

# Fact Sheet

## National Right to Work Committee

November 2012

### The High Cost of Living in Forced Dues States

There is no denying that the purchasing power of the U.S. Dollar varies widely from state to state. In order to make a true apples-to-apples comparison of wages, salaries, and other forms of income in Right to Work and forced-unionism states, one must consult interstate cost-of-living indices. A look at 2011 data from the nonpartisan Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) reveals some startling facts:

- In 2011, not one of 16 most expensive states to live in had a Right to Work law on the Books.
- On average, the cost of living in Forced-Unionism States was nearly 20% higher than in Right to Work states.
- Overall, the cost of living-adjusted disposable income per capita for Right to Work states in 2011 was more than \$36,800, or roughly \$2200 higher than the average for forced-unionism states.
- The nine states with the highest cost of living-adjusted disposable incomes in 2011 -- Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia and Wyoming -- all have Right to Work laws.

### Disposable Income -- Michiganders Left With Less

Cost of Living-Adjusted Disposable  
Per Capita Income (2011)

Midwestern Right to Work States . . . . .	\$40,357
Midwestern Forced-Unionism States . . .	\$37,212
Michigan . . . . .	\$35,340

BOC; BEA:  
Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC)