

# FRESNO CHAMBER



## 2009 LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

VOTING WITH THE CHAMBER

ASSEMBLYMEMBER JUAN ARAMBULA	22%
ASSEMBLYMEMBER MICHAEL VILLINES	100%
ASSEMBLYMEMBER TOM BERRYHILL	100%
ASSEMBLYMEMBER DANNY GILMORE	88%
SENATOR DEAN FLOREZ	16%
SENATOR DAVE COGDILL	100%



**FresnoChamberAdvocacy.com**

A Membership Benefit of the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce



## **A Message from the CEO**

Each year, the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Council tracks legislation that affects local businesses and our community's quality of life. In 2009, the Chamber's GAC tracked nearly 35 pieces of legislation that would directly affect our membership. However, due to all of the budget issues at the state level many of those bills died in committee and never made it to the floor for a full vote by the Senate and Assembly. Only nine made it to the Governor's desk, and three became law.

Enclosed is the Chamber "Report Card," which is published annually after the legislative session. The report card is a voting record for those legislators who represent the greater Fresno area and is used as a tool to convey to our membership which local leaders are fighting for business in Sacramento.

The report card only accounts for the legislation that made it to the Governor's desk, giving all elected officials the same opportunity to vote on that specific piece of legislation. For an entire tracking sheet of all legislation tracked by the Fresno Chamber in 2009, please visit [www.fresnochamberadvocacy.com](http://www.fresnochamberadvocacy.com).

While the Chamber primarily focuses on issues that will directly affect the business community, like healthcare, tax increases and new regulations, we also track issues that are important to the quality of life in the greater Fresno area. One critical issue for the Chamber this year was ensuring the state passed legislation to deal with the state's water crisis that was crippling the Valley and leading to high unemployment and business closures on the westside.

Whenever we release this report to the business community, we always send a copy to the elected officials, so they may have the opportunity to respond. Their responses, if any, will be detailed in future Chamber publications.

We also hope that this information will be helpful to you as you evaluate the performance of our elected officials as it relates to issues important to the business community.

Al Smith,  
President and CEO,  
Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce

# How “Business Friendly” are *our* State Legislators?

	Fresno Chamber	Governor	Assembly Member Arambula	Assembly Member Berryhill	Assembly Member Gilmore	Assembly Member Villines	Senator Cogdill	Senator Florez
AB 31 - Public Contracts	Support	Signed	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support	Absent
AB 527 - Payroll Records	Oppose	Vetoed	Support	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Support
AB 793 - Lawsuits for Workplace Decisions	Oppose	Vetoed	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Oppose	Support
AB 333 - New Home Construction	Support	Signed	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support
AB 943 - Employment Decisions	Oppose	Vetoed	Support	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Support
AB 2 - Health Insurance Litigation	Oppose	Vetoed	Support	Absent	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Support
SB 789 - “Card Check” for Agriculture	Oppose	Vetoed	Support	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Support
SB 95 - Vehicle Price Increase	Oppose	Signed	Support	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Absent
SB 242 - New Lawsuits Against Small Business	Oppose	Vetoed	Support	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Absent
<b>Voting with the Chamber</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Voting Against the Chamber</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Absent/Abstaining</b>				<b>1</b>				<b>3</b>

# STATE BILLS

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## **AB 31 (Price)- SUPPORT Public Contracts**

Facilitates greater small business participation in state procurement by increasing the maximum allowable contract amount given to small businesses when competitive bidding requirements are exempted.

## **AB 527 (Fuentes)- OPPOSE Payroll Records**

Gives advantage to employees in unpaid wage disputes before the Labor Commissioner by creating a presumption that all records are false where the Labor Commissioner finds that two records were falsified, effectively precluding and employer's ability to present its case.

## **AB 793 (Jones)- OPPOSE Lawsuits for Workplace Decisions**

Imposes unfair and costly litigation burden on California employers by unreasonably expanding employer liability in workplace lawsuits far beyond federal legislation.

## **AB 333 (Fuentes)- SUPPORT New Home Construction**

Facilitates the smooth recovery of the housing market by extending the life of active tentative subdivision maps and parcel maps for a period of two years.

## **AB 943 (Mendoza)- OPPOSE Employment Decisions**

Unduly restricts the ability of businesses to use all legally available information in employment decisions, including consumer credit reports.

## **AB 2 (De la Torre) - OPPOSE Health Insurance Litigation**

Drives up the cost of healthcare premiums and increases the number of uninsured by establishing litigation as the only meaningful approach to resolving disputes over rescinding coverage

## **SB 789 (Steinberg)- OPPOSE "Card Check" for Agriculture**

Undermines the process that now guarantees, through secret-ballot elections, a fair vote and the expression of agricultural employees' true sentiments on the selection of a collective bargaining representative. This act will hurt California businesses by driving up costs, making employers less competitive in a global market.

## **SB 95 (Corbett)- OPPOSE Vehicle Price Increase**

Places excessive restrictions on the sale of trade-in vehicles and unreasonably expanding dealer liability and damages. Amended to strengthen regulations to ensure consumers are paid what they are owed on their trade-in vehicles.

## **SB 242 (Yee)- OPPOSE New Lawsuits Against Small Businesses**

Could result in new shakedown lawsuits against business establishments by making it a strict liability violation of the Unruh Civil Rights Act, subject to minimum damages of \$4,000, if a business limits the use of a customer's language, even if unintentionally.