

MY PLAN TO GIVE POWER TO THE PEOPLE, NOT THE UNION BOSSES

— SCOTT WALKER —





Power to the People

NOT THE UNION BOSSES

When I was elected Governor of Wisconsin in 2010, voters switched from all Democrat to all Republican control of state government. They wanted us to fulfill our campaign promises.

Our state was in dire fiscal condition, and I was presented with a false choice that the solution was raising taxes on the hardworking people of my state.

Instead, I found a commonsense approach that took power away from the big-government special interests and put it into the hands of the hardworking people.

We brought the power back to local governments by freeing them from big-labor collective bargaining agreements that had hamstrung our government. It was pro-taxpayer.

We passed Right to Work legislation so people have the freedom to choose if they want to be in a labor union or not. It was pro-worker.

We fixed a \$3.6 billion budget deficit so we could focus on helping people create more jobs and higher wages. And our budgets cut taxes by \$4.7 billion so families can keep more of their hard-earned money.

That's what I want to do for America when I get to Washington.

I look at what President Reagan did when the air traffic controllers threatened to go on strike. He forewarned them that going on strike was a violation of the law. When they did it anyway, he fired them. It was a bold move - at great political risk - but it was the right thing to do.

It was part of his plan to drain the swamp in Washington, and I have a plan to do the same. I will work with Congress, or when appropriate, use the power of the executive to make commonsense changes to some of the workplace rules set by Washington: I will check the power of the big-government special interests, empower individuals, and protect taxpayers.

I believe that fairness and opportunity for workers results from freedom. Freedom that allows workers and employers to create flexibility, choice, and innovation in the workplace. Unfortunately, many of the nation's federal labor laws and regulations have stood as a roadblock to fairness and opportunity, and instead have created rigid, top-down workplaces that don't really work for Americans. To achieve fairness and opportunity for American workers, we need to change the status quo. This will not be easy. Many—including the union bosses and the politicians they puppet—have long benefited from Washington rules that put the needs of special interests before those of middle-class families.

Here is my plan to bring power back to the people:

MY PLAN:

POWER TO THE PEOPLE - NOT THE UNION BOSSES

1. Check the Power of Big-Government Special Interests

REDUCE THE POWER OF UNION BOSSES BY ELIMINATING THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)—the federal agency charged with conducting union elections and addressing unfair labor practices—was meant to protect the rights of employees. Instead, it has become a one-sided advocate for big-labor special interests.

In fact, a watchdog report concludes that “the NLRB appears to be sacrificing fairness to job creators in order to promote pro-union policies.” For example, the NLRB’s recent ambush elections rule, which unfairly speeds up union organizing elections in favor of unions, and joint employer standard decision are political giveaways to the union special interests.

The NLRB is broken beyond repair and should be eliminated. I will transfer the NLRB’s oversight and administration of union elections, as well as the board’s role in addressing unfair labor practices brought by employees against unions or employers, to the National Mediation Board.

In addition, I will transfer the NLRB’s quasi-judicial functions to the federal court system. By eliminating the NLRB and appropriately transferring the board’s functions, we can reduce the power of Washington special interests while protecting employee rights and taxpayers.

ELIMINATE BIG-GOVERNMENT UNIONS AND MAKE GOVERNMENT WORK FOR THE PEOPLE

In 2012, according to a federal government survey, taxpayers subsidized 3,395,187 hours of “official time” government union lobbying, including time spent negotiating collective bargaining agreements. The millions of hours spent working for big-government union bosses, rather than the American people, has had a real impact. Consider the effect on the more than 600,000 veterans who faced delays for needed medical care at the Department of Veterans Affairs while more than 250 VA employees—including nurses, pharmacists, and rehabilitation experts—worked 100 percent official time for the big-government union bosses.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt put it best when he said that union bargaining “cannot be transplanted into the public service.” Based on my experience in Wisconsin, I saw this firsthand in terms of the impact big-government unions had on the government’s ability to work on behalf of taxpayers. It’s time to address the problems with collective bargaining in public service rather than tinker around the edges. As president, I will work with Congress to eliminate big-government, federal unions on behalf of the American taxpayer. Big-government unions should have no place in the federal workplace, and I will reform the law to prohibit them. Further, I will stand in solidarity with any governor, Republican or Democrat, who fights the big-government special interests in their state and takes on collective bargaining reform like I did in Wisconsin.



ENSURE THAT WASHINGTON SPECIAL INTERESTS ARE TRANSPARENT

On Day One of my administration, I will put in place accountability and transparency rules. I will require online disclosure of union expenditures, including revealing the total compensation of union officers, itemizing union trust fund expenditures, increasing reporting requirements for local affiliates of government employee unions, and restoring conflict-of-interest reporting requirements. I will also direct the Department of Labor to provide states information on the cost of their existing collective bargaining policies and how much could be saved if they reformed those policies.

