities than states that do not support collective bargaining.
- The Workers' Rights Amendment would prevent 135,000 Illinois workers from suffering pay cuts that cause them to lose their homes and keep the property tax base from shrinking.

The data shows clear links between union membership and better outcomes for workers. The Workers' Rights Amendment would protect the right to unionize and collectively bargain, ensuring that Illinois continues to create high-quality jobs strong economy. The Workers' Rights Amendment would not only promote superior safety outcomes and a middle-class economy for workers, but it would also reduce burdens on taxpayers while lowering turnover costs for businesses and promoting strong labor market competitiveness.

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Focus Area
Workers' Rights