



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: June 29, 2021

### Contact

Bonnie Taylor  
703.297.8554

## Survey: Virginia Voters Concerned About PRO Act And Its Impact On Workers' Rights And Small Business

*Nearly eight in 10 voters concerned about federal legislation repealing Virginia's right-to-work laws, forcing workers to pay union dues or risk losing their job.*

*Seven in 10 voters concerned about privacy issues and negative impacts on small businesses and independent contractors.*

**Fairfax, VA** – A new statewide survey shows Virginia voters have serious concerns regarding the **Protecting Right to Organize (PRO) Act** and the impact the federal legislation would have on workers' rights and small business if enacted by Congress.

Virginia voters are most concerned that the PRO Act, which would drastically rewrite labor regulations in the U.S. and **repeal Virginia's right-to-work laws**, would force employees to join a union and pay dues to retain their job, turn over employees' personal information to union organizers, negatively impact small businesses and put independent contractors out of work.

Northern Virginia Chamber President and CEO Julie Coons said the survey aligns with the concerns of employees and employers throughout the state:

"This year has taken a toll on Virginia's workers and small businesses. The PRO Act that would repeal our right-to-work law and force Virginians to pay union dues as a condition of employment. Doing so would do irreparable harm to Virginia's ability to attract new businesses, permanently damaging our economy," Ms. Coons said. "This survey shows that voters share these concerns and do not support radically changing labor laws at the expense of Virginia workers and businesses."

Ms. Coons thanked Virginia's Senator Mark Warner for not sponsoring the legislation and standing up for the state's small business community and workers.

"Senator Warner should be applauded for standing up for Virginia workers and small businesses in not signing on to the PRO Act," Ms. Coons said. "We are extremely thankful that our senator is standing his ground given the significant pressure and intimidation being deployed by out-of-state PRO Act supporters."

The statewide survey of 502 Virginia voters was conducted by Forbes Tate Partners, a bipartisan government affairs and research firm, from May 25 through June 2, 2021.



#### Key findings:

- **61 percent** of Virginia voters, including **52 percent** of Democratic voters, think unions should have the same or less influence. Only **27 percent** think unions should have more influence.
- Specifically, **60 percent** of voters in Northern Virginia wanted unions to have the same or less amount of influence while only **29 percent** wanted unions to have more.
- **Nearly eight out of 10 (72 percent)** voters are concerned about repealing Virginia's right-to-work protections for workers and forcing them to pay union dues or risk losing their job.
- **76 percent** of Virginia voters are concerned about requiring employers to turn over employees' personal information to union organizers without the consent of the employee.
- **Nearly seven out of 10 (69 percent)** voters are concerned the PRO Act limits the ability of individuals to work as independent contractors.
- **65 percent** of voters believe that Americans should not be forced to join a union as a condition of employment.
- **67 percent** of voters are concerned about eliminating 'secret ballot' union elections.
- **62 percent** of voters are concerned about upending the franchise business model turning existing owners of franchises into employees of their brand and reducing new franchise ownership opportunities.

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#### **About the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce**

Originally founded in 1925 as a Fairfax county-focused business advocacy organization, the Northern Virginia Chamber has grown into the region's largest Chamber of Commerce, drawing members and impacting policy across the Greater Washington D.C. Metropolitan Region. Today, representing close to 500,000 employees, the diversity of our community is one of our greatest assets, offering opportunities to learn from one another and form personal connections that help guide lasting business growth.

The Chamber's goal is to be considered not only a business partner but also an agent of change for our members. We do this through our work in government advocacy, education through events and programs, networking, promotion of member businesses, and recognition through awards. We are proud to have worked together over these many years to build a meaningful association that enriches our community and look forward to continuing that good work.

For more information, visit [www.novachamber.org](http://www.novachamber.org).