NFIB
The Voice of Small Business®

VOTING RECORD 2011–2012 TEXAS

YOUR LEGISLATORS' VOTING RECORD ON SMALL BUSINESS ISSUES

2011–12 SESSION: Floor votes by your state legislators on key small business issues are listed inside. The Voting Record does not reflect all elements considered by a lawmaker when voting, nor does it represent a complete profile of a legislator, but it can be a guide in evaluating a legislator's attitude toward small business. Many issues affecting small business are decided in committees and never make it to the floor of the House or Senate. Unfortunately, this year there were not enough contrasting Senate floor votes to develop a voting record that provided any insight into a senator's level of support for small business issues. We will use other methods to endorse Texas Senate candidates. Our official endorsements for Texas House and Senate candidates will be available to members only on the NFIB/Texas website prior to Election Day. Please thank those legislators who supported small business and continue to work with those who have fallen short.

VOTING KEY

Y	=	Voted "Yes"
N	=	Voted "No"
PNV	=	Present, not voting
%	=	Percentage voting with NFIB position
E	=	Excused

HOUSE

1 **HB 2494:** This legislation would have allowed the Texas Workforce Commission to recover fraudulently obtained unemployment insurance benefits. **A "Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.** The vote recorded in this voting record is the second reading vote. The bill did not advance to third reading. (The bill was postponed consideration.)

2 **HB 1951, Amendment 12:** This bill is the Texas Department of Insurance continuation bill, and is introduced after the agency forgoes an examination by state legislators to see whether the agency should be allowed to continue to operate, and allows an opportunity for changes to laws the agency administrates. Amendment 12 would have added a health insurance mandate requiring coverage for eating disorders, including anorexia nervosa or bulimia. **A "Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.** A vote was taken to "table" the amendment, preventing it from being attached to the bill. HB 1951 passed both the House and Senate and was signed by the governor, but Amendment 12 failed to be included.

3 **SB 1 Amendment 122:** This legislation is an omnibus bill for legislation that impacts fiscal concerns for the state of the Texas. Amendment 122 would have implemented a system of taxation based on the profitability of a business. **A "Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.** This legislation is a key piece of the NFIB reform efforts on the state's franchise (margin) tax. The amendment received support of all legislators voting, but was subsequently removed in conference committee and did not appear in the final version of the law. SB 1 passed both the House and Senate, and was signed into law by the governor.

4 **HB 274:** This bill is a centerpiece of tort reform in Texas, implementing a "loser pay" system. The legislation also included expedited civil proceedings for claims under $100,000. The bill also repealed existing law that allowed reopening of an expired statute of limitations for plaintiffs to bring in an additional defendant in a law suit. **A "Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.** The implementation of a "loser pay" system was included on our legislative agenda. The bill passed both the House and Senate and was signed into law by the governor.

5 **HB 14:** Provides that employees who are separated from their employment and received a severance package are not immediately eligible for unemployment benefits. Eligibility begins after the number of weeks of pay provided in the severance package has expired. **A "Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.** This legislation will ensure the Texas Unemployment Benefits Trust Fund is used appropriately. The bill passed both the House and Senate and was signed into law by the governor.

6 **SB 18:** Includes several key pieces of NFIB's legislative agenda regarding eminent domain. In governmental condemnations of property, SB 18 requires a governmental entity to offer fair market value to a property owner. Property owners must be compensated for diminished access to their property as well as for relocating their business. In addition, if no progress is made on the project after 10 years, property owners can repurchase their property. **A "Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.** The bill passed both the House and Senate and was signed into law by the governor.

7 **SB 458:** Closes a loophole for employees who are dismissed for cause and obtain employment with a friend or relative for a short period of time. Once the short-term job ends, the worker can successfully apply for unemployment insurance benefits, which are socialized over the unemployment insurance fund, costing all Texas employers. **A "Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.** This is a key reform issue for the Unemployment Benefits Trust Fund and has repeatedly appeared on the NFIB agenda. The legislation passed both the House and Senate and was signed into law by the governor.

SENATE

1 **HB 274:** Serves as a centerpiece of tort reform in Texas, implementing a "loser pay" system. The legislation also included expedited civil proceedings for claims under $100,000. The bill also repealed existing law that allowed reopening of an expired statute of limitations for plaintiffs to bring in an additional defendant in a law suit. **A "Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.** The implementation of a "loser pay" system was included on our legislative agenda. The bill passed both the House and Senate, and was signed into law by the governor.

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HOUSE ISSUE NUMBER NFIB/TX POSITION	1 Y	2 Y	3 Y	4 Y	5 Y	6 Y	7 Y	% 100%
Straus, Joe, 121 (Speaker)	PNV	PNV	PNV	PNV	PNV	PNV	PNV	
Aliseda, Jose, 35	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Allen, Alma, 131	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Alonzo, Roberto, 104	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Alvarado, Carol, 145	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Anchia, Rafael, 103	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	71%
Anderson, Charles "Doc", 56	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Anderson, Rodney, 106	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Aycock, Jimmie Don, 54	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%

HOUSE ISSUE NUMBER NFIB/TX POSITION	1 Y	2 Y	3 Y	4 Y	5 Y	6 Y	7 Y	% 100%
Beck, Marva, 57	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Berman, Leo, 6	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Bohac, Dwayne, 138	Y	A	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Bonnen, Dennis, 25	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Branch, Dan, 108	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Brown, Fred, 14	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Burkett, Cindy, 101	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Burnam, Lon, 90	N	N	E	N	Y	Y	Y	50%
Chen Button, Angie, 112	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Cain, Erwin, 3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Callegari, William "Bill", 132	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%

