

Right-to-Work In Illinois? One Village Is Trying.

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Illinois is completely surrounded by right-to-work states that have laws making it unlawful for companies to require union dues as a condition of employment. While the state of Illinois is [unlikely to pass](#) such legislation of its own, the Illinois village of Lincolnshire attempted to enact a [right-to-work ordinance in 2015](#) that would have been applicable to companies and unions within its borders. Unions filed a lawsuit to have the village's ordinance voided, and a federal judge agreed to set aside the ordinance in 2017. Lincolnshire appealed that ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, and [oral argument was heard](#) in the case on March 27. According to reporting by *Courthouse News Service*, judges on the panel expressed skepticism with respect to the village's ability to enact its own right-to-work ordinance; but no ruling on the merits was rendered. The court is expected to issue a decision in the case in the next several months. This issue is not unique to Illinois. Before Kentucky enacted its own state-wide right-to-work law, [several counties there attempted](#) to pass their own ordinances similar to the one at issue in the pending Lincolnshire, Illinois case. Right-to-work laws are permitted under Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act and make it unlawful for companies to require union dues as a condition of employment. In states where right-to-work laws are not enacted, most unionized employers have clauses in their labor agreements that require dues payments as a condition of employment – the clauses generally are known as “union seniority clauses.” At present, 28 states have right-to-work laws on the books. The National Right to Work Foundation maintains a [current list](#).

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