



# NEWSLETTER

## PHILIP MORRIS SETS A RECORD FOR SPENDING ON LOBBYING EXPENDITURES

The lobbying expenditures reports of tobacco interests for the fifth quarter (January – March 2008) of the 2007-2008 two-year reporting period were recently filed with the California Secretary of State. The highlight of these reports is that Philip Morris USA Inc. continued to spend large amounts of money to lobby the health care reform legislation (ABXI-1) sponsored by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez. This legislation would have expanded health coverage and been partially funded by a \$1.75 tobacco tax increase.

During the previous quarter (October – December 2007), Philip Morris spent \$343,389.04, setting a record for this decade for lobbying expenditures in any one quarter. The only bill listed on their report during the fourth quarter was ABXI-1, which was introduced and passed by the Assembly during that period. Philip Morris broke that record during the fifth quarter by spending \$543,896.99 on lobbying. During this quarter (January – March 2008) the health care reform legislation was defeated in the Senate Health Committee. The fifth quarter report shows that Philip Morris lobbied three bills during the quarter – the health care reform legislation as well as AB 1860 and SB 1575, two bills related to product safety and recalls.

There are a couple of different ways to put those numbers in perspective. The amount of money Philip Morris spent in the fifth quarter is nearly three times what they have spent in any other quarter this decade, except for the fourth quarter. The amount of money spent in the fourth and fifth quarters combined, about \$886,000, to primarily lobby the health care reform bill, is more than Philip Morris spent on lobbying expenditures during the entire 2005-2006 two-year reporting period.

Complete details about these figures and the lobbying expenditures of other tobacco interests are available in the *Lobbying Expenditures of Tobacco Interests in California: January 2007 – March 2008*, which is available on our website at

[www.Center4TobaccoPolicy.org/tobacomoney](http://www.Center4TobaccoPolicy.org/tobacomoney).



## NEW SURVEY DATA SHOWS RURAL SUPPORT FOR TOBACCO RETAILER LICENSES

In March 2008 the Center for Tobacco Policy & Organizing commissioned a telephone survey of rural and small town voters in California to determine the level of support for a local tobacco retailer license and to identify solutions to the unique challenges to getting an ordinance adopted in rural communities.

The sale of tobacco products to minors is a problem in cities and counties across the state. To combat this problem, 53 California cities and counties have passed a tobacco retailer licensing ordinance. Unfortunately, with a few noteworthy exceptions, most of these cities and counties are urban. The Center conducted this survey to determine why rural communities are slower to recognize the problem of youth access and do something about it.

The survey results demonstrate strong support for a licensing ordinance:

- Three in four rural and small town voters support a local licensing ordinance.
- Nine out of ten voters agree that a store owner who repeatedly sells cigarettes to minors should lose the right to sell cigarettes.
- Two-thirds of rural voters have no problem with a fee of \$200 a year for a tobacco license to pay for enforcement of the law.
- 72% want a “strong enforcement system” because “we can’t trust” store owners to police themselves.

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## SOME HOUSING AUTHORITIES MOVE TOWARD SMOKEFREE UNITS

So far in 2008, three housing authorities in California have adopted smokefree policies that create nonsmoking units. The three cities, Alameda in Alameda County and Oxnard and Port Hueneme in Ventura County, have taken important first steps toward making their complexes smokefree.

The City of Alameda passed a policy in April to convert all of their housing authority complexes to 100% nonsmoking beginning with their largest senior complex, Independence Plaza. The policy covers all parts of the Independence Plaza property, inside and outside, including the 186 units, and there is no grandfathering of current smokers. It takes effect in August.

The Alameda Housing Authority manages an additional eight apartment complexes with over 300 units. These facilities will be converted over the coming year. Serena Chen, of the American Lung Association of California's Greater Bay Area office, reports that "this is the most comprehensive policy for any housing authority in the country."

In Oxnard, the city council unanimously passed a policy in late March prohibiting smoking in the housing authority's two senior buildings. The notice sent to tenants said smoking is prohibited anywhere "in your unit, your building, including common areas or within thirty feet of the building. You are responsible for ensuring that your family members, guests and invitees also comply with this policy... Your lease will be subject to termination after three violations." The policy will create a total of 150 smokefree units in the City of Oxnard in two senior buildings, Plaza Vista and Palm Vista.

