

VOTING RECORD 2011-2012 ALASKA

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, there were not enough contrasting Senate floor votes to develop a voting record that provided any insight into a legislator's level of support for small business issues. Please thank those legislators who supported small business and continue to work with those who have fallen short.

VOTING KEY

Y	=	Voted "Yes" on the Legislation
N	=	Voted "No" on the Legislation
NV	=	No recorded vote
	=	Not in chamber at time of vote
%	=	Percentage voting with NFIB position (Legislator must have 5 votes to be counted)

1 Health Insurance Mandate: House Bill 1 (Gatto) would have allowed a person to accept or decline any offered mode of securing health care services, essentially preventing individual mandated coverage. Passed House 24-16. Died in Senate committee without hearing. **A "Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.**

2 Workers' Compensation Fee Schedule: House Bill 13 (K. Olson) established a fee schedule for workers' compensation program. The current law sun-setted the fee schedule so providers would have been able to bill higher fees to the Workers' Compensation program. This bill held fees down to the level prescribed by the fee schedule and thus helped reduce workers' compensation premiums. Passed House 30-0. Passed Senate 20-0. **A "Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.**

3 Davis Bacon Wages Threshold for Public Contracts: House Bill 155 (House Labor & Commerce Committee) increased the "Little Davis Bacon Act" prevailing wage threshold for public entity contracts from \$2,000 to \$25,000. This change makes public contracts more accessible to small businesses that are not union shops. Passed House 37-0. Passed Senate 20-0. **A "Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.**

4 Commercial Vehicle Regulation: House Bill 271 (Keller & Pruitt) increases the threshold for becoming a commercial vehicle requiring adherence to commercial regulations. By raising the threshold from 10,000 pounds to 14,000 pounds, many small businesses that are purchasing newer vehicles would have avoided unnecessary commercial vehicle regulations. Passed House 37-0. Died in Senate

Rules Committee. **A "Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.**

5 Recovery of Stolen Property: Senate Bill 30 (Dyson) requires the Office of Victims' Rights to provide assistance to owners in recovering property held by the judicial system. Passed the Senate 20-0. Passed the House 37-0. **A "Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.**

6 Mandates Autism Coverage on Insurance Plans: Senate Bill 74 (Ellis) mandates that insurance policies include autism coverage. This mandate is estimated to increase premiums by 3 percent. This provision applies only to traditional insurance, mostly purchased by small businesses. The State, large employers with ERISA plans and union trusts are exempt from this mandate. Passed Senate 14-5. Passed House 36-3. **A "No" vote supports the NFIB position.**

(VOTING RECORD)

HOUSE ISSUE NUMBER NFIB/AK POSITION	1 Y	2 Y	3 Y	4 Y	5 Y	6 N	% 100%
Austerman, Alan (R - Kodiak)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	83%
Chenault, Mike (R - Nikiski)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	83%
Cissna, Sharon (D - Anchorage)	N					Y	N/A
Costello, Mia (R - Anchorage)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	83%
Dick, Alan (R - Stony River)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	83%
Doogan, Mike (D - Anchorage)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	67%
Edgmon, Bryce (D - Dillingham)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	67%
Fairclough, Anna (R - Eagle River)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	83%
Feige, Eric (R - Chickaloon)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	83%
Foster, Neal (D - Nome)	N		Y	Y	Y	Y	60%
Gara, Les (D - Anchorage)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	67%
Gardner, Berta (D - Anchorage)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	67%
Gatto, Carl (R - Palmer)*	Y	Y	Y				100%
Gruenberg, Max (D - Anchorage)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	67%
Guttenberg, David (D - Fairbanks)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	67%
Hawker, Mike (R - Anchorage)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	83%
Herron, Bob (D - Bethel)	N		Y	Y	Y	Y	60%
Holmes, Lindsey (D - Anchorage)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	67%
Johansen, Kyle (R - Ketchikan)	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	80%
Johnson, Craig (R - Anchorage)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	83%

* Died in office

(VOTING RECORD)

