

# ACU Presents 2012 State Legislative Ratings

The American Conservative Union is taking our hightly touted Congressional Ratings program to State Legislatures for the second year in a row, grading members on their votes on key conservative issues. Last year, we graded State Legislators in the critical battleground states of Florida, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio and Virginia. This year, we are expanding our ratings to fifteen states.

ACU first began rating members of Congress in 1971. Since then, our ratings system has become the most important conservative measuring stick in American politics- the gold standard for voters seeking more information on their representatives' records.

This expansion of our Conservative Ratings program is part of Chairman Al Cardenas' vision for building on successful ACU initiatives and taking the fight for conservative principles to the state and local levels. This is part of the ACU five-year plan to bring our ratings to all fifty states- scoring every legislature in every state, every year.

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# THE AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE UNION

August 8, 2012

Dear Fellow Conservative,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the American Conservative Union's 2012 State Legislative Ratings for members of the California Legislature.



Al Cardenas, ACU Chairman

Since 1971, our Congressional ratings have become the gold standard in holding every member of Congress accountable for their voting record on the most important issues facing our nation. Last year we brought that same commitment to conservative ideals to the states, by rating members in five legislatures. I am pleased to report that this year we will score 15 states. This is part of the ACU five-year plan to bring our ratings to all fifty states- scoring every legislature in every state, every year.

2012 is a critical election year in the life of our nation and it is important, now more than ever, that Americans have the information to elect true conservatives into office. Now approaching four years under the failed leadership of President Barack Obama, America needs decisive change to rein in reckless spending, restore our standing in the international community and return to the traditional values that made our nation so great. The liberal policies of the Obama administration have energized a national grassroots conservative movement, bringing change to state and local governments nationwide. Because of this, our 2012 State Legislative Ratings are vital for voters to make informed choices on the future of our nation, especially in battleground states.

We are dedicated to supporting the efforts of courageous conservative leaders fighting for limited government, promoting prosperity and individual freedom, and defending traditional values. Standing by voters around the nation, ACU is leading the way to encourage and help the next generation of conservative leaders, beginning at the state level.

Thank you for your continued support. I know that together we can ensure America's best days are still ahead.

Sincerely,

Al Cardenas

Chairman, American Conservative Union

1331 H Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005 Tel: (202) 347-9388 Fax: (202) 347-9389 www.conservative.org



# How We Selected the Votes

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This expansion of our Conservative Ratings program is part of Chairman Al Cardenas' vision for building on successful ACU initiatives and taking the fight for conservative principles to the state and local levels. This is part of the ACU five-year plan to bring our ratings to all fifty states- scoring every legislature in every state, every year.

# Conservative All-Stars of the California Legislature

# Defenders of Liberty

ACU Defenders of Liberty are those members of the California Legislature who were present and cast a vote for each adjudicated roll call and scored 100 percent on the ACU 2012 State Legislative Ratings.

California Senate: California State Assembly:

Joel Anderson Tim Donnelly Allan Mansoor

Linda Halderman Mike Morrell Steve Knight Jim Silva

#### ACU Conservatives

ACU Conservatives are those members of the California Legislature who scored 80 percent or higher on the ACU 2012 State Legislative Ratings.

#### California Senate:

Tom Berryhill Jean Fuller Doug La Malfa Mimi Walters Sam Blakeslee Ted Gaines Sharon Runner Mark Wyland

Anthony Cannella Bob Huff Tony Strickland

# ACU Conservatives Continued

### California State Assembly:

Katcho Achadjian	Martin Garrick	Kevin Jeffries	Jim Nielsen
Bill Berryhill	Jeff Gorell*	Brian Jones	Chris Norby
Connie Conway	Shannon Grove	Dan Logue	Kristin Olsen
Paul Cook	Curt Hagman	Jeff Miller	David Valadao
Beth Gaines	Diane Harkey	Brian Nestande	Don Wagner

<sup>\*</sup> In recognition of service to his country

# True Liberals of the Golden State

True Liberals of the Golden State are those members of the California Legislature who scored 0 percent on the ACU 2012 State Legislative Ratings.

