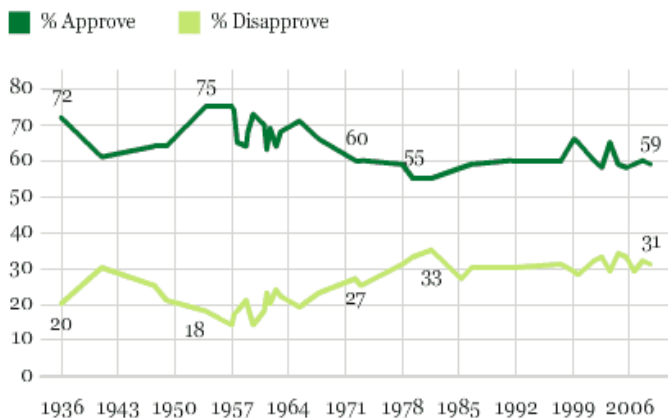


Most Americans Support Labor Unions

According to a new Gallop poll, Americans broadly approve of labor unions, as they have for the past seven decades. But only about 1 in 10 Americans belong to a labor union, according to Gallup's recent estimates, and about 1 in 6 U.S. households include a union member.

Do you approve or disapprove of labor unions?



GALLUP POLL

Last week President-elect Barack Obama once again assured labor groups of his unwavering support for Employee Free Choice, and his commitment to getting the bill passed once he is in the White House. The UFCW is committed to working with the new President through a state-by-state grassroots and a legislative congressional effort to get the Employee Free Choice Act passed.

UFCW Membership Benefits Young Members Seeking College Education

Each year, the UFCW International and UFCW locals award hundreds of thousands of scholarship dollars to members and their dependents. These scholarships help make the dream of a college education a reality for many UFCW members.

Unfortunately, according to a report from the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, the rising cost of college is threatening to put higher

education out of reach for most Americans. The report found that published college tuition and fees increased 439 percent from 1982 to 2007, adjusted for inflation, while median family income rose just 147 percent.

To pay increasing amounts of tuition, the report found student borrowing has more than doubled in the last ten years. It also found that students from lower-income families, on average, get smaller grants from the colleges they attend than students from more affluent families.

The UFCW is committed to doing its part to help close the education gap and create opportunity for workers and families, which is why so many scholarships are made available to union members and their families each year. For more information on UFCW scholarships and how to apply, go to: <http://www.ufcw.org/scholarship/>.

UFCW Members Working at Kroger Help Keep Company Profitable with Good Customer Service

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, analysts believe the Kroger Company is poised to keep posting excellent numbers in part because of its strategy of focusing on customer service.



Kroger is the nation's second-largest food retailer after Wal-Mart, and is one of the largest employers of UFCW members in the nation.

UFCW members are known for their dedication and hard work, and will continue to help make Kroger successful—even in these tough economic times.

Local 770 Members Turn Out to Support Auto Workers

Members of UFCW Local 770, along with over 200 other union members and community supporters, marched in front of the federal courthouse in Los Angeles this weekend in an effort to keep pressure on Congress to pass a bailout bill for the auto industry.

"This is not a union fight. This is an American fight," said Willie Rodriguez, a vice president of Local 770.

UFCW Members on Strike

Members of UFCW Local 86D and officials from Grain Processing Corp. (GPC) of Muscatine, IA, are scheduled to meet this week to resume contract talks. The company had previously presented a contract offer that would have hurt workers, and the negotiating committee rejected it. UFCW Local 86D has been locked out since August 22.

UFCW Local 880 members in Winesburg, Ohio, continued their strike in an effort to reach a first contract with Case Farms poultry plant.

Vice President-elect Appoints Longtime Advocate for Workers as Economic Policy Advisor

Vice President-elect Joe Biden has appointed Economic Policy Institute Economist Jared Bernstein as his economic policy advisor. Bernstein served in the Clinton administration under Robert Reich, is an unapologetic economic progressive, and has been a longtime advocate for policies that work for working families. He has also been a frequent advisor to the UFCW, and has led workshops at the UFCW on economic issues.

Biden said that Bernstein is "a proven, passionate advocate for raising the incomes of middle-class families. His expertise and background in a wide range of domestic and international economic policies will be an invaluable asset to the Obama-Biden Administration."

American Dream More Accessible for Women Workers, Study Finds

A study recently released by the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) found that women workers who belong to a union have better wages, benefits and pensions.

This study found that on average unionization raised women's wages by 11.2 percent, or about \$2.00 per hour, compared to non-union women workers.



Women workers in unions were about 19 percent more likely to have employer-provided health insurance and about 25 percent more likely to have an employer-provided pension, the study found.

According to the CEPR, women in 2007 made up 45 percent of union members. If the share of women in unions continues to grow at the same pace as it has over the last 25 years, women will be the majority of the unionized workforce by 2020.

To read the complete study, please visit: <http://www.cepr.net/index.php/publications/reports/unions-and-upward-mobility-for-women-workers/>