An Evaluation of the Current State of Unions in the Construction Industry and their Future

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The construction trades unions have been largely declining within the last fifty years with increasingly fewer members and less market share as compared to the unorganized workforce. Many of these unions have implemented a variety of programs and goals to combat their decline to some avail; however, many corporate backed policies have been aimed to prevent union growth across the country. The fate of unions is yet to be determined, but this raises the question of how the construction industry would respond to a deunionized workforce. This has been increasingly the case in select areas across the country, and what transpires is a decrease in the skilled workforce that once demanded the respect and benefits of any other blue collar job.

Private Construction Workforce Breakdown in California

- **1982**
  - Percent Union Members: 60.8%
  - Percent Nonunion: 39.2%

- **2000**
  - Percent Union Members: 76.1%
  - Percent Nonunion: 23.9%

- **2017**
  - Percent Union Members: 82.1%
  - Percent Nonunion: 17.9%

Union Benefits
- Health Insurance
- Pension
- Employment
- Training Programs
- Higher Pay
- Collective Strength

Main Challenges
- Right-to-Work Laws
- Rescinding of Prevailing Wage Laws
- Payroll Fraud

Goals
- Diverse Membership
- Community Presence
- Market Share
- Benefits
- Social Media Presence
- Training Programs

Number of Union Members Among Private Construction Workers in the U.S.A.

Percentage of Union Members Among Private Construction Workers in the U.S.A.