#### California Senate:

Elaine K. Alquist	Loni Hancock	Ted W. Lieu	Curren D. Price, Jr.
Ron Calderon	Ed Hernandez	Carol Liu	Darrell Steinberg
Ellen M. Corbett	Christine Kehoe	Gloria Negrete Mcleod	Juan Vargas
Kevin De Leon	Mark Leno	Alex Padilla	Leland Yee

#### California State Assembly:

Luis A. Alejo	Charles M. Calderon	Warren T. Furutani	Richard Pan
Toni Atkins	Nora Campos	Isadore Hall	John A. Pérez
Jim Beall	Wilmer Carter	Mary Hayashi	V. Manuel Pérez
Marty Block	Gilbert Cedillo	Edward P. Hernandez	Anthony Portantino
Bob Blumenfield	Mike Davis	Ben Hueso	Nancy Skinner
Susan Bonilla	Roger Dickinson	Ricardo Lara	Jose Solorio
Steven Bradford	Mike Eng	Bonnie Lowenthal	Sandré R. Swanson
Julia Brownley	Mike Feuer	Fiona Ma	Norma Torres
Joan Buchanan	Paul Fong	Tony Mendoza	Bob Wieckowski
Betsy Butler	Felipe Fuentes	Holly Mitchell	Das Williams



# California Assembly Vote Descriptions

- 1. AB 22 Employer rights. This bill prohibits many employers from using consumer credit information as one element in hiring employees. ACU opposes this type of government interference in the marketplace and opposes this bill. The Assembly passed this bill on September 8, 2011 by a vote of 48-28.
- 2. AB 84 Voting Integrity. Allows someone who becomes a "new citizen" within 15 days of an election to register and vote on election day. ACU opposes same day registration laws that open the door to voter fraud and opposes this bill. The Assembly passed this bill on April 11, 2011 by a vote of 52-25.
- **3. AB 101 Child Care Labor Unions.** This bill sets up union organizing procedures for child care providers. ACU opposes forcing baby sitters to join a union and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on September 8, 2011 by a vote of 51-27.
- **4. AB 124 Local Control of Schools.** This bill sets up state mandates for English instruction along with a permanent group of "experts" to monitor compliance. ACU opposes this micromanagement of local schools and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on August 31, 2011 by a vote of 69-8.
- 5. AB 144 Second Amendment Rights. This bill makes it a crime to openly carry a handgun. ACU opposes this violation of Second Amendment rights and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on September 9, 2011 by a vote of 48-30.
- **6. AB 195 Government Employee Unions.** This bill increases the power and cost of the Public Employee Relations Board and increases restrictions on agency employers from interfering from what are called "public employee rights." ACU opposes this effort to make it more difficult to increase government efficiency at a time when the state of California is facing massive budget shortfalls and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on August 22, 2011 by a vote of 48-27.
- 7. AB 228 Expanding Government Power. This bill greatly expands the mission of the State Compensation Insurance Fund (state sponsored government enterprise) by providing some California workers compensation coverage to non-California workers. ACU opposes this type of government expansion which only exacerbates California's economic difficulties and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on September 9, 2011 by a vote of 50-26.
- **8. AB 240 Arbitrary Government Regulation.** This bill gives unprecedented power to a Deputy Labor Commissioner whether to award liquidated damages to employees who claim they were paid less than the minimum wage. ACU opposes this granting of arbitrary power to government bureaucrats that can lead to corruption and opposes this bill. The assembly passed the bill on August 22, 2011 by a vote of 49-26.

- **9. AB 243 Farmer Liability.** This bill creates additional liability for a farmer for illegal acts of a farm labor contractor. ACU opposes effort to give additional lawsuit opportunities for trial lawyers and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on September 6, 2011 by a vote of 46-29.
- 10. AB 325 Employer Mandates. This bill requires employers to give three days of bereavement leave to any employee and creates a new lawsuit opportunity to collect damages for any employer who is perceived to have violated this rule. ACU opposes legislation that discourages additional hiring and micromanages employer-employee relations and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on September 8, 2011 by a vote of 52-27.
- 11. AB 350 Hiring Mandates. This bill would force any company engaged in property services, such as security, window cleaning or food services, to hire employees of a previous contractor. ACU opposes this type of job-killing legislation that would force a company to fire its own workforce to obtain a service contract and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on May 31, 2011 by a vote of 46-31.
- **12. AB 900 Environmental Impact Review.** This bill allows the Governor to hand pick projects deemed "appropriate" and give them expedited judicial review under the state's Environmental Quality Act process. ACU opposes this grant of arbitrary power to pick winners and losers in the marketplace and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on September 9, 2011 by a vote of 58-19.
- 13. SB 105 Parental choice. This bill penalizes parents if their children under 18 years of age do not wear specified snow sport helmets while skiing or snowboarding and penalizes businesses if they don't have proper signage and written notifications of the mandates. ACU opposes this usurpation of parental rights and additional burdens on small businesses and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on July 11, 2011 by a vote of 53-24.
- **14. SB 202 Initiative and Referendum.** This bill outlaws Californians' ability to submit qualified initiative measures to voters for June primary elections. ACU opposes this dramatic change in initiative procedures in order to help pass a major tax increase and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on September 9, 2011 by a vote of 45-30.
- **15. SB 222 Mandated insurance coverage.** This bill requires all individual health insurance policies to include maternity services. ACU opposes these mandates which increase the cost of health insurance for everyone and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on September 7, 2011 by a vote of 52-26.
- **16. SB 585. Energy Mandates.** This bill allows the Public Utilities Commission to assess ratepayers to pay for a shortfall in solar energy programs. ACU opposes these energy mandates that increase the cost of energy to pay for a favored program while budget cuts are implemented to education programs and the courts and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on August 25, 2011 by a vote of 55-19.
- 17. SB 702 Pet Mandates. This bill requires the insertion of a microchip in a pet claimed or adopted from an animal shelter despite studies showing some dogs get infections from the chip and that chips can fail or migrate through an animal's body. ACU opposes these needless government mandates and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on August 25, 2011 by a vote of 50-23.
- **18. B 829 Project Labor Agreements.** This bill requires Project Labor Agreements for any charter city construction projects. ACU opposes these agreements that force up costs to the taxpayer and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on April 12, 2012 by a vote of 50-23.

