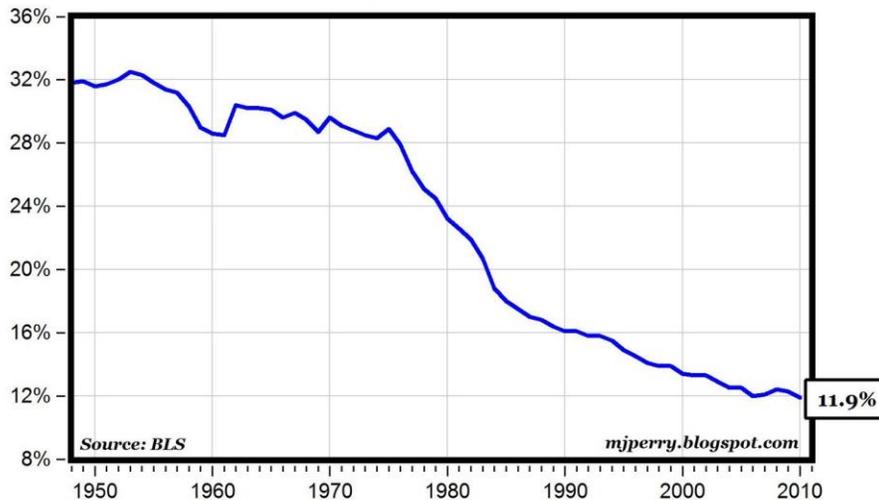


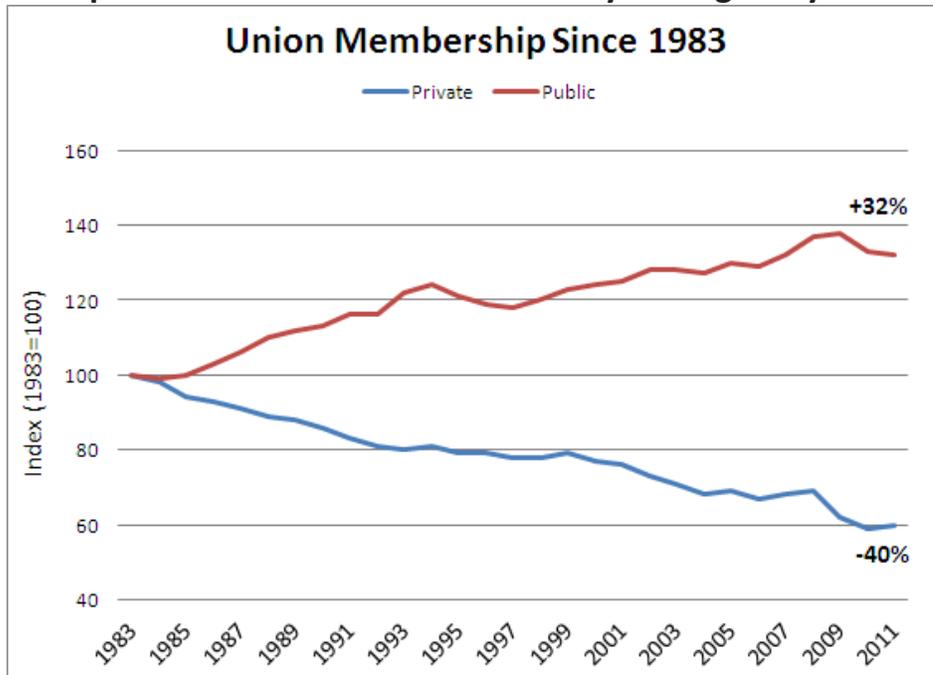
Why are public sector unions being targeted now?

