

UNIONS ARE EXTREMELY POPULAR

New Gallup polling finds that a record-high 71% of people in the U.S. approve of unions. This coincides with the greatest number of workers represented by a union in 16 years.

It should be no surprise that the public views unions favorably: Unions help workers win higher wages, advocate for safer and healthier workplaces, support a thriving middle class, and strengthen democracy by boosting civic participation.

The Gallup polling also showed that unions are favorable across generations and party lines.

77% of adults ages 18–34
74% of adults ages 35–54
67% of adults ages 55 & older
approve of unions

89% of Democrats
70% of Independents
52% of Republicans
approve of unions

This is just one of many recent surveys that demonstrate the broad popularity of unions:

Unions are more popular than big business.

People in the U.S. favor unions over big business by more than 16 percentage points—the greatest gap ever recorded.

56 million U.S. workers would join a union tomorrow if they could.

43% of nonunion workers would vote to unionize their workplace if given the opportunity.

Majority views union decline as bad for U.S.

Most people in the U.S. say the decline in union density is bad for the country (60%) and bad for working people (62%).

Now is the time for policymakers to pass comprehensive legislation making it easier for workers to unionize.

A [new EPI report](#) shows that tripling U.S. union membership would deliver:

14.5%

wage increases for the typical worker, equal to more than

\$7,700/yr

\$1.2 trillion

shifted into workers' pockets every year, reversing a third of the growth in inequality since 1979.

Health insurance for

6.8 million more people.

Greater equality and smaller racial wage gaps.

Unions raise wages for everyone and help prevent pay disparities, especially for Black and Hispanic workers.

[Read more about the benefits of rebuilding union power](#)—and the roadmap to get there.

Related work from EPI



U.S. employers spend more than \$1.5 billion annually on union avoidance

epi.org/union-avoidance



The case for tripling union membership

epi.org/tripling-unions



Strong unions, stronger communities and democracy

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