

# Tobacco Money in California Politics

## Campaign Contributions and Lobbying Expenditures of Tobacco Interests

### Report for the 2007-2008 Election Cycle

#### Highlights of the Report

- **Tobacco Money in California Politics** covers the entire 2007-2008 election cycle, January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008. During this period, tobacco interests spent \$4.62 million on campaign contributions and lobbying.
- Tobacco interests spent nearly \$2 million on campaign contributions to members of the California Legislature, candidates for the legislature, constitutional officers and political committees.
- Of the state legislators serving during the 2007-2008 legislative session, 60 members (43 Assembly Members and 17 Senators) or 50 percent of the legislature, accepted contributions from tobacco interests, a slight decrease from the 62 members who accepted contributions during the 2005-2006 legislative session.
- 14 of the 31 new members elected for the 2009-2010 legislative session, or 45 percent, accepted contributions from tobacco interests, a decrease from the 56 percent rate for new members elected for the 2007-2008 legislative session.
- Tobacco interests lobbied on 18 bills, including a bill that would have increased the tobacco tax via health care reform legislation and a bill that would have created an annual fee for state tobacco retailer license renewals.
- Tobacco interests spent \$2.66 million on lobbying during this two-year period, an increase of nearly half a million dollars from the previous election cycle.
- Philip Morris USA Inc. spent \$1.68 million on lobbying during this election cycle, an increase of nearly \$800,000 from the previous election cycle. In particular, Philip Morris USA Inc. spent a large amount of money to lobby the health care reform bill (ABX1-1) sponsored by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and former Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez that would have expanded health coverage and been partially financed by a \$1.75/pack tobacco tax.
- The amounts spent on lobbying by Philip Morris USA Inc. in each of the two quarters when ABX1-1 was alive in the legislature are the two highest quarterly amounts Philip Morris USA Inc. has spent on lobbying in the past decade.

