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CALIFORNIA TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION RELEASES 2007 LEGISLATIVE VOTING RECORD

Report Helps Taxpayers Hold Elected Officials Accountable

SACRAMENTO – The California Taxpayers' Association today released its 2007 voting record, providing Californians with a valuable tool to determine how state legislators acted on major tax and fiscal legislation.

“Elected officials must be accountable for votes that impact hard-working taxpayers and impact the ability of entrepreneurs to invest and create jobs in California,” said Cal-Tax Acting President Teresa Casazza. “Most taxpayers don’t have time to follow the Legislature or keep track of votes that may be cast in the dead of night, but this report gives them the information they need to determine whether their representatives truly are sticking up for their interests.”

Of the 120 members of the Legislature, 30 were in 100 percent agreement with Cal-Tax on key tax issues. Those 30 lawmakers included 29 Republicans and one Democrat, Senator Lou Correa of Santa Ana.

In the Senate, three Democratic legislators voted with Cal-Tax (or abstained on bad tax policy bills) at least 25 percent of the time: Correa (100 percent), Gloria Negrete McLeod of Chino (31 percent), and Mike Machado of Linden (29 percent).

In the Assembly, 10 Democrats voted with Cal-Tax (or abstained on bad tax policy bills) 25 percent of the time or more: Cathleen Galgiani of Tracy (76 percent); Laura Richardson of Long Beach (50 percent); Nicole Parra of Hanford (44 percent); Ted Lieu of El Segundo (41 percent); Tony Mendoza of Artesia (36 percent); Mary Salas of Chula Vista (31 percent); Charles Calderon of Whittier (31 percent); Mike Davis of Los Angeles (27 percent); Edward Hernandez of Baldwin Park (25 percent) and Anthony Portantino of Pasadena (25 percent).

The cost of government in California, the level of taxation and the operation of the tax system are highly quantifiable measures that affect the family budgets of all residents. Job-creating businesses also evaluate these factors thoroughly before deciding whether to open or expand in California.

“We are thankful for the lawmakers who understand the impact of taxes on family budgets, jobs and the economy, and we applaud them for using their votes to protect the taxpayers,” Casazza said.

This report is *not* a list of all tax and spending policy bills introduced in the current legislative session. Rather, it is a compilation of the highest priority bills on which Cal-Tax took a position.

The calculations in the vote record include: votes taken in the Assembly and/or Senate; votes taken in policy or fiscal committees on bills that did not reach the floor; legislators who authored or co-authored a bill, but did not have a chance to vote on it; special credit for exceptional action taken by a legislator; and credit for legislators who abstained from voting on key tax bills that Cal-Tax opposed. Based on this approach, the number of bills voted on by each legislator varies, depending on committee assignments and authorship.

Click [here](#) to go to the 2007 Cal-Tax Voting Record, which includes descriptions of the bills used in this report. The legislative voting record also is available at Cal-Tax Online at www.caltax.org.

The California Taxpayers' Association was established in 1926 to fight for taxpayers' rights, guard against unnecessary taxation and promote government efficiency.

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