

POLL OF UNITE UNION MEMBERS – JULY 2013

LORD ASHCROFT KCMG PC

- 712 members of the Unite union were interviewed online between 10 and 17 July 2013.
- 15,970 adults in Britain were asked whether they were a member of a union, and if so which one. Interviews continued with those identifying themselves as members of Unite.
- Unite has 1.42 million members. The survey's margin of error is 3.67%.

1. If there were a general election tomorrow, which party would you vote for?
2. Which party did you vote for in the general election of 2010?

	In an election tomorrow	At 2010 election	Change
Labour	49%	40%	+9
Conservative	23%	28%	-5
Liberal Democrat	7%	20%	-13
UKIP	12%	3%	+9
Other	9%	8%	+1

- 54% of Unite members working in the public sector said they would vote Labour, and 20% Conservative
- 47% of Unite members in the private sector said they would vote Labour, and 24% Conservative.

3. Here is a picture you may or may not recognise. Please can you say whether you recognise this person?



- 24% said they recognised this person; 76% said they did not.
- Of those who said they recognised him, 65% correctly identified him as Len McCluskey (16% of the full sample).
- Members mistook him for Sir Alex Ferguson, David Mellor, Ed Miliband and Derek Simpson.

4. Which of the following do you think would make the best Prime Minister?

Ed Miliband	46%
David Cameron	40%
Nick Clegg	13%

5. Many trades unions maintain a 'political fund', which they use to provide financial support for political campaigns and parties. Union members have the right to opt out of these political funds, which stops any of their union membership fees going towards the political fund. Do you contribute to your union's political fund, or have you opted out?

I contribute to my union's political fund	37%
I have opted out of the political fund	30%
Don't know	33%

6. Some people think the rules should be changed so that members have to opt IN to the political fund if they want some of their membership fee to go towards political campaigns and parties, rather than requiring members to opt OUT of the fund if they don't want this to happen. Which system would you prefer?

For members to opt IN if they do want to support the political fund	57%
For members to opt OUT if they don't want to support the political fund	31%
Don't know	12%

7. If members had to opt IN to the political fund if they wanted some of their membership fee to go towards political campaigns and parties, would you opt in or not?

Yes, I would opt in	30%
No, I wouldn't opt in	53%
Don't know	17%

8. If members who opted in to the political fund were no longer automatically made affiliate members of the Labour Party, would you pay to join the Labour Party as an individual member?

Yes, I would pay to join the Labour Party as an individual member	12%
No, I wouldn't pay to join the Labour Party as an individual member	73%
I have already paid to be an individual member of the Labour Party	2%
Don't know	13%

9. Over the last three years since the last election, the Unite union has donated nearly £12 million to the Labour Party, according to official figures from the Electoral Commission. Do you agree with the decision to make these donations to the Labour Party?

Agree	43%
Disagree	46%
Don't know	12%

- 15% of Unite members said they "strongly agree" with the decision to donate £12 million to Labour since the last election. 25% said they "strongly disagree".

10. Would you support or oppose the Unite union making further large donations to the Labour Party in the future?

Support	39%
Oppose	49%
Don't know	12%

- 14% said they would "strongly support" further large donations in the future. 26% said they would "strongly oppose" further large donations.

11. Do you think that donating funds to the Labour Party is an effective way of advancing the interests of union members?

Yes, donating to the Labour Party is a good way for unions to advance the interests of their members	35%
No, unions could do more to advance their members' interests by using the money elsewhere	65%

- 63% of those who would vote Labour in an election tomorrow said donating to the Labour Party was a good way for unions to advance their members' interests.

12. Do you think the Labour Party is doing a good job or a bad job of representing the interests and addressing the concerns of ordinary working people in Britain?

Good job	42%
Bad job	47%
Don't know	11%

- 8% said the Labour Party was doing a "very good job"; 20% said it was doing a "very bad job".

13. Which of the following do you think does a better job of representing you and the things you care about?

Ed Miliband, the Labour Party leader	23%
Len McCluskey, the General Secretary of Unite	16%
Neither of them really represents me and the things I care about	61%

14. Please say whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Agree	Disagree	Net agreement
It is wrong for the government to make any cuts in public spending	50%	50%	-
I want my union to campaign against government spending cuts, using strikes and civil disobedience	43%	57%	-14
The government should nationalise major industries including gas, electricity, water, transport and banking	67%	33%	+34
The top rate of income tax should be raised to 75p in the pound	41%	59%	-18
It is right to introduce a 'benefit cap' so no household can claim more than £26,000 in benefits	86%	14%	+72
The voting age in Britain should be reduced to 16	28%	72%	-44
It should be compulsory for local councils to provide more sites for gypsies and travellers	29%	71%	-42
The government should end the 'right to buy' under which council tenants can buy their home	45%	55%	-10