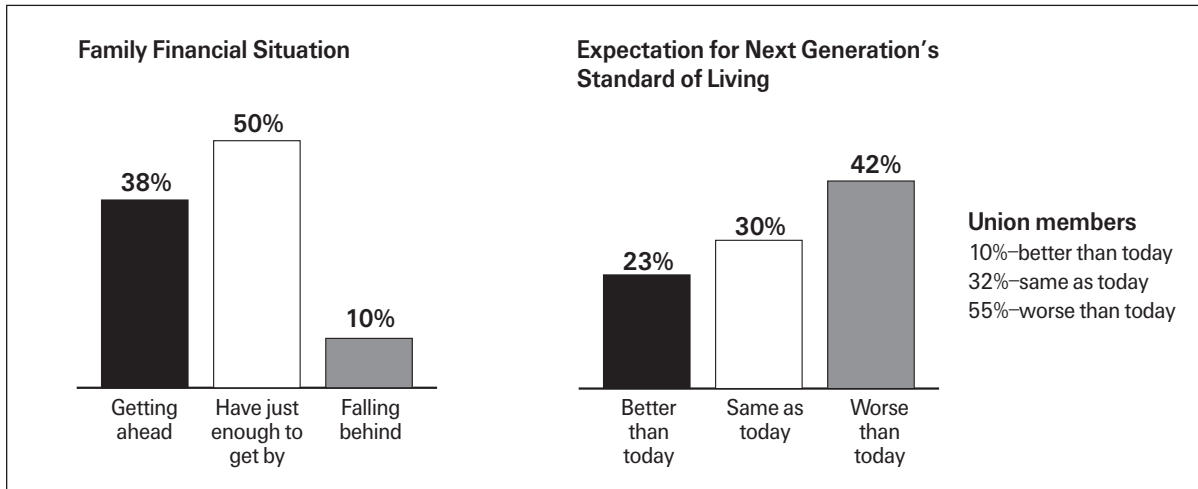


With Grim Expectations for Next Generation's Financial Future, Public Sees Unions as Key to Improving Economic Opportunity

For information: 202-637-5018

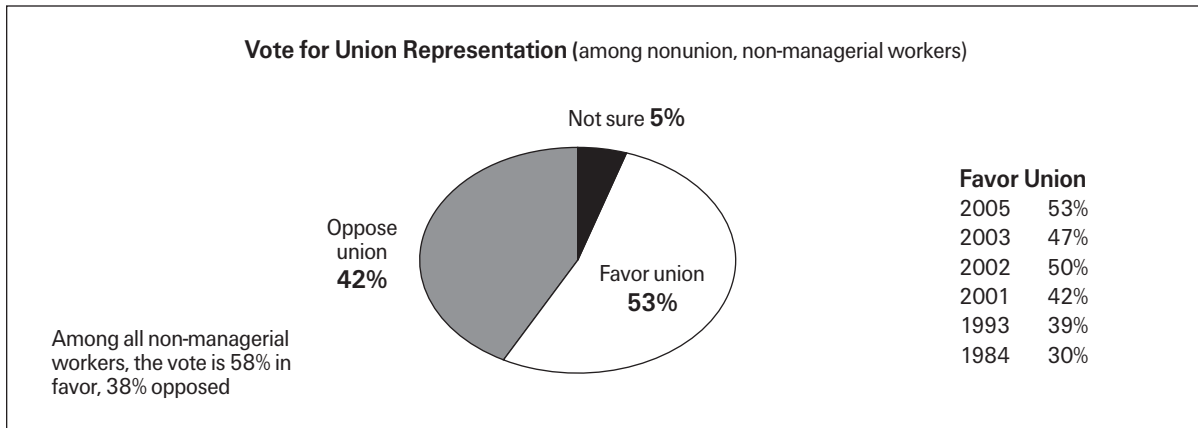
Public Pessimistic About Economic Future for Next Generation

Working people are struggling to make ends meet. According to a December 2006 national survey by Peter Hart Research, half of Americans report having “just enough to get by,” while another 10 percent report they are “falling behind.” What’s worse is their expectations for the future: A whopping 42 percent feel the situation for the next generation will be “worse than today.” Less than a quarter say the next generation’s standard of living will be better.



