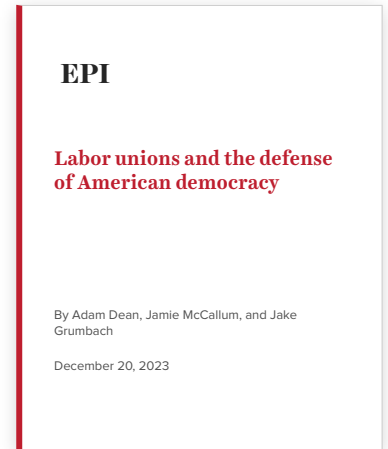


Labor unions and the defense of American democracy

The fight over ballot drop boxes during the 2022 midterm elections

Summary: This report analyzes the relationship between local labor union density and access to ballot drop boxes during the 2022 midterm elections. Areas with greater labor union density had considerably more ballot drop boxes per capita than areas with less density.



Read the full report
epi.org/276802

Key findings

- There were 17,935 ballot drop boxes available across 33 states during the 2022 midterm elections.
- Seventeen other states completely banned ballot drop boxes. All but one state had either a Republican governor or a Republican-controlled legislature.
- A one percentage point increase in union density was associated with a 9.8% increase in the number of ballot drop boxes per capita.
- Unified Republican control of a state government was associated with a 95% decrease in ballot drop boxes per capita.

Why this matters

Ballot drop boxes are a highly secure way to increase voter turnout during elections. As part of a broad assault on voting rights, the Republican Party has sought to limit the use of ballot drop boxes. In the face of these efforts, labor unions, often in concert with elements of the Democratic Party, are leading a struggle to defend and expand voting rights for Americans.

How to fix it

A resurgence of labor union power may help to increase access to ballot drop boxes. A new organizing drive that brought just 1 out of every 10 workers into a labor union, for example, could more than offset the decrease in ballot drop boxes associated with Republican control of a state government.



Voting in the United States—registering, gathering information, and casting ballots—is more burdensome than in many other countries.