



PUBLIC UNION RECERTIFICATION

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THE PROBLEM: Once a government union comes to power, it can stay in power indefinitely. No further elections are scheduled and no term limits are imposed. This means workers can do little to ensure their union truly represents their interests and is held accountable.

THE SOLUTION: Regular public union recertification elections.

Regular public union elections would give workers the right to elect union representation to fixed terms. Regular elections would help keep union actions in line with worker interests and lead to competition among unions. It would also help prevent backlash from union leadership in response to decertification petitions.¹

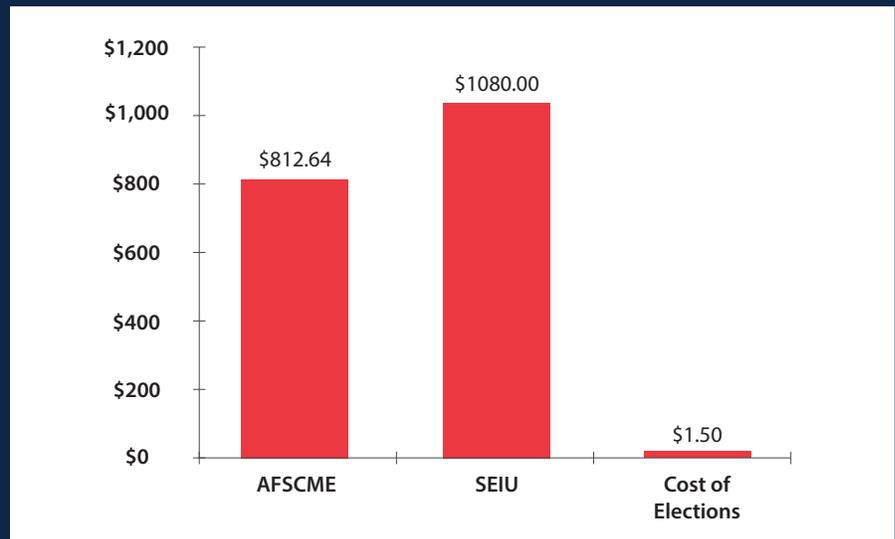
WHO ELSE DOES IT?

Currently, only Wisconsin requires regular public union elections.

THE OPPORTUNITY: The Commonwealth Foundation recently gave Missouri a letter grade of 'D' regarding its public labor laws. Research from the Show-Me Institute indicates that regular union elections need not be prohibitively expensive, and they offer a way to ensure that the unions serve the workers—not the other way around.

SELECTED UNION DUES PER WORKER VS. COST OF ELECTION PER VOTE

Union recertification elections could be funded with a tiny fraction of the amount that most union members pay in annual dues.



Source: Wright, J. The Low Cost of Labor Reform. The Show-Me Institute, 2015.

KEY POINTS

- Public workers in Missouri should have the right to choose who represents them.
- Regular elections would make unions more accountable to those they represent, just as regular government elections pressure politicians to be accountable to voters.
- Regular elections need not create new fiscal burdens, and can be cost neutral.

¹Employees can only force an election through a petition process in which their personal information is made public.

SHOW-ME INSTITUTE RESOURCES

Essay: [Primer on government–labor relations](#)

Essay: [“The Low Cost of Labor Reform”](#)

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