
Minnesota Business Leaders

A coalition powered by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce along with chambers, associations, and businesses to save the secret ballot.



Update:

Week of October 25, 2010

Election season is in full swing, and now more than ever it is imperative for candidates to be focused on growing our economy and working on ways to replace the millions of lost jobs suffered during the recession.

Before you pull that lever or fill out that ballot on election-day, make sure you know which candidate supports free enterprise-friendly policies that will help spur job creation and economic growth.

To help sort out who believes what, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Campaign for Free Enterprise has developed a set of [5 Questions](#) that voters should ask their candidates. The questions are:

1. Do you believe that our free enterprise system is currently threatened?
2. Do you believe that tax

Midterm Election Preview

It can be hard to believe we are almost at the end of this long campaign season as we are now less than one week away from the midterm elections. The phone calls will stop. The lawn signs will be taken down. And perhaps best of all—the ads will stop running on television. But these ads are here for a reason: midterms elections are very important. Many of you will remember the 1994 and 2006 elections and the major shift each brought to national politics. This year could be just as big.

The winners on Tuesday could determine the future of the Employee Free Choice Act, one way or another. Even though Election Day is less than a week away, there is still time to volunteer for a campaign or talk to friends and family about voting. The following is a summary of how Minnesota's Congressional Candidates stand on EFCA. To learn more about elections in Minnesota, visit the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce's Action Center [here](#).

Congressional Races of Minnesota/Positions of EFCA

District 1: Tim Walz (D) vs. Randy Demmer (R)

Recently, a coalition of ten chambers in southern Minnesota sent a questionnaire to candidates running in the first congressional district. One question asked was "Do you

increases hurt job creation?

3. Do you think that the growth of government at all levels and the deficits that follow negatively impact job creation?
4. Would you deal with the debt and deficit issues through increasing government revenue or decreasing government spending?
5. Do you believe that the uncertainty resulting from pending tax increases, higher government deficits, and more government regulations will hurt the economy?

The people we elect November 2 will make important decisions under difficult circumstances, none more important than getting our economy back on track. We owe it to ourselves and our communities to know where they stand before we put them in office.

MBL Coalition Members are taking action TODAY to stop this misnamed and misguided legislation

The coalition of business organizations is your go to source for EFCA information and updates. Thanks to all of our members for joining the fight to save the secret ballot!

Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber
Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber
Apple Valley Chamber
Austin Area Chamber
Brainerd Lakes Chamber

support HR 1409, the Employee Free Choice Act, that would make it easier for unions to organize by effectively eliminating the secret ballot and imposing binding arbitration if the employer fails to agree on a contract with a newly formed union?" Representative Walz answered yes while Demmer said no. To view the entire questionnaire, visit the Rochester Chamber of Commerce [website](#).

Representative Walz is also a co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act [\(HR 1409\)](#).

District 2: John Kline (R) vs. Shelley Madore (D)

Representative Kline is on record opposed to EFCA. [Watch this video](#) to see Rep. Kline's thoughts.

As a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, Representative Shelley Madore [voted in support](#) of "memorializing Congress to support the Employee Free Choice Act relating to workers' rights to form and join unions."

District 3: Erik Paulsen (R) vs. Jim Meffert (D)

Representative Paulsen is on record opposed to EFCA. In a 2008 debate, Paulsen stated EFCA "would be a tremendous catastrophe for our economy."

Jim Meffert supports EFCA. [Click here](#) to read the official endorsement of Meffert by Teamsters president Brad Slawson, Jr.

District 4: Betty McCollum (D) vs. Teresa Collett (R)

Representative McCollum is a co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act [\(HR 1409\)](#).

District 5: Keith Ellison (D) vs. Joel Demos (R)

Representative Ellison is a co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act [\(HR 1409\)](#). He is a strong supporter of the EFCA and has created a 60-second commercial. [Watch it here](#).

District 6: Michele Bachmann (R) vs. Tarryl Clark (D)

In the debate hosted by the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce earlier this week, Clark declined to answer whether or not she would support EFCA, saying she was "beholden to no one." In 2007, as a State Senator, Clark voted in favor of a resolution "memorializing Congress to support the Employee Free Choice Act relating to workers' rights to form and join unions." [\(SF 543\)](#)