1. This is part of a long-term war on labor, which is well documented in many places and the results of which are seen here:

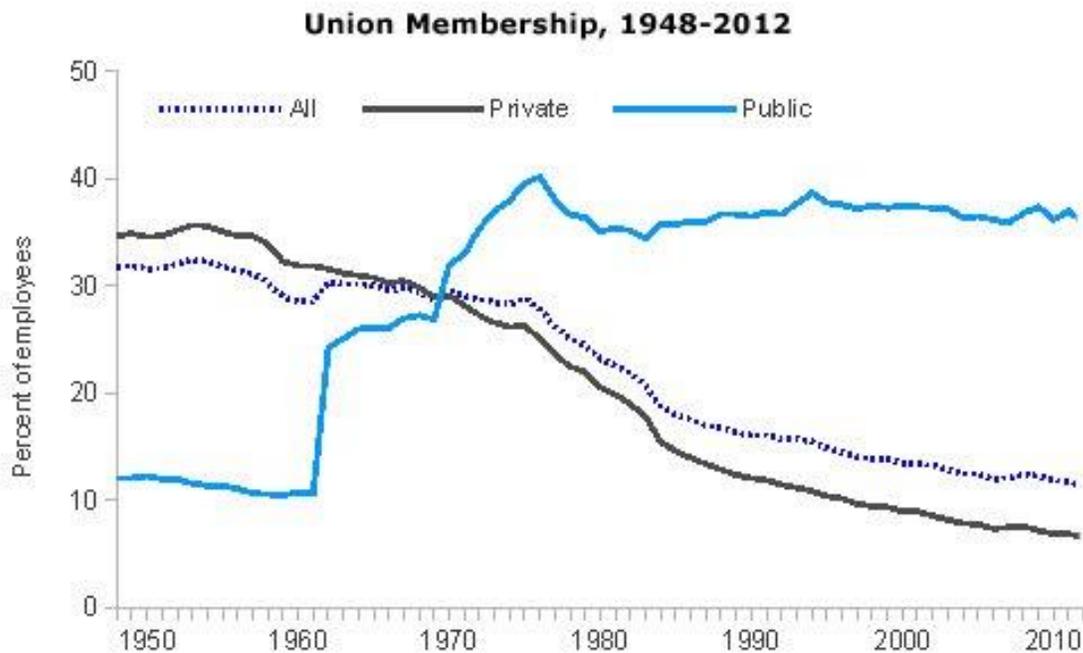
Union Membership Percent of All U.S. Workers 1948 to 2010



Because private sector unions have already been greatly diminished:



So now it is the public sector's turn:

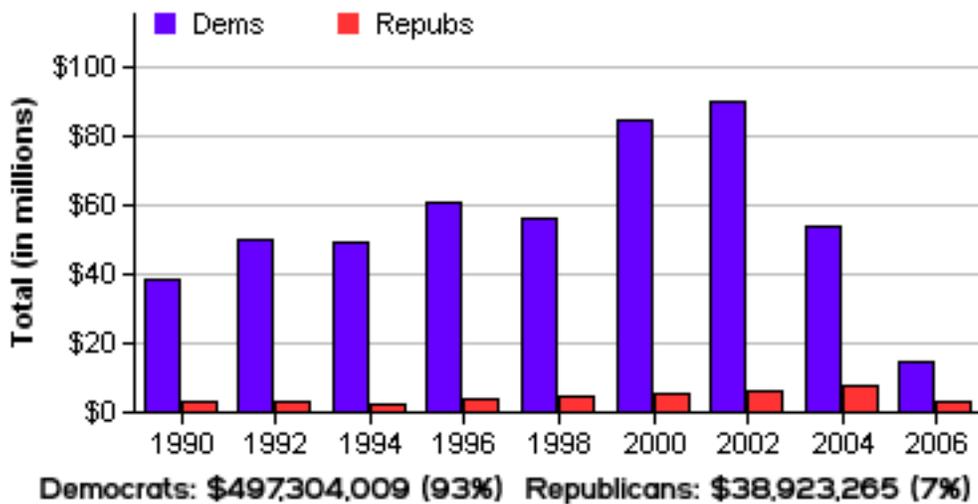


Source: Labor Research Association and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

