

A Decade of Influence

Tobacco Money in California Politics

Campaign Contributions and Lobbying Expenditures by Tobacco Interests 2001-2010

- From January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2010, tobacco interests spent more than \$93 million to influence public policy in California, through lobbying and campaign contributions.
- Philip Morris USA Inc. ranked number nine in total spending on contributions and lobbying from 2000 through 2009 among corporations, labor unions and business associations lobbying the legislature and making campaign contributions in California, according to a report by the California Fair Political Practices Commission. Reynolds American Inc. ranked number 20 in the same report.
- Of the more than \$93 million spent by tobacco interests from 2001-2010, Philip Morris USA Inc. spent more than \$55 million and accounted for nearly 59 percent of the total.
- The bulk of tobacco interest spending is represented by the more than \$62 million spent to oppose Proposition 86, a 2006 ballot initiative that would have increased the state's tobacco tax by \$2.60 per pack. Proposition 86 narrowly lost.
- The number of legislators to whom tobacco interests made contributions remained steady over the past decade. Tobacco interests contributed to roughly 50 percent of the members of the California Legislature in each of the five two-year election cycles this decade.
- Lobbying expenditures accounted for \$13.6 million of the more than \$93 million total spending by tobacco interests over the last decade. In each two-year period for reporting lobbying expenditures of the past decade, tobacco interests spent at least \$2.1 million to influence bills in the California Legislature and regulations by state agencies.
- The largest amount spent on lobbying in one quarter this decade by any tobacco interest was by Philip Morris USA Inc. during the second quarter of 2009 (April through June). During those three months, Philip Morris USA Inc. spent more than \$750,000 on lobbying while the legislature voted on two budget bills that contained a tobacco tax increase and another tobacco tax bill that was moving forward in the legislative process.

Tobacco Money in California Politics – Highlights of the Decade (2001-2010)