**Right-Wing Activities Since *Janus v. AFSCME***

# Summary

The Freedom Foundation, the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, and other right-wing political actors have mobilized a national union-opt-out campaign in response to the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Janus v. AFSCME* on June 27, 2018. Within hours of the decision, right-wing think tanks and media outlets began advertising opt-out websites, soliciting donations, and contacting union members directly. All reported anti-union outreach and campaign mobilization since the decision is included in this report.

# June 27, 2018

* Internal documents published on June 27, 2018 expose the Freedom Foundation’s plan of attack after *Janus*, which aims to reduce union density in Washington, Oregon, and California by 127,000 members in 12 months. Freedom Foundation is deploying 80 new canvassers for this campaign.[[1]](#footnote-1) CFT was listed as a “tier one” target in California, but AFT affiliates were not in the top three tiers in Washington or Oregon.
* The Freedom Foundation sent an email notice to all state employees in Oregon, explaining *Janus* and advertising their multi-state Opt-Out Today campaign. The email included a link to an opt-out form and instructions for dropping membership with AFSCME Council 75. [[2]](#footnote-2)
* The Mackinac Center for Public Policy launched a hotline for its national [My Pay My Say](https://www.mypaymysay.com/) opt-out campaign. 1-833-33MYPAY is staffed by a professional call center. [[3]](#footnote-3)
* AFSCME reports that union members in Massachusetts received phone calls from an unspecified right-to-work group, walking them through an unspecified opt-out website. AFSCME will provide more information about these calls as soon as possible.
* The Illinois Policy Institute launched [www.leavemyunion.com](http://www.leavemyunion.com) , a union-opt out website targeting all public employees in the state of Illinois. The website provides directions for dropping union membership and withdrawing authorization for dues deduction. [[4]](#footnote-4)
* The administration of Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner created an [internal webpage](https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/TeamIllinois/LaborRelations/Pages/Change-Union-Membership-Status.aspx) explaining *Janus* to state employees. It also lists union dues for every state bargaining unit, links to a union drop form, and provides instructions for notifying state employers of membership changes.
	+ All state employees were sent an email advising them that the state would cease collecting fair shares, and providing a link to this website, where state employees can change their union status.
* Philadelphia media featured Americans for Fair Treatment’s [Free to Teach](http://www.freetoteach.org/) and upcoming Free to Serve opt-out campaigns targeting teachers and public employees in Pennsylvania. Americans for Fair Treatment was created by the Commonwealth Foundation, and its board of directors includes executives from the Empire Center for Public Policy and the Mackinac Center.
* The Yankee Institute for Public Policy sent an email to supporters, soliciting donations for its [CT Workers](https://ctworkers.squarespace.com/) opt-out campaign in Connecticut.
* The Center of the American Experiment posted billboards advertising [Educated Teachers MN](http://www.educatedteachersmn.com/), its teacher opt-out campaign, near the Minneapolis Convention Center, where the NEA is holding its 2018 Annual Meeting next week. [[5]](#footnote-5)
* The Center for Union Facts began a $45,000 television buy in the District of Columbia metro market, targeting CNN and Fox News. The buy will run through July 1st.
* Americans for Prosperity ran Facebook ads about the *Janus* decision to users in New Jersey. The ad buy appears to have cost less than $100, and may have been a continuation of an on-going digital paid media campaign.
* The Buckeye Institute launched [www.workerschoose.org](http://www.workerschoose.org), a union-opt out website targeting teachers and public employees in Ohio. The website provides directions for dropping union membership, withdrawing authorization for dues deduction, and joining the Association of American Educators. [[6]](#footnote-6)

# June 28, 2018

* On the morning of June 28, 2018, the Mackinac Center for Public Policy sent email blasts to teachers’ school email addresses in New York, Illinois, Ohio, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Washington State, advertising My Pay My Say. These emails are tailored to each state, with local “testimonials” and links to a fillable opt-out form that identifies local bargaining units. It is not clear whether other states were targeted with this email blast.
1. *Bloomberg*, 6/27/2018, retrieved at <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-06-27/koch-brothers-linked-group-declares-new-war-on-unions> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.optouttoday.com/afscme-75-state-employees> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://twitter.com/MyPayMySay/status/1012060479890567168> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.illinoispolicy.org/opting-out-of-your-union-a-how-to-guide-for-illinois-teachers-public-safety-workers-and-other-public-employees/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.americanexperiment.org/2018/06/billboards-school-thousands-of-nea-members-coming-to-twin-cities/> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://www.workerschoose.org/frequently-asked-questions/> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)