2. The attack on public employee unions is also part of the war on democratic and progressives values.

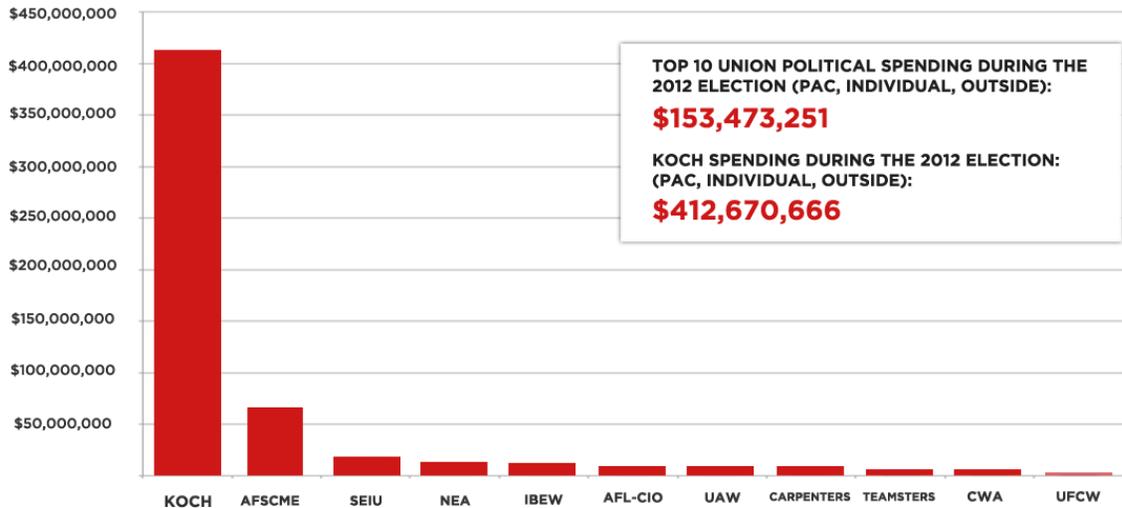
Labor unions are the biggest single funders of progressive campaigns and Democratic Party candidates:

LABOR UNIONS



But political contributions from labor pale in comparison to what just the Koch brothers alone put into politics, so it looks like right-wing and corporate interests won't stop until they have it all.

