

# Can You Really Shut Down Your Company a Week After Your Workers Unionize?

American labor laws normally protect workers from retaliation for unionizing, but billionaire CEO Joe Ricketts seems to have used a dramatic exception when he closed his news websites after some workers voted to unionize: A business may always close its operations entirely.

[Francie Diep](#), a reporter for the [Pacific Standard](#), writes that all of the publications' offices – including those in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago and Washington, which had not voted to unionize – are now closed.

“If lawyers decide to pursue a case charging that Ricketts acted illegally, they’ll have to prove that some part of the business is still operating – say, if Ricketts were tied to another media company somehow – or that, after the shutdown, Ricketts opened up a similar business elsewhere,” Diep writes.

[Read the Pacific Standard article.](#)