- **19. SB 857 Unlawful Strikes.** This bill removes the authority of the Public Employment Relations Board to award damages due to unlawful strikes. ACU opposes this measure that will encourage unlawful strikes and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on August 25, 2011 by a vote of 51-27.
- **20. SB 900 Foreclosure Laws.** This bill states the intent of the legislature to revise California's foreclosure laws to make it more difficult for lenders to foreclose and make it more difficult for lenders to recover collateral. ACU opposes this interference in the marketplace which will drive up the cost of capital and make it more difficult to obtain home loans. The Assembly passed the bill on July 2, 2012 by a vote of 54-26.
- **21. SB 922 Project Labor Agreements Mandates.** This bill creates new mandates for Project Labor Agreements, prohibiting state funds after January 1, 2015 to any charter city that doesn't use Project Labor Agreements. ACU opposes this effort to punish small businesses that do not use union labor and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on September 11, 2011 by a vote of 52-27.
- **22. SB 930 Fraud and Abuse.** This bill repeals anti-fraud measures for recipients of In-Home Supportive Services that required fingerprint images and timesheets and prohibited the use of Post office Boxes for addresses to receive paychecks. ACU supports efforts to reduce fraud and abuse in government programs and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on August 30, 2011 by a vote of 51-27.
- **23. SB1029 High Speed Rail Funding.** This bill paves the way for a high speed rail project. Cost estimates range from \$330 million to \$5 billion annually. ACU opposes a new taxpayer supported project of this type at a time of fiscal crisis that has prompted a massive tax increase initiative. The bill passed the Assembly on July 5, 2012 by a vote of 52-28.

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X = Did not vote.; E = Excused Absence



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- 7. AB 228 Expanding Government Power. This bill greatly expands the mission of the State Compensation Insurance Fund (state sponsored government enterprise) by providing some California workers compensation coverage to non-California workers. ACU opposes this type of government expansion which only exacerbates California's economic difficulties and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Senate on August 31, 2011 by a vote of 23-13.
- **8. AB 240 Arbitrary Government Regulation.** This bill gives unprecedented power to a Deputy Labor Commissioner whether to award liquidated damages to employees who claim they were paid less than the minimum wage. ACU opposes this granting of arbitrary power to government bureaucrats that can lead to corruption and opposes this bill. The Senate passed the bill on August 18, 2011 by a vote of 24-15.

