

To: Public Labor Unions Accountability Committee (PLUAC)
From: Derek Falcon, Vice President
Subject: PLUAC National LGE Survey
Date: June 5, 2024

Overview

Voters were asked a series of questions to gauge familiarity with and agreement on statements about the role of public sector unions. We found that right-of-center voters were particularly critical of public sector unions, with many agreeing that unions have overrun education, government, and media, contributing to a decline in overall trust in these institutions. This group also generally opposed the recent Biden administration initiative to require select businesses working to assist those on Medicare and Medicaid to unionize.

The purpose of this survey was to understand national perspectives and opinions regarding the use and function of public labor unions. Approximately 7% of the sample self-identified as members of a public-sector union, slightly below the national average of 11.2%, falling just outside the survey's margin of error.

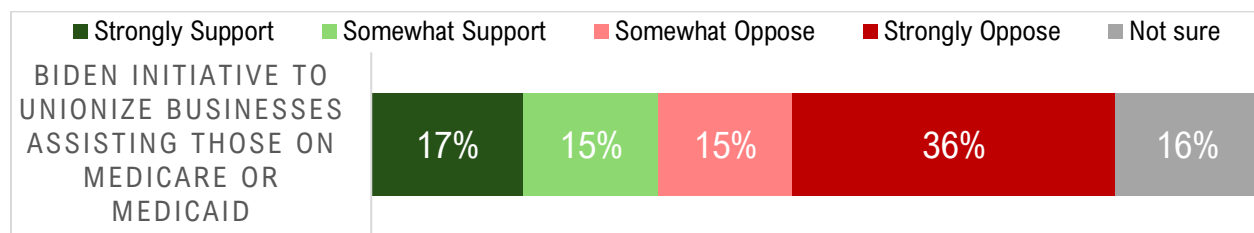
Public Sector Union Image

Participants were generally unaware of public sector unions as only 59% of the sample had a formed opinion of them. Public sector unions trailed teachers' unions considerably in net favorability, we see this routinely because the public associates teachers unions with their local schools that they like. The demographics with the least favorable views of public sector unions were Hispanics (32% unfavorable), Republicans (46% unfavorable), and very conservatives (56% unfavorable).

The sample was split nearly in half on how familiar they were with the roles of public sector unions (46% familiar, 48% unfamiliar, -2% net familiarity). There is a correlation with education and income: as these increase, so does familiarity with the roles of public sector unions.

Opposition to Biden Administration's Initiative to Unionize

The sample showed significant opposition to the recent Biden administration initiative aimed at unionizing select businesses that assist patients on Medicare and Medicaid, with 36% of the sample indicating intense opposition. This opposition was widespread across the ideological spectrum, with a significant portion of independents also disapproving of the initiative. Moreover, an overwhelming majority of participants over the age of 65, many of whom are Medicare or Medicaid recipients, also opposed the initiative.



Message Agreement

The following section consisted of a series of messages. For each one, voters indicated whether they agreed or disagreed and then were asked to gauge the intensity of their feelings. Here are the statements with net positive agreement:

- We need to protect taxpayers, teachers, and seniors from the public sector unions trying to slow down Medicaid and Medicare services for the vulnerable: 51% Agree / 25% Disagree / +26% NET. This was the best-testing message and popped amongst all demographics.
- Public sector unions hold complete power over government officials who they elect through their campaign contributions: 40% Agree / 35% Disagree / +5% NET. This was the second highest testing message amongst Hispanics (+11% NET agreement).
- Unions negatively impact public education by prioritizing social issues over preparing students for their future: 44% Agree / 33% Disagree / +11% NET. This was message had the second highest agreement amongst voters 75+.
- Unions support predominantly left-leaning agendas: 43% Agree / 29% Disagree / +14% NET
- Trust in the American media has drastically declined because they are controlled by public sector unions who only promote a far-left narrative: 44% Agree / 38% Disagree / +6% NET

NET Agreement	We need to protect taxpayers, teachers and seniors...	Public sector unions hold complete power...	Unions negatively impact education...	Unions support left-leaning agendas.	Trust in American media has declined due to unions
African-Americans	+40%	+3%	-7%	+6%	-16%
Hispanics	+33%	+11%	+7%	+/-	-15%
Voters 65+	+23%	+6%	+12%	+12%	-1%
Voters 75+	+17%	+1%	+13%	+12%	-9%
Earning less than <\$50k	+43%	+23%	+21%	12%	+11%
Republican	+48%	+32%	+54%	+43%	+57%
Democrat	+12%	-25%	-25%	-11%	-42%
Independent	+11%	+6%	+1%	+12%	+/-
Northeast Region	+13%	-1%	+5%	-17%	-12%
Southeast Region	+25%	+8%	+26%	+28%	+25%
Midwest Region	+26%	-3%	+13%	+28%	-2%
Southwest Region	+31%	+28%	+30%	+41%	+1%

Methodology

The Tyson Group conducted an N=650 national likely general election voter survey utilizing mixed-mode collection via internet panel and phones. The survey has a margin for error of +/- 3.84% and was collected from May 15-16, 2024. The final sample was weighted to reflect census representation.