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## QuickPoint! – End Forced Unionism Now

By Steve Buckstein

The failed June 5<sup>th</sup> recall election of Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker was supposedly over collective bargaining reform, but syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer [points out](#) that the real battle was over ending automatic collection of union dues by government: “Without the thumb of the state tilting the scale by coerced collection, union membership became truly voluntary. Result? Newly freed members rushed for the exits. In less than one year, AFSCME, the second largest public-sector union in Wisconsin, has lost more than 50 percent of its membership.”

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels ended that practice in his state seven years ago, and 91 percent of public union members no longer pay dues. Then, on February 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, Daniels signed legislation making Indiana the 23<sup>rd</sup> Right to Work state so that no workers, public or private, can be forced to join a union or pay dues against their will.

The Walker recall failure shows that a politician can stand against forced unionism and still keep his job. It is time for Oregon politicians to take such stands. They should stop forcibly collecting union dues from unwilling workers. Then, they should make Oregon the 24<sup>th</sup> Right to Work state [so all workers can keep their jobs](#) without some third party coming between them and their employer.

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*Steve Buckstein is founder and Senior Policy Analyst at Cascade Policy Institute, Oregon's free market public policy research organization.*

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