



**For Immediate Release – January 22, 2004**

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## **CAL-TAX ISSUES 2003 SCORECARD ON HIGH-PRIORITY TAX AND OTHER PUBLIC FINANCE LEGISLATION**

SACRAMENTO – The California Taxpayers' Association, representing taxpayers for 78 years as the state's oldest watchdog on tax and other public finance issues, presents its 2003 legislative scorecard. This scorecard tracks legislators' votes on the highest priority bills for Cal-Tax that reached the state [Assembly](#) or [Senate](#) floors this past year.

Larry McCarthy, Cal-Tax president, said, "Accountability for legislative votes on tax and public finance issues is critically important. Tax and spending policies voted on by the Legislature have enormous impact on the health of this state's economy and its ability to attract investment and jobs. The cost of government in California, the level of taxation, and the operation of the tax system are highly quantifiable measures that businesses evaluate in making decisions on locating operations."

This scorecard is a report on the votes of legislators on key tax and public finance issues in 2003.

Thirty-eight legislators scored perfect 100 percent ratings among the 45 who received an "A" grade of at least 90 percent. Sixty-nine members of the Senate and Assembly flunked the taxpayers' test, siding with Cal-Tax less than 40 percent of the time.

Scorecard votes that agree with Cal-Tax positions are designated by (+). Votes contrary to Cal-Tax positions are designated by (-). Absences and abstentions are counted as "no" votes. Not voting has the same result as voting "no." Not voting on a bill opposed by Cal-Tax is recorded as a "no" vote and designated as (NV +). Not voting on a bill supported by Cal-Tax is designated as (NV-).

The percentage of votes in favor of Cal-Tax positions was calculated by dividing the number of votes cast in support of the Cal-Tax position by the total number of Cal-Tax priority bills.

The scorecard also records the actions of then-Governor Davis on each of these bills that reached his desk.

The scorecard is available online at <http://www.caltax.org/Scorecard.Report.2003.pdf>.