POLITICAL SPENDING DURING THE 2012 ELECTION

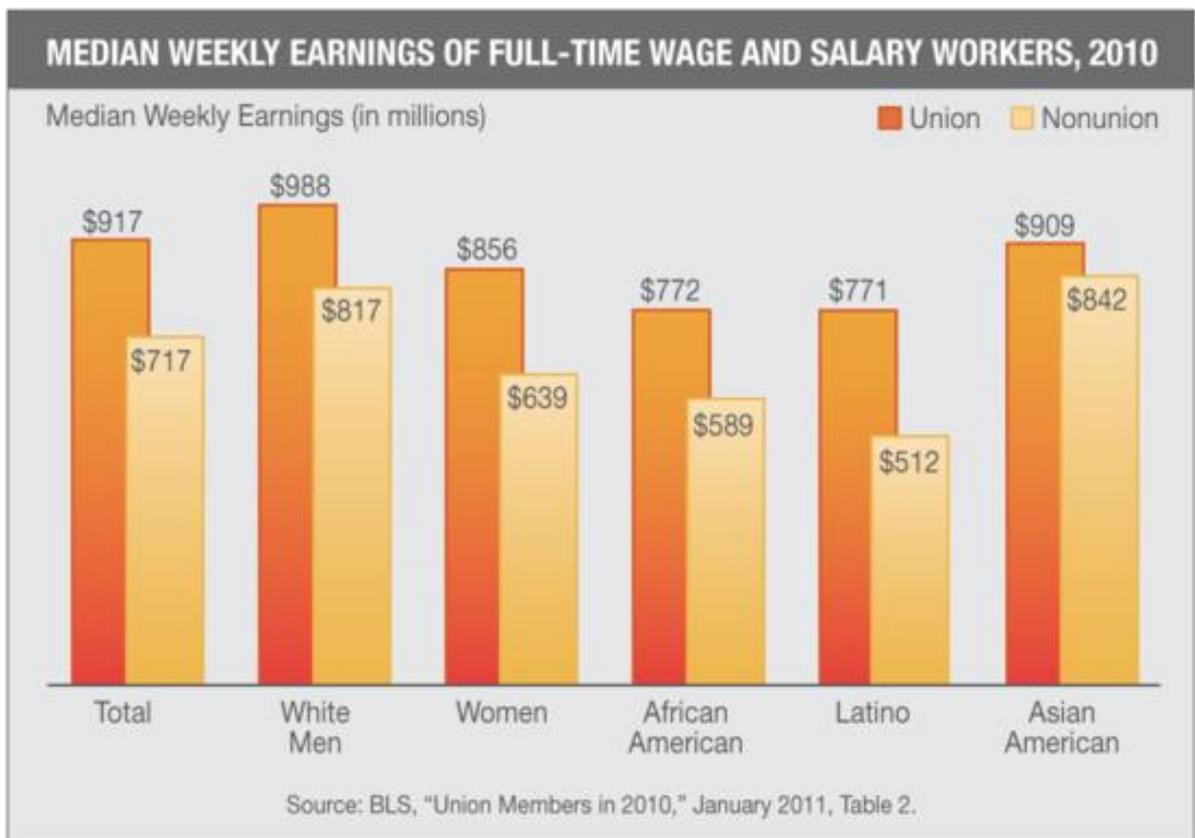


Labor unions are one of the few forces left for the right to contend with. Public service unions are a big part of what stands in the way of the ever-increasing privatization of what should be public goods such as schools, roads, water, and land. It was labor, working in coalition with community and civic non-profits, that defeated Question 2 on Charter Schools in Massachusetts and that just pushed back the latest plan to restructure the GIC. The same coalition of Labor and non-profits have put the Fair Share tax, the \$15 minimum wage, and paid sick time for all workers on the Massachusetts state ballot this coming November.

3. Labor unions stand in the way of right-wing greed and power

A brief history lesson:

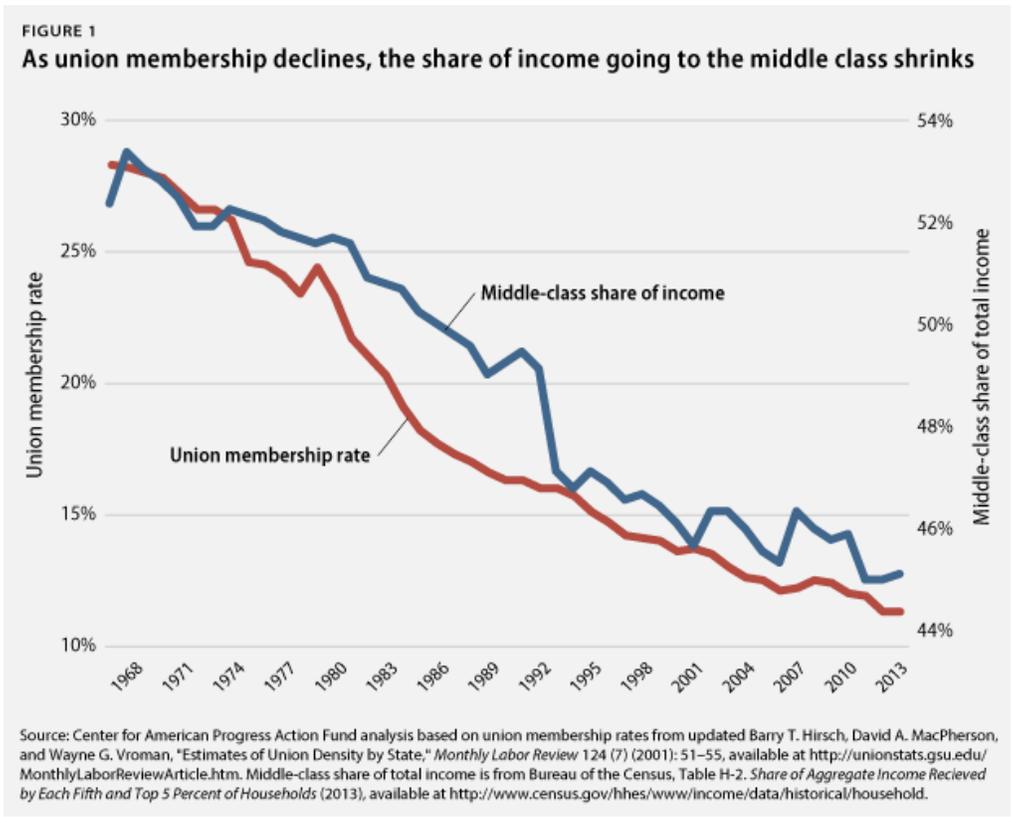
- Unions grew in the 1930s and the right has fought them ever since.
- Unions brought us the 8 hour day and the 5 day, 40 hour week.
- Unions brought us pensions, paid vacation, holidays, and health care.
- Unions brought us overtime, comp time, worker's comp, and more.
- Unions helped establish fair wages and relative income equality.
- Unions lift wages for all workers by raising prevailing wages.



