

Card Check

Moderator: Bill Mongelluzzo, *West Coast Editor, Journal of Commerce*

**Panelists: Herb Shear, *president and CEO, GENCO* and
Pat O'Connor, *Kent & O'Connor***

Employee Free Choice Act

“Card Check”

“We want to remind Congress that [EFCA] is the AFL-CIO’s No. 1 priority, and we’re going to push as hard as we can.”

New York Times

What EFCA Does

- Recognition based on a majority of signed authorization cards
- Does away with secret ballot elections
- Union controls scope of bargaining unit
- Does not extend to decertification

Interest Arbitration

- Contract negotiations within 10 days
- Mediation after 90 days
- Arbitration after 30 more days
- Results of arbitration binding for 2 years

Applies in Right to Work States

Small Companies Are a Target

- 70% of NLRB elections are units of fewer than 50 employees

Why Card Check Is Labor's #1 Issue

- Private sector union-density below 8 percent (down from 25% in 1977)
- Money and influence

SEIU Flexes Muscle

January 29, 2008

By David M. Drucker, Roll Call Staff

The Service Employees International Union would like to deliver a filibuster-proof Senate to Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) in November, and the 1.9 million-strong union plans on spending a significant chunk of its nearly \$100 million political budget to do it. SEIU leaders are targeting at least seven Senate races and around a dozen House contests, believing their ability to affect public policy lies as much in diminishing the Republicans' demonstrated ability to block union-favored legislation in Congress as it does in electing a Democrat to the White House — if not more so.

Congressional Vote in 2007

- House vote 241 – 185
- Senate vote 51 – 48
- Labor needs 60 votes in the Senate

The Union Strategy

- 2007 – force a vote
- 2008 – make it an election issue
- 2008 – win the White House
- 2008 – increase majorities in the Congress
- 2009 – enact Card Check into law

What the Public Says

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Every worker should continue to have the right to a federally supervised secret ballot election when deciding whether to organize a union."

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dem.</u>	<u>Ind.</u>
Agree	87%	87%	89%	84%
Disagree	9%	9%	6%	12%

Coalition for a Democratic Workplace

- IWLA and others form the Coalition for a Democratic Workplace
- IWLA is a member of the coalition steering committee
- More than 500 members

2008 Action Plan

- Make the issue radioactive
- Target key Senate races
- Opinion surveys in key states
- TV, radio and print media in key states
- Control the message – “right to a private ballot”

2008 Bottom Line

- Retain 45/46 votes in the Senate
- Election results in key Senate races
 - Maine
 - Minnesota
 - Colorado
 - New Mexico
 - Oregon
 - Louisiana
 - New Hampshire

What's At Stake