The Port Hueneme City Council serving as the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners on April 2nd adopted a resolution approving the housing authority's annual plan for HUD. The annual plan includes policy changes to restrict smoking in buildings housing families, seniors and the disabled.

The Mar Vista project of 60 elderly and disabled units in Port Hueneme will no longer permit smoking inside the units on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors. Smoking will be allowed in apartments on the 4th and 5th floors only. Current smokers on floors 1-3 will be encouraged to move to the smoking floors but not required. In the Hueneme Village property (family housing), smoking will not be allowed inside any family unit for all newly leased units beginning in July, 2008.

These new housing authority policies are continuing the movement toward smokefree policies in multi-unit housing launched in recent years in Belmont, Calabasas and Temecula.

*Vicki Gonzales of Ventura County's Tobacco Education Program spearheaded the policy changes in Ventura County with the assistance of Esther Schiller and Marlene Gomez of S.A.F.E, Smokefree Air for Everyone. ALAC's East Bay Smoke-Free Housing project began working with the City of Alameda's housing authority over a year ago to develop its policy.*



## NEW SURVEY DATA **Continued from page 1**

This strong support for a licensing ordinance challenges the notion that rural residents would be less receptive to government regulation of store owners to prevent tobacco sales to minors.

In addition, it is worth noting that support for requiring store owners to be licensed to sell tobacco cuts across all the usual partisan and ideological divides. For example, 72% of Republicans would favor such a law, along with 82% of Democrats.

Also, of note, all three regions (the Central Valley, Sierra and Northern) demonstrated strong support for a tobacco retailer licensing ordinance; however support is especially strong in the Central Valley region.

According to the survey, many rural voters are very concerned about teen smoking. 75% say that reducing teen smoking should be a high priority for state and local governments. This is similar to the 80% who say that reducing teen drinking should be a priority. In addition, 75% believe that making it harder for teens to buy cigarettes will, in fact, reduce teen smoking.

The survey interviewed 945 rural and small town voters in 29 counties spanning three regions of the state: the Central Valley, northern California and the Sierras. 315 voters were interviewed in each region. The voters selected for the survey were rigorously screened to ensure that they lived in the 29 most rural, least densely populated counties in the state and did not live in or near a town with a population over 25,000.

Complete survey results are posted on the Center's website: <http://www.Center4TobaccoPolicy.org/polling-rural>.

## 2008 CAPITOL INFORMATION & EDUCATION DAYS RECAP



Thanks to all who participated in the 2008 Capitol Tobacco Information & Education (I&E) Days on April 21 & 22 in Sacramento. We had a record turnout this year, with over 150 participants from all around the state. Participants came from Local Lead Agencies (LLAs), statewide competitive grantees, local competitive grantees, other Proposition 99-funded projects, and local tobacco control coalitions. This year, we organized under the umbrella of the Coalition to Protect All Californians from Tobacco (PACT). All 120 members of the California legislature (and/or their staff) were visited by either a delegation of tobacco prevention and control advocates from their district or were left a packet of information and resources touting the successes of California's Tobacco Control Program and the challenges that remain ahead.

The morning of the 21st started off with a bang as new and seasoned tobacco control advocates listened to a motivating and informative speech from the new leader of the State Senate, Senator Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento). Later that afternoon, Roger Dunston, longtime legislative staffer and Principal Consultant for the Senate Health Committee delivered an honest insight into the role of the legislative staffers and the importance of reaching out and building relationships with them as well as with their legislator.

On the evening of April 21, a Meet and Greet event honored Senator Jenny Oropeza (D-Long Beach) for her landmark public health legislation, Senate Bill 7 that prohibited smoking in cars with minors and, the California Air Resources Board for its groundbreaking efforts that culminated in identifying environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) as a Toxic Air Contaminant in January 2006. Assembly Members Mark DeSaulnier (D-Martinez), Lori Saldana (D-San Diego) and staff from multiple legislative offices stopped by the event to say hello and meet and interact with I&E Days participants.