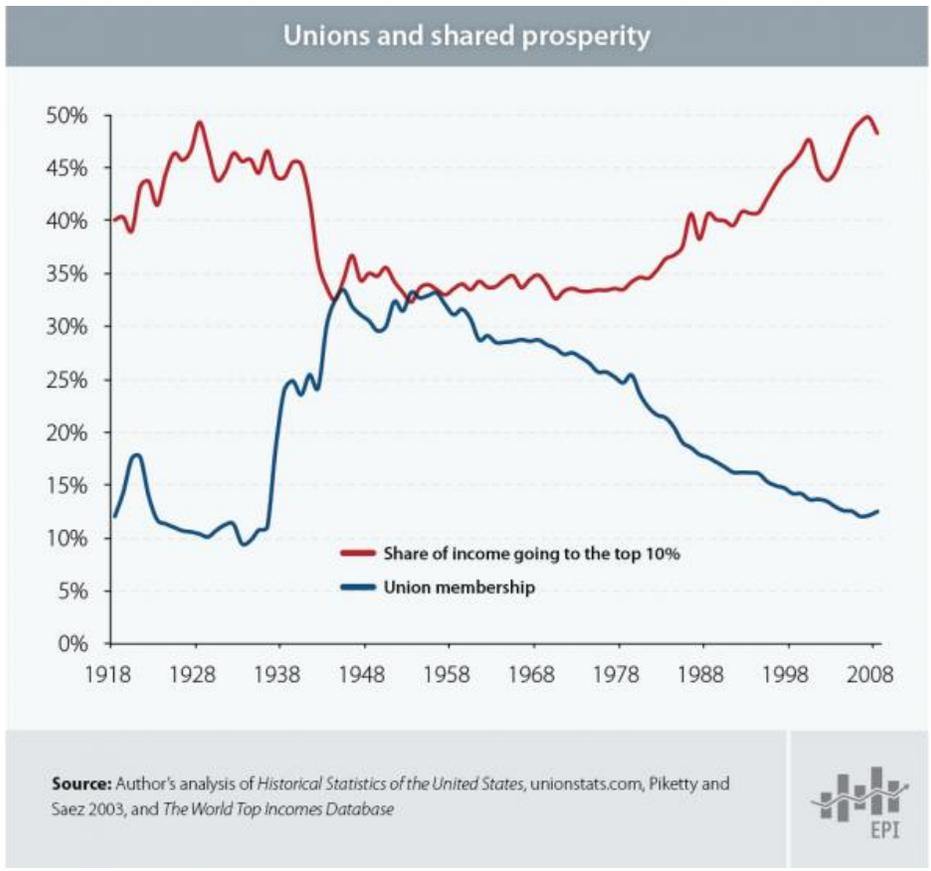
With Janus, the right hopes that workers will jump at the immediate gains of not paying dues and not see the bigger picture, just like they structured the recent tax cuts to give small, temporary cuts to workers in order to distract us from the massive, permanent cuts that corporations and the wealthy received, cuts that will run up the national debt and that are therefore planned to pay for themselves by slashing social programs that benefit working people, the poor, and the communities we live in.

