

RIGHT TO WORK IS WORKING

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KEY FACTS

- Right to Work passed by Oklahoma voters (54% to 46%) in 2001
- From 2003 to 2013, Oklahoma ranked 8th in the country in non-agricultural employment growth
- Between 1999 and 2014, Oklahoma had one of the highest per capita personal income growth rates in the nation
- In the first six months after Oklahoma passed Right to Work, the state went from 40th in the nation to 1st in terms of new job creation
- A new study by the Competitive Enterprise Institute reports that states without right-to-work laws from 1977 to today have forfeited between \$2,500 and \$3,500 in per capita income (a median income loss of \$13,000 per year for a family of four)

BACKGROUND

Oklahoma passed Right to Work in a special election in September 2001 following a strong majority vote in the state legislature (73-28 in the House; 31-17 in the Senate). Oklahoma citizens voted in record numbers in that special election and passed the Constitutional amendment 54% to 46%.

Since then, Oklahoma has seen that Right to Work is working. During the campaign to pass Right to Work, we continuously stated that Oklahoma's economy needed to have Right to Work in place to recruit businesses to come to our state and create jobs. Since 2001, when Right to Work was passed, Oklahoma's employment has grown by 8.4%.

STATE CHAMBER POSITION

Right to Work is working and has helped raise the per capita personal income (PCPI) level of our citizens. In 2016, Oklahoma's per capita personal income was \$45,682. It has increased 90.5% since 2000.

The National Institute for Labor Relations Research said Oklahoma's economy thrived once Right to Work was passed when compared to other states. In the first six months after Oklahoma passed Right to Work, the state went from 40th in the nation to 1st in terms of new job creation. In 2002, the first year following the passage of Right to Work in Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce reported that companies announced plans to add the highest number of new jobs since 1995. In fact, job announcements were up 94% from 2001, while increased investment announcements rose 153%.

Oklahoma's citizens looked at where our economy was in 2001 and decided we could do better. They believed that no one should be forced to join any organization to get a job. Fifteen years after Oklahoma citizens voted 54% to 46% to allow workers the right to choose whether they want to join a union or not, the facts show that our economy is improving.