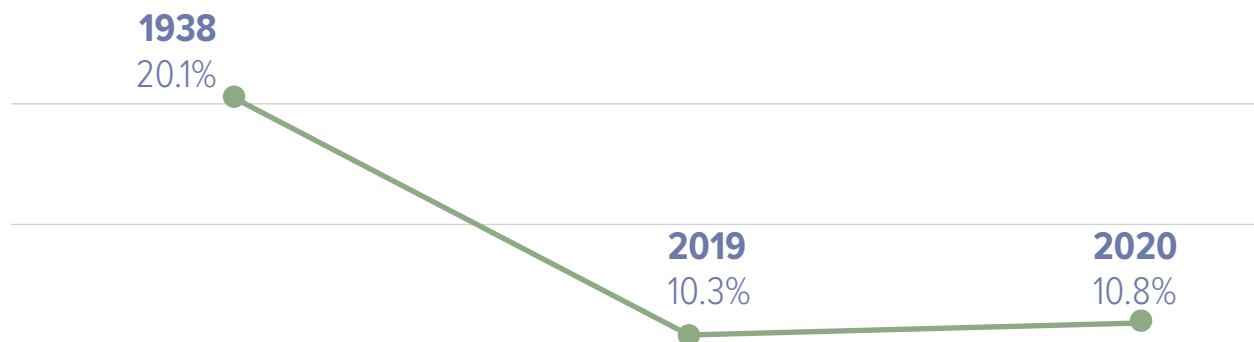


# Implementing the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act

JUNE 2021

## Overall union membership has been cut in half from 1983-2020

Bureau of Labor Statistics data indicates that in 1983, 20.1% of employed Americans were members of a union. By 2019, that share had decreased by roughly half to 10.3%. But in 2020, that share ticked up slightly to 10.8%.



**The American Jobs Plan (AJP) consistently emphasizes that the millions of new jobs created by the plan should be good-paying with opportunities for employees to organize or join a union and bargain collectively with their employer. The Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, which proposes the biggest expansion in labor protections in decades, would help accomplish this goal. The PRO Act limits corporations' ability to unfairly intervene in union elections and eliminates "right-to-work" laws, which have hindered collective bargaining efforts across the nation and disempowered workers.**

Furthermore, the PRO Act would penalize corporations that discriminate on the basis of immigration status and provide labor unions with a much-needed boost in the negotiation process with management through the First Contract Arbitration (FCA) clause. The bill has already passed the House of

Representatives, so the possibility of the PRO Act being implemented rests on consolidating the entirety of the Senate Democratic Caucus in its favor. Lawmakers in the Senate should pass the PRO Act to realize President Biden’s vision of organized labor driving America’s economic recovery and clean energy transition.

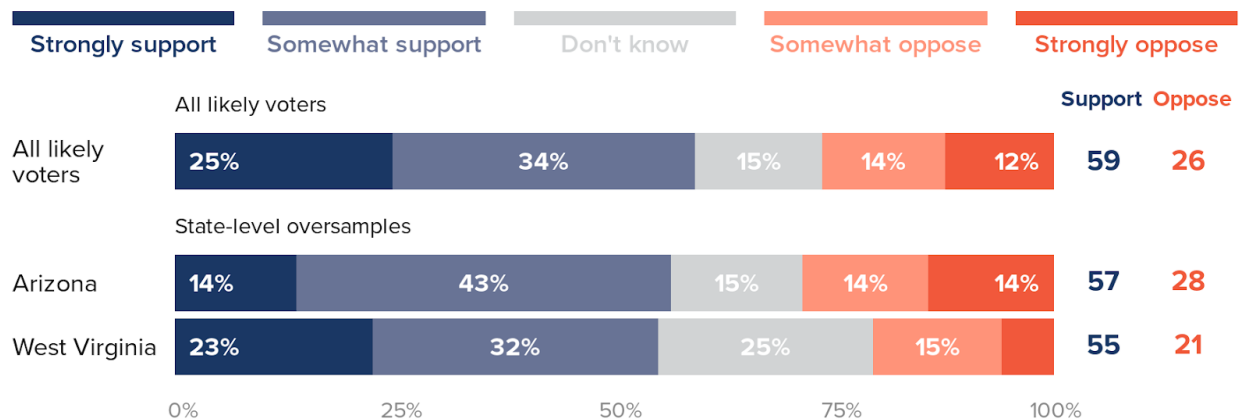
Decades of onslaught by corporate power has weakened American unions, and we’ve all paid the price for it. The decline of union power has resulted in increased inequality and an economy in which corporate giants have been able to abuse the rights of workers. By playing hardball to pass the PRO Act, Biden will show he is serious about making good on his promise to be the “most pro-union president” in American history.

A majority of likely voters, both nationwide and in states with senators who are key to passing the PRO Act in Congress, support the legislation. By a 33-point margin, voters support the PRO Act (59 percent support, 26 percent oppose). In Arizona, voters support the PRO Act by a 29-point margin (57 percent support, 28 percent oppose), and in West Virginia, voters support it by a 34-point margin (55 percent support, 21 percent oppose). Given the broad popularity of the PRO Act, Democratic lawmakers should pass it to fulfill President Biden’s vision of creating new jobs that empower workers.

## Voters Support the PRO Act

The PRO Act is legislation to strengthen labor laws. This proposal would give workers more power during disputes at work, add penalties for companies that retaliate against workers who try to form a union, give more workers currently classified as contractors in the gig economy (like Uber drivers) the right to organize and form unions, and eliminate right-to-work laws which allow employees to enjoy the benefits of a union contract without contributing to the costs.

Do you support or oppose the PRO Act?



April 21–25, 2021 survey of 1,703 likely voters

DATA FOR PROGRESS