

# Tobacco Money in California Politics

## Campaign Contributions and Lobbying Expenditures by Tobacco Interests

Report for the 2009-2010 Election Cycle (January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010)

### Highlights of the Report

- During the 2009-2010 election cycle, tobacco interests spent \$9.3 million on campaign contributions and lobbying.
- Tobacco interests contributed more than \$6.5 million in campaign contributions to members of the California Legislature, state constitutional officers, candidates for these offices and to political committees.
- Sixty percent of the total contributions made during the 2009-2010 election cycle were to political committees in support of Proposition 26 and in opposition to Proposition 25, which were both passed by California voters in the November 2010 general election. Proposition 25 changed the vote requirement for passing a state budget from a two-thirds vote to a simple majority, and Proposition 26 reclassified many types of fees as taxes, subjecting them to a two-thirds vote requirement.
- Of the 122 state legislators (more than 120 legislative seats, due to vacancies and special elections) tracked, tobacco interests made campaign contributions to 59 members, or 48 percent, similar to the total from previous election cycles.
- Tobacco interests contributed to 12 of the 31 new legislators (39 percent) elected in the November 2010 general election, a slight decrease from the previous election cycle when tobacco interests contributed to 14 of the 31 new legislators (45 percent) elected in the November 2008 general election.
- Tobacco interests spent \$2.76 million on lobbying during this two-year period, a slight increase over the \$2.66 million spent during the previous two-year period.
- Philip Morris USA Inc. spent more than \$750,000 on lobbying in the second quarter of 2009 (April through June), a record amount for lobbying expenditures in one quarter by any tobacco interest over the last decade. During those three months, 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.