On day two, Tuesday, April 22, participants gathered in a tent on the East Steps of the Capitol. The day began with a surprise visit from Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, a long time champion of tobacco control. Participants then heard from an enthusiastic and motivating Assembly Member Mike Eng (D-Monterey Park) who not only shared his personal story of overcoming the influence of tobacco, but offered attendees photo opportunities and personal attention after his speech. Participants then headed over to the Capitol to meet with legislators and their staff throughout the day, which resulted with three signed PACT Resolutions; Senator Jenny Oropeza (D-Long Beach), Assembly Member Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) and Assembly Member Fiona Ma (D-San Francisco).

All in all, the event was a great success -- with participants forging and maintaining relationships with elected officials and legislators learning more about our tobacco control work throughout the state. Once again, thank you to the I&E workgroup members who were instrumental in planning and executing this year's I&E Days and all those who came to Sacramento to participate in the two day event. All of you brought a unique mix of skills, expertise, and experience from your communities in the area of public policy, community organizing, and community leadership. We were delighted you could join us at the Capitol and we look forward to your continued commitment in the years to come.

Photos from the event can be found on the Center's website at [www.Center4TobaccoPolicy.org/IEDays-2008..](http://www.Center4TobaccoPolicy.org/IEDays-2008..)



Mary Nichols, Chair of CARB and Senator Jenny Oropeza (D-Long Beach)

## FOURTH ANNUAL LOCAL LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DAYS COMING TO YOU!

The Fall is an excellent opportunity to strengthen and build ongoing relationships with your state legislators and their district staff. Officially, the 2007-08 legislative session ends on August 31 which means after Labor Day your elected officials are back in their districts meeting with constituents. The Center for Tobacco Policy & Organizing is sponsoring Local Legislative District Days to encourage you to visit your legislator's district offices and remind them of all the good work you are doing in your (and their) communities. This is also an opportunity to involve coalition members or key community leaders who were not able to come to Sacramento for a Capitol legislative visit in April.

The goal of Local Legislative District Days is to have tobacco control advocates across the state schedule visits with their legislators during the week of September 15-19. As you remind your legislator of all the work you are doing in their district you'll be part of a coordinated wave of information and education about the importance of tobacco control around the state. This is also an important opportunity to get to know the staff that works in the legislator's district office. These are the staff members who are present in the community you work in and are the most likely to come to events or coalition meetings.

You and your coalition will handle the local coordination and scheduling. The Center will provide you with information on scheduling and holding district meetings (including template materials and strategic advice from a current district staffer). In addition, two technical assistance calls are scheduled to prepare you and your coalition members to make the most of this opportunity.

We hope that you and your coalition members will get involved in the Fourth Annual Local Legislative District Days!

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CALLS FOR DISTRICT DAYS:

**Tuesday, August 5, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.** -- Preparing to schedule a district visit? This call will be an opportunity to learn about how to set up a meeting and why they are so significant to our work.

**Tuesday, August 26, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.** -- With district visits fast approaching, this call will be an opportunity to discuss your messaging and preparing for your meetings.

*Just as a reminder, TCP policy does not allow its contractors to utilize Prop 99 funds for lobbying purposes. These visits are purely educational.*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Fourth Annual District Days:

**September 15-19, 2008:**

This event enables you to strengthen and build ongoing relationships with your state legislators and district staff.

### New Legislator Orientation:

**January 19-23, 2009:**

This event enables you to meet, educate and build relationships with new legislators elected in the November election

### 2009 Capitol Information & Education Days:

**April 28 & 29, 2009:**

This is an exciting opportunity for tobacco control advocates from across California to meet with legislators in Sacramento and educate them on the successes and challenges of the work that we do locally and statewide.

## WHAT'S NEW! NEW & IMPROVED CONTRIBUTIONS DATABASE!

Want to know if your legislator takes money from tobacco companies? Want to know how many legislators in your county take tobacco money? Want to know the history of tobacco company campaign contributions in your legislative district? You can find the answers to all these questions on the Center's searchable online database of campaign contributions from tobacco interests to current and former legislators. you can now search by legislator name, county or legislative district. The database is located at [www.Center4TobaccoPolicy.org/database](http://www.Center4TobaccoPolicy.org/database)