

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Wisc. results - encouraging to other states?

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In light of Republicans' successful stand during Wisconsin's [recent recall election](#), one advocate for educational freedom thinks other states embroiled in fights over collective bargaining for unions should be cautiously encouraged.



Though Wisconsin Democrats gained back two seats in the Senate, Republicans retained a one-seat majority. Based on the outcome, Neal McCluskey, associate director of the [Cato Institute](#)'s Center for Educational Freedom, believes the people have gained understanding.

"Maybe you'd say the silent majority has caught on that public sector unions are getting a whole lot of pretty nice things and pretty cushy benefits on the taxpayer dime, and they no longer are prepared to tolerate that," he suggests.

So he believes other states caught up in similar budget cut and collective bargaining battles that were closely watching the situation in Wisconsin should be cautiously encouraged.

"It certainly is no guarantee that other states are going to have the same sort of success and be able to weather the same sort of storms, but it has to be encouraging for anyone in another state who would want to try to take down public sector unions," he says.

Concerning next year, McCluskey notes, however, that it would be difficult for the momentum of the Wisconsin reforms to carry through to the national elections in November 2012.