2. Empower Individuals

NATIONWIDE RIGHT TO WORK

Workers deserve to have the freedom to choose whether they want to be in a labor union or not. We will work to change the default position in federal law to be Right to Work for all private, state, and local public sector workers. States would have to affirmatively vote to opt out of Right to Work status. Individuals should not have to pay union bosses for the right to earn a living.

PROTECT AN EMPLOYEE'S RIGHT TO NEGOTIATE

The freedom to contract is a bedrock principle of our free market economic system. The National Labor Relations Act gives union bosses a legal monopoly over collective bargaining through exclusive representation over a workplace's employees. This monopoly power runs counter to the spirit of free enterprise and workplace flexibility. I will work to change federal law to allow employees the flexibility to join a union or not, preserving an employee's freedom to contract with an employer.

PROTECT STATE EMPLOYEES' FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS

Under some collective bargaining agreements, state employees must fork over as much as \$1,000 a year in mandatory dues to the union bosses. In many cases, these dues support political activities that public employees do not support.

The Constitution protects the right to free speech, and forced union contributions to fund political activities clearly infringe on this basic right. State employees have the right to join a union and should have a similar right not to join a union. In fact, the Supreme Court has recently taken up this issue. Should the court fail to uphold the Constitution, I will act to change the law to end the practice of forced union dues and protect free speech.

PROTECT FEDERAL WORKER PAY

The federal government should not be forcing federal employees to fund the big-labor political agenda. Federal law prohibits federal employees from engaging in any "political activities" while acting in an official capacity. Using the federal payroll system to withhold dues used for a union's political spending runs counter to the law that establishes a separation between federal government resources and union political activity.

On Day One of our administration, I will require federal employee unions to disclose and certify the portion of dues used for political activity and prohibit withholding for that amount. The federal government should not be in the business of serving as dues collector for big-government special interests.

PROTECT EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

I will strengthen federal law to ensure the right to a federally supervised secret ballot election for union organizing elections or votes to approve a strike. In addition, I will protect an employee's right to privacy during union organizing campaigns and ensure their personal information can be kept private.

Furthermore, federal law should be changed to protect employees from threats, violence, and extortion from a union. As it stands, the Supreme Court has ruled that federal prohibitions outlawing extortion usually do not apply to unions. I will ensure that employee rights are protected. Finally, I will work to strengthen union recertification requirements, requiring that employees have the right to vote on their union on a periodic basis.

PROTECT WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY

The Obama administration's government-knows-best proposed rules will require employers to pay overtime rates to greater numbers of salaried works and require federal contractors to provide paid sick leave. Unfortunately, these rules will only reduce wages and deprive workers of the flexibility to balance work and life commitments.

On Day One of my administration, I will repeal any regulation that reduces employee flexibility, as well as work for changes to federal law to allow time off for overtime hours worked. My changes will protect workplace flexibility by ensuring that misguided big-government mandates do not stand in the way of individuals and families.

PROTECT AN EMPLOYEE'S RIGHT TO BE EXCEPTIONAL

The NLRB and the courts have routinely held that federal law bars employers from giving individual union employees bonuses for exceptional work. This means that the compensation of both unproductive and exceptional employees are capped at the same level set by the union's collective bargaining agreement.

I will work to ensure that the best employees are rewarded for their best work. There is nothing more American than rewarding individual initiative, and collective bargaining agreements need to be brought into the 21st century.

PROTECT UNION WHISTLEBLOWERS

I will work to change federal law to ensure that unions cannot fire, discriminate, or otherwise retaliate against a whistleblower who reports wrongdoing on the part of a union. In addition, unions will not be able to fire or discriminate against employees who object to or refuse to participate in any activities that violate the law.

3. Protect Taxpayers

MAKE TAXPAYER DOLLARS GO FURTHER

Special interest giveaways like Davis-Bacon wage controls and project labor agreements for federal highway projects require the federal government to pay artificially high wages to union bosses. Repealing Davis Bacon wage controls alone could save taxpayers nearly \$13 billion over the next ten years.

We also must break up the union monopoly on large federal highway projects. Project labor agreements require that federal construction projects use union-only labor. PLAs are estimated to add between 12 and 18 percent to the cost of highway projects. I will work to repeal Davis-Bacon wage controls and break the union monopoly on federal highway projects by ending the use of PLAs.

CONCLUSION

When the federal government usurps power, control shifts from states, communities, families, and individuals to well-connected special interests that pick winners and losers. For too long, union special interests in Washington have used the system to unfairly benefit themselves at the expense of the American worker. The commonsense reforms outlined here will focus the federal government's role to ensure that special-interest loopholes are closed once and for all. My reforms will preserve long-standing democratic principles and protect employee privacy. Americans deserve a president who commits to policies to increase jobs and reward hard work, and those results will be delivered under a Walker administration.



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