- **9. AB 243 Farmer Liability.** This bill creates additional liability for a farmer for illegal acts of a farm labor contractor. ACU opposes effort to give additional lawsuit opportunities for trial lawyers and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Senate on August 31, 2011 by a vote of 21-14.
- 10. AB 325 Employer Mandates. This bill requires employers to give three days of bereavement leave to any employee and creates a new lawsuit opportunity to collect damages for any employer who is perceived to have violated this rule. ACU opposes legislation that discourages additional hiring and micromanages employer-employee relations and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Senate on September 8, 2011 by a vote of 22-13.
- 11. AB 350 Hiring Mandates. This bill would force any company engaged in property services, such as security, window cleaning or food services, to hire employees of a previous contractor. ACU opposes this type of job-killing legislation that would force a company to fire its own workforce to obtain a service contract and opposes this bill. The bill failed in the Senate on August 10, 2011 by a vote of 17-18.
- **12. AB 900 Environmental Impact Review.** This bill allows the Governor to hand pick projects deemed "appropriate" and give them expedited judicial review under the state's Environmental Quality Act process. ACU opposes this grant of arbitrary power to pick winners and losers in the marketplace and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Senate on September 9, 2011 by a vote of 33-6.
- 13. SB 105 Parental choice. This bill penalizes parents if their children under 18 years of age do not wear specified snow sport helmets while skiing or snowboarding and penalizes businesses if they don't have proper signage and written notifications of the mandates. ACU opposes this usurpation of parental rights and additional burdens on small businesses and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Senate on August 15, 2011 by a vote of 31-5.
- **14. SB 202 Initiative and Referendum.** This bill outlaws Californians' ability to submit qualified initiative measures to voters for June primary elections. ACU opposes this dramatic change in initiative procedures in order to help pass a major tax increase and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Senate on September 10, 2011 by a vote of 23-15.
- **15. SB 222 Mandated insurance coverage.** This bill requires all individual health insurance policies to include maternity services. ACU opposes these mandates which increase the cost of health insurance for everyone and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Senate on September 8, 2011 by a vote of 25-12.
- **16. SB 585. Energy Mandates.** This bill allows the Public Utilities Commission to assess rate payers to pay for a shortfall in solar energy programs. ACU opposes these energy mandates that increase the cost of energy to pay for a favored program while budget cuts are implemented to education programs and the courts and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Senate on September 1, 2011 by a vote of 29-8.
- 17. SB 702 Pet Mandates. This bill requires the insertion of a microchip in a pet claimed or adopted from an animal shelter despite studies showing some dogs get infections from the chip and that chips can fail or migrate through an animal's body. ACU opposes these needless government mandates and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Senate on May 31, 2011 by a vote of 32-6.
- **18. SB 829 Project Labor Agreements.** This bill requires Project Labor Agreements for any charter city construction projects. ACU opposes these agreements that force up costs to the taxpayer and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Senate on April 19, 2012 by a vote of 25-13.

- **19. SB 857 Unlawful Strikes.** This bill removes the authority of the Public Employment Relations Board to award damages due to unlawful strikes. ACU opposes this measure that will encourage unlawful strikes and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Senate on September 1, 2011 by a vote of 24-15.
- **20. SB 900 Foreclosure Laws.** This bill states the intent of the legislature to revise California's foreclosure laws to make it more difficult for lenders to foreclose and make it more difficult for lenders to recover collateral. ACU opposes this interference in the marketplace which will drive up the cost of capital and make it more difficult to obtain home loans. The Senate passed the bill on July 2, 2012 by a vote of 25-13.
- **21. SB 922 Project Labor Agreements Mandates.** This bill creates new mandates for Project Labor Agreements, prohibiting state funds after January 1, 2015 to any charter city that doesn't use Project Labor Agreements. ACU opposes this effort to punish small businesses that do not use union labor and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Senate on September 9, 2011 by a vote of 24-14.
- **22. SB 930 Fraud and Abuse.** This bill repeals anti-fraud measures for recipients of In-Home Supportive Services that required fingerprint images and timesheets and prohibited the use of Post Office Boxes as addresses to receive paychecks. ACU supports efforts to reduce fraud and abuse in government programs and opposes this bill. The bill passed the Senate on September 1, 2011 by a vote of 23-15.
- **23. SB 1029 High Speed Rail Funding.** This bill paves the way for a high speed rail project. Cost estimates range from \$330 million to \$5 billion annually. ACU opposes a new taxpayer supported project of this type at a time of fiscal crisis that has prompted a massive tax increase initiative. The bill passed the Senate on July 6, 2012 by a vote of 21-16.

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X = Did not vote.; E = Excused Absence

ACU Votes ACU 9 Votes Cast %		16 19 84%	1 22 5%	0 23 0%	16 18 89%	0 22 0%	19 21 90%	2 20 10%	3 22 14%	19 22 86%	
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AB AB 124 144		+	1	1	+	1	+	1	+	+	
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	District Party	17	11	9	19	40	33	5	25	38	
	Representative Name	RUNNER	Simitian	Steinberg	STRICKLAND	Vargas	WALTERS	Wolk	Wright	WYLAND	

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As America's conservative voice, ACU is the leading entity in providing conservative positions on issues to Congress, White House Administration Officials, State Governments, the media, political candidates and the public.

The ACU's marquee initiatives include the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) and the annual Ratings of Congress guide.

Under the leadership of ACU Chairman Al Cardenas, the organization remains the standard bearer of conservatism in America. Chairman Cardenas is dedicated to growing the national conservative movement through the expansion of ACU programs, unprecedented outreach and advocacy – especially to young, emerging activists – and an extended reach into local and state issues. Among these inaugural efforts are the expansion of conservative rating to State Legislatures and a first-ever series of regional CPAC's in states across the country, building on the legacy of the annual national CPAC event in our Nation's Capital.

For more information on the American Conservative Union, please visit our website at *www.conservative.org*.

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