Burnsville Chamber
 Chamber of Commerce of Fargo
 Moorhead
 Chamber Grand Forks/East Grand Forks
 Dakota County Regional Chamber
 Duluth Area Chamber
 Eden Prairie Chamber
 Edina Chamber
 Elk River Area Chamber
 Fairmont Area Chamber
 Faribault Area Chamber
 Greater Wayzata Area Chamber
 Grand Rapids Area Chamber
 Hastings Area Chamber
 Hutchinson Area Chamber
 I-94 West Chamber
 International Falls Area Chamber
 Lakeville Area Chamber
 Litchfield Chamber
 Marshall Area Chamber
 MetroNorth Chamber
 Midway Chamber
 Minneapolis Regional Chamber
 Minnesota Chamber
 MN Associated Builders & Contractors
 MN Automobile Dealers Association
 MN Beverage Association
 MN Business Partnership
 MN Grocers Association
 MN Lodging Association
 MN Restaurant Association
 MN Trucking Association
 MN Warehouse Association
 North Hennepin Area Chamber
 Northfield Area Chamber
 Owatonna Area Chamber
 Printing Industry of MN
 Redwood Area Chamber
 Richfield Chamber
 River Heights Chamber
 Rochester Area Chamber
 Saint Paul Area Chamber
 Saint Peter Area Chamber
 SouthWest Metro Chamber
 St. Cloud Area Chamber
 Thief River Falls Chamber
 TwinWest Chamber

Representative Bachmann reiterated her opposition to EFCA during this week's debate.

District 7: Collin Peterson (D) vs. Lee Byberg (R)

Representative Peterson is a co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act ([HR 1409](#)).

District 8: Jim Oberstar (D) vs. Chip Cravaack (R)

Representative Oberstar is a co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act ([HR 1409](#)).

His opponent, Chip Cravaack, states on his campaign website that his union past has led him to believe in the right of the secret ballot and is therefore against EFCA.

Do you know of other candidates that have a stance on EFCA? If so, we would love to hear from you.

Labor Changes Tactics on EFCA and Spends Big in Elections

According to this article in [The Hill](#), labor groups may be changing their strategy. Previously, unions had stated they would not support candidates who did not support the Employee Free Choice Act. Rather, they are looking to help elect Democrats who are at least open to compromise on the legislation.

At the same time, AFSCME is the largest spender of any interest group in the 2009-10 election cycle. "We're the big dog," according to Larry Scanlon of AFSCME. To learn more about labor's involvement in the elections and AFSCME's campaign strategy, [read this](#) *Wall Street Journal* article.

Rage Over Citizens United and its Tie to EFCA

"Remember card check?" asks Daniel Henninger in an opinion piece for the *Wall Street Journal* where he writes about the frustrations felt by both President Obama and Speaker Pelosi over the Citizens United ruling. Henninger

U.S. Chamber
Waconia Chamber of Commerce
Wahpeton Breckenridge Area Chamber
White Bear Area Chamber
Willmar Lakes Area Chamber
Winona Area Chamber
Worthington Area Chamber

Take Action Now!

Talk of action on EFCA commands that we continue to educate and let our individual voice be heard! To contact your elected officials:

1. Go to www.mnbusinessleaders.com.
 2. Click on "Take Action Now!"
 3. Send a message urging them to reconsider their stance on EFCA.
 4. Pass the link on to your friends and colleagues.
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MBL Resource Website

Visit the coalition's new website TODAY!

www.mnbusinessleaders.com

is your information source for all things card check. The site has all of the EFCA resources and information you and your members will need. Powered by the U.S. Chamber, you will find links to the Chamber's card check Toolkit, EFCA facts and figures, and all of the latest news on the legislation.

America's Leading Newspapers Weigh In

The editorial boards of some of the nation's leading newspapers, such as the Wall Street Journal, the L.A. Times,

says, "The purpose of card check was to expand union membership in the U.S. The SEIU's then-president, Andy Stern, saw it adding 1.5 million new union members annually. In turn, that would have added hundreds of millions of dollars to the unions' political campaign war chests, creating a powerful political jackhammer to elect legislators, governors and judges. It didn't happen. But *Citizens United* did happen. If you were a Democratic fundraiser, you'd be raging too."

How else does the (up to this point) failure of card check tie into Citizens United? [Click here](#) to find out.

and the Washington Post, took a look at the Card Check bill. They concluded decisively that the legislation effectively eliminates private ballots. See the link below and read for yourself.

» [Read the editorials](#)

Have you Joined the Virtual March against Card Check Yet?



Click on the image above to do so!

Minnesota Business Leaders: Your Go-To Resource

Click [here](#) for a list of the coalition's contacts.

You are receiving this email because you recently joined the Minnesota Business Leaders coalition or you are a chamber or business association in Minnesota that may have interest in becoming active on this issue.

[Unsubscribe](#) chad@dowellstute.com from this list.

Our mailing address is: 380 Jackson Street, Suite 287, Saint Paul, MN 55101

Our telephone:
651.221.0850

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