

What if Today's Rules to Get a Union Were Applied to Political Candidates?

There's a big election coming in your hometown. The mayor, in office forever, is being challenged by someone with a lot of good ideas. Here's how things would turn out if political elections had to follow the same rules as workplace elections:

1. The Police Chief – the Mayor's campaign manager -- knocks at your door and says he needs to talk to you NOW. He drives you to a meeting where you're forced to stay for several hours and listen to trash talk about the Mayor's opposition.
2. You're not wearing a button or sticker for either candidate, but you're interested in what the challenger has to say. Maybe it's just a coincidence that police cars keep driving by your house?
3. You get a letter from the Governor warning that when other towns in the state have elected challengers to their mayor, the number of state tax audits in those towns increased dramatically.
4. The city's police officers are assigned to watch groups of citizens and try to identify who they are voting for in order to report to the Mayor. They may approach you on the street, at work, or in the grocery store to discuss your views on the election.
5. On Election Day, when you go to your local school to vote, the Mayor and his supporters are inside all day watching who comes to vote and what kind of button they're wearing. They can stop and talk to you on your way in and out. The challenger and his supporters are only allowed to be 100 yards from the door at the entrance to the parking lot where people drive by at 30 mph.

Is this really so different from:

1. Your supervisor pulls you aside and says it's best that you don't support the union. You're forced to attend company meetings that go on for hours, with managers and supervisors badmouthing the union. Of course no one from the union is allowed to attend.
2. You go to a union organizing committee meeting and discover that your supervisor is following you – after work hours.
3. The company threatens to shut down if you and your co-workers support the union. And worse, the company fires union supporters. Both are illegal, but happen all the time.
4. Supervisors are given the responsibility of tracking the views of every employee. They call them into one-on-one meetings and even ride along with them in their company vehicles, letting employees know they are closely scrutinized.
5. Voting is held on company property, and supervisors and managers are all over the place, trying to influence your vote.

Think about it. We need the Employee Free Choice Act.
COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO



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