HOUSE ISSUE NUMBER NFIB/AK POSITION	1 Y	2 Y	3 Y	4 Y	5 Y	6 N	% 100%
Joule, Reggie (D - Kotzebue)	N		Y	Y	Y	Y	60%
Kawasaki, Scott (D - Fairbanks)	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	80%
Keller, Wes (R - Wasilla)	Y		Y	Y	Y	N	100%
Kerttula, Beth (D - Juneau)	N			Y	Y	Y	N/A
Lynn, Bob (R - Anchorage)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	83%
Miller, Bob (D - Fairbanks)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	67%
Millett, Charisse (R - Anchorage)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	83%
Muñoz, Cathy (R - Juneau)	N		Y	Y	Y	Y	60%
Neuman, Mark (R - Wasilla)	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	80%
Olson, Kurt (R - Soldotna)	Y	Y	Y			Y	N/A
Petersen, Pete (D - Anchorage)	N		Y	Y	Y	Y	60%
Pruitt, Lance (R - Anchorage)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	83%
Saddler, Dan (R - Eagle River)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	83%
Seaton, Paul (R - Homer)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	83%
Stoltze, Bill (R - Chugiak)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	83%
Thomas Jr., William "Bill" (R - Haines)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	83%
Thompson, Steve (R - Fairbanks)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	83%
Tuck, Chris (D - Anchorage)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	67%
Wilson, Peggy (R - Wrangell)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	100%
Wilson, Tammy (R - North Pole)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	100%



14 Tough Questions to Ask Politicians During Election Season

From now until Nov. 6, every candidate running for office will make the claim to be pro-small business. So how do you separate policy fact from campaign fiction?

NFIB/Alaska doesn't have a mechanism that allows us to make campaign contributions or political endorsements, so NFIB members will need to ask the questions themselves—but don't underestimate the power and influence you have.

- 1 What are your top three priorities for small business if you are elected?
- 2 Why should small business owners support your campaign?
- 3 Which small business owners are supporting your campaign?
- 4 Would you support requiring any legislation relating to business to have a cost-benefit analysis prior to any hearings?
- 5 Ballot Measure No. 1 on the Primary Election Ballot would allow a city or borough to raise the property tax exemption on a residence from \$20,000 to, at most, \$50,000. This kind of tax exemption must be put to a vote and approved at a local election. The bill also allows a city or borough to adjust this exemption to reflect a raise in the cost of living. This is likely to shift the tax burden to businesses. Will you support or oppose this ballot measure?
- 6 There is continuing pressure to increase the local property tax exemption by adding classes for additional exemptions, shifting the property tax burden to businesses. Do you support or oppose policies that shift the property tax burden to businesses?
- 7 In past sessions, the Alaska Legislature considered ordering employers to provide specified sick leave or leave for other reasons. Such bills may return during the next session. Do you support or oppose such mandatory legislation?
- 8 There have been proposals to require businesses to participate in a state-run retirement program—similar to Social Security—with mandated employer contributions for all employed Alaskans. Would you support or oppose such a program?
- 9 If legislation similar to the federal Employee Free Choice Act, which allows unions to form by a majority of workers just signing a card instead of by a secret vote, were proposed in the next Legislature, would you support or oppose such a bill?
- 10 There continue to be proposals to force specific insurance coverage on small businesses, the most recent being coverage for autism (Senate Bill 74). History shows mandates add to premium increases and reduce an employer's ability to provide employer-based insurance. Do you support or oppose such additional mandates on businesses?
- 11 If the state continues development of a health insurance exchange, would you support the state funding its operational costs rather than increasing insurance premiums to do so?
- 12 Would you support legislation crafted to reduce workers' compensation costs for small businesses?
- 13 There have been proposals in past sessions to change the workers' compensation program requiring independent contractors to purchase workers' compensation insurance for themselves. Would you support or oppose such legislation?
- 14 Would you support or oppose expanding workers' compensation benefits to cover non-physical ailments such as stress and depression?
- 15 In the past session, legislation was offered to allow the state to subsidize municipalities and nonprofits to compete with small businesses. Would you support or oppose such legislation?
- 16 There have been attempts to increase the minimum wage and to index it to some Consumer Price Index factor. Would you support or oppose legislation to increase or index the minimum wage?
- 17 Would you support or oppose increasing the benefit amount paid to unemployed workers?

Every candidate will tell you they support small business, but their answers to the questions above will help you determine where they'll be when the rubber meets the road.