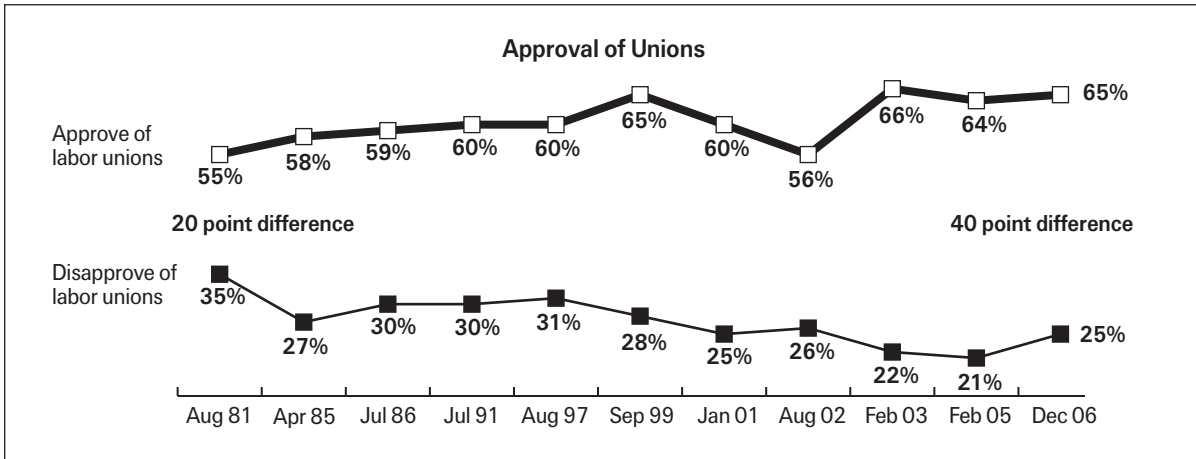
Public Sees Unions as Agent for Change

More than two-thirds of those polled believe unions can make a difference in the lives of workers today. In fact, 53 percent of U.S. workers—60 million—say they would join a union right now if they could. Sixty-two percent of Americans believe workers would be “worse off” if there were no unions.