This all comes after decades of PR campaigns designed to create resentment against the wages and benefits that union workers have, wages and benefits that in fact lift the bar for all and hold the line against another race to the bottom.

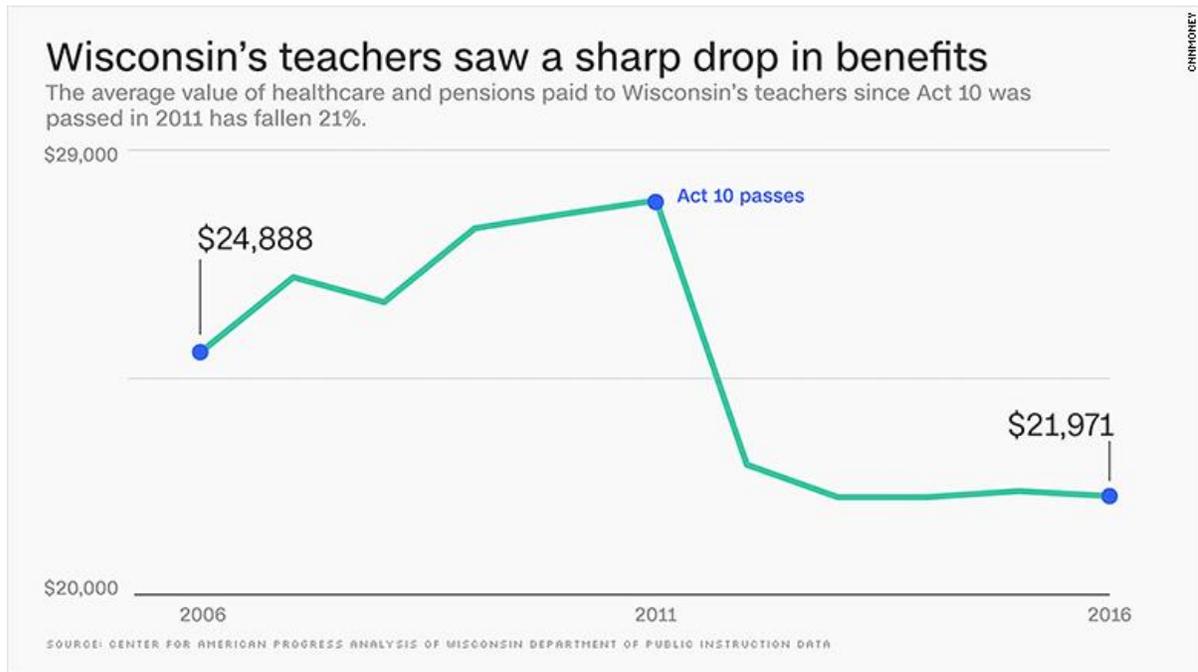
Attacks on unions are attacks on the middle class.



And as the middle-class shrinks, we know where the money goes:



In Wisconsin, after legislation similar to what Janus will bring was enacted, a lot of people chose to quit their unions, which really weakened the unions and within 5 years public sector workers had lost almost 20% of their benefits and up to 10% of their pay, leading to a sharp upturn in the number of people who left the profession or changed jobs for better pay and benefits in more affluent districts.



At UMass, we need to stick together and focus on the long-term picture. In states where workers have organized and kept their memberships high, wages and benefits have stood up to these assaults. We can do the same.