(VOTING RECORD)

HOUSE ISSUE NUMBER NFIB/TX POSITION	1 Y	2 Y	3 Y	4 Y	5 Y	6 Y	7 Y	% 100%
Carter, Stefani, 102	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Castro, Joaquin, 125	N	E	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	67%
Chisum, Warren, 88	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Christian, Wayne, 9	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Coleman, Garnet, 147	N	N	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	67%
Cook, Byron, 8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Craddick, Tom, 82	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Creighton, Brandon, 16	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Crownover, Myra, 64	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Darby, Drew, 72	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Davis, John, 129	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	86%
Davis, Sarah, 134	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Davis, Yvonne, 111	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Deshotel, Joe, 22	N	A	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	67%
Driver, Joe, 113	A	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Dukes, Dawnna, 46	N	N	Y	N	Y	A	Y	50%
Dutton, Jr., Harold, 142	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Eiland, Craig, 23	A	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	67%
Eissler, Rob, 15	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Elkins, Gary, 135	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	86%
Farias, Joe, 118	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Farrar, Jessica, 148	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Fletcher, Allen, 130	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Flynn, Dan, 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	100%
Frullo, John, 84	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Gallego, Pete, 74	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Garza, John, 117	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Geren, Charlie, 99	PNV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Giddings, Helen, 109	N	N	Y	N	Y	E	Y	50%
Gonzales, Larry, 52	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Gonzales, Veronica, 41	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Gonzalez, Naomi, 76	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Gooden, Lance, 4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%

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Guillen, Ryan, 31	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Gutierrez, Roland, 119	N	E	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	67%
Hamilton, Mike, 19	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	86%
Hancock, Kelly, 91	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Hardcastle, Rick, 68	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Harless, Patricia, 126	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	83%
Harper-Brown, Linda, 105	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y	Y	100%
Hartnett, Will, 114	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y	Y	Y	100%
Hernandez, Ana E., 143	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Hilderbran, Harvey, 53	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	86%
Hochberg, Scott, 137	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Hopson, Chuck, 11	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	86%
Howard, Charlie, 26	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Howard, Donna, 48	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Huberty, Dan, 127	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Hughes, Bryan, 5	A	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	83%
Hunter, Todd, 32	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Isaac, Jason, 45	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Jackson, Jim, 115	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Johnson, Eric, 100	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Keffer, Jim, 60	Y	PNV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
King, Phil, 61	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
King, Susan, 71	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
King, Tracy, 80	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Kleinschmidt, Tim, 17	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Kolkhorst, Lois, 13	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	100%
Kuempel, John, 44	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Landtroop, Jim, 85	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Larson, Lyle, 122	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Laubenberg, Jodie, 89	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	E	100%
Lavender, George, 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Legler, Ken, 144	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	100%
Lewis, Tryon, 81	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%

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Lozano, JM, 43	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Lucio III, Eddie, 38	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Lanham, Lyne, 69	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	86%
Madden, Jerry, 67	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Mallory Caraway, Barbara, 110	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Margo, Dee, 78	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	86%
Marquez, Marissa, 77	N	E	Y	N	E	Y	Y	60%
Martinez, Armando, 39	N	N	A	N	Y	Y	A	40%
Martinez Fischer, Trey, 116	N	N	Y	N	A	Y	Y	50%
McClendon, Ruth Jones, 120	N	N	Y	N	Y	A	Y	50%
Menendez, Jose, 124	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Miles, Borris, 146	A	PNV	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	80%
Miller, Doug, 73	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Miller, Sid, 59	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Morrison, Geanie, 30	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Munoz, Sergio, 36	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Murphy, Jim, 133	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Naishtat, Elliott, 49	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Nash, Barbara, 93	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Oliveira, Rene, 37	N	N	Y	N	E	Y	Y	50%
Orr, Rob, 58	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Otto, John, 18	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Parker, Tan, 63	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Patrick, Diane, 94	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Paxton, Ken, 70	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Pena, Aaron, 40	N	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	83%
Perry, Charles, 83	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Phillips, Larry, 62	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Pickett, Joe, 79	N	N	Y	N	Y	A	Y	50%
Pitts, Jim, 10	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Price, Walter "Four", 87	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Quintanilla, Chente, 75	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%

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Raymond, Richard Pena, 42	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Reynolds, Ron, 27	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	E	50%
Riddle, Debbie, 150	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Ritter, Allan, 21	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Rodriguez, Eddie, 51	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Schwertner, Charles, 20	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Scott, Connie, 34	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	86%
Sheets, Kenneth, 107	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Sheffield, Ralph, 55	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Shelton, Mark, 97	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Simpson, David, 7	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Smith, Todd, 92	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	100%
Smith, Wayne, 128	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Smithee, John, 86	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Solomons, Burt, 65	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y	Y	Y	100%
Strama, Mark, 50	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Taylor, Larry, 24	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Taylor, Van, 66	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	86%
Thompson, Senfronia, 141	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Torres, Raul, 33	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Truitt, Vicki, 98	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Turner, Sylvester, 139	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Veasey, Marc, 95	N	N	Y	N	A	Y	Y	50%
Villarreal, Mike, 123	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Vo, Hubert, 149	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	57%
Walle, Armando, 140	N	N	E	N	Y	Y	E	40%
Weber, Randy, 29	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
White, James, 12	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Woolley, Beverly, 136 (Speaker Pro Tempore)	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Workman, Paul, 47	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Zedler, William, 96	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Zerwas, John, 28	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%