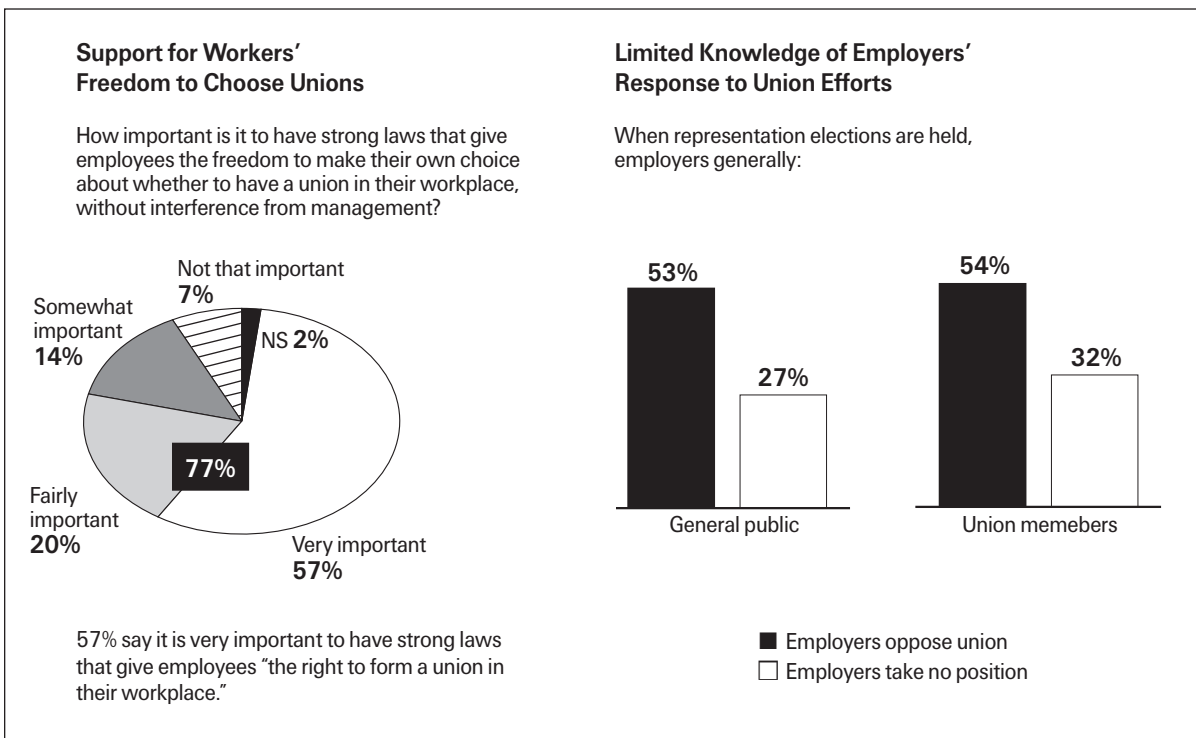
Approval Ratings of Unions Up

Demonstrating a steady increase since the early 1980s in public attitudes toward unions, 65 percent now say they approve of unions. In contrast, only one-quarter say they disapprove of unions, down significantly from 35 percent in 1981. A majority of people in all age, income and regional groups approves of unions. The highest approval ratings (71 percent) were among young people 18 to 34 years old and those with incomes of less than \$40,000 per year. Forty-three percent of Republicans and 62 percent of Independents say they approve of unions



Public Favors Workers' Freedom to Choose a Union

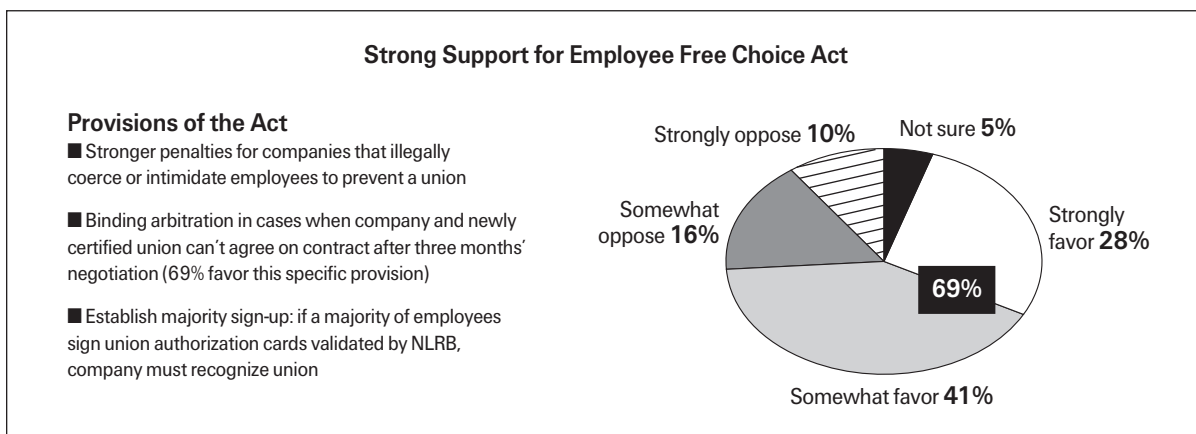
More than three-quarters of Americans—77 percent—say it is important to have strong laws that give employees the freedom to make their own choice about whether to have a union in their workplace without interference from management. But the system for forming unions is broken—employers routinely harass, intimidate, threaten and even fire workers who try to form unions. Unfortunately, only a slim majority of the public—53 percent—is aware that employers generally oppose unionization.



Support for Laws to Protect Workers' Choice to Form Unions is Strong

More than two-thirds of the public—69 percent—supports new legislation called the Employee Free Choice Act. The bill would strengthen penalties for employers that violate workers' freedom to make their own choice about a union. It would allow a neutral party to determine a contract if the company and employees cannot reach an agreement. And it would enable employees to form their union when a majority signs authorization cards. The Employee Free Choice Act limits employers' ability to game the system, levels the playing field and gives working men and women the ability to make up their own minds about whether to have a union to improve their lives.

Democrats and Republicans, people in all regions of the country and at all education levels say they support the Employee Free Choice Act. Support is highest among Democrats (83 percent), Midwesterners and people with some college education (74 percent for each). But the bill also has majority support among Republicans (54 percent), Independents (63 percent), Southerners (65 percent) and people in right-to-work-for-less states (65 percent).



Public Staunchly Opposes Firing and Harassing Workers for Union Support

America strongly disapproves of the tactics employers use to block workers' free choice about unions. Disapproval for firing employees who support a union is almost universal at 94 percent, closely followed by disapproval of supervisors urging individual employees to vote against the union (82 percent) and warning that pay or benefits would be reduced if employees vote for union representation (81 percent).

