

**2011**

**VOTING RECORD**



**Greater Lafayette**

**Chamber of Commerce**

**In Business for Business**

**2011**  
**Introduction**

# **Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce** **VOTING RECORD**

Many of the issues that impact the business community are decided in the halls of government. Therefore, it is critical that the Chamber advocate for its members in the governmental arena and play an active role in building an environment conducive to economic growth. The business advocacy process involves the Chamber taking positions on legislation, communicating those positions to elected officials and then holding those officials accountable.

One component of the public policy program is a voting record which tracks the votes of individual legislators on specific, pre-announced pieces of legislation. The voting record is a valuable tool for evaluating legislators' performance on business-centric issues and is a guide to acknowledging votes favorable to the Chamber. Likewise, it is a process by which we can voice concern over votes considered anti-business. Similarly, the voting record is the resource by which Empower PAC, the political action arm of the Chamber, will make endorsement decisions on legislators.

The issues under consideration for the 2011 document are a blend of local and statewide, and thus, the final scores reflect a combination of rankings from the Chamber and the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry's (LABI); the Chamber's voting record carries a weight of 75% of the final score and LABI's voting record carries 25%. With each new term, legislators' voting records are reset to zero, and each official is allowed a clean slate.

Votes are scored on a 0 to +2 basis. Votes against the Chamber's major and current issues receive a 0 score. Votes for the Chamber's major issues receive a +2 score, votes for current issues receive a +1 score. Votes when the Chamber takes no position on an issue receive a score of 0. Absentee votes are scored as a vote against the Chamber position, unless the absence is excused for emergency, medical or for unanimous vote.

The voting record serves as a channel of communication between the business community and those who represent us in the Louisiana Legislature. It is designed to encourage an ongoing dialogue with our legislative representatives about those issues which are of importance to us.

## MAJOR ISSUES

### **Alternative Fuel Exemption Repeal - HB 70**

J. Smith - Authorizes local government use of hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles by law enforcement agencies and emergency vehicles.

**Position:** Major Issue to Support

**Status:** Signed by the Governor ACT 246

### **GRAD Act 2.0 - HB 549**

Tucker - Provides relative to the La. Granting Resources and Autonomy for Diplomas Act, including additional operational autonomies to be granted to public postsecondary education institutions and reporting requirements for such institutions and the Board of Regents.

**Position:** Major Issue to Support

**Status:** Signed by the Governor ACT 418

### **Lafayette Parish Redevelopment Authority - HB 531**

Robideaux - Creates the Lafayette Parish Redevelopment Authority to provide for the utilization of appropriate private and public resources to eliminate and prevent the development or spread of blighted and distressed areas. Defines the duties, liabilities, authority and functions of such redevelopment authority, including the power to levy ad valorem taxes and sales and use taxes.

**Position:** Major Issue to Support

**Status:** Assigned to Senate Local & Municipal Affairs

## ISSUES

### **Research Tax Credit - HB 441**

Carter - Extends the research and development tax credit program from December 31, 2013, to December 31, 2019, and changes the refundable tax credit to a tax rebate.

**Position:** Support

**Status:** Assigned to Senate Revenue & Fiscal Affairs

### **Angel Investor Rebate Program - HB 597**

M. Jackson - Converts the Angel Investor Tax Credit Program to the Angel Investor Rebate Program and provides for the rebate program.

**Position:** Support

**Status:** Signed by the Governor ACT 414

### **Technology Commercialization Credit - HB 467**

Carter - Extends the Technology Commercialization and Jobs Tax Credit Program from December 31, 2011, to December 31, 2017, and converts it to a tax rebate.

**Position:** Support

**Status:** Assigned to Senate Revenue & Fiscal Affairs

### **Extends Gulf Boundary - SB 145**

Claitor - Provides that the coastline of Louisiana shall be the line of ordinary low water along the portion of the coast which is in direct contact with the open sea and the line marking the seaward limit of inland waters. Adds that the state of Louisiana shall be entitled to all the lands, minerals and other natural resources underlying the Gulf of Mexico, extending seaward from its coastline for a distance of three marine leagues.

**Position:** Support

**Status:** Signed by the Governor ACT 336

### **LCTS Tuition Increase - HB 526**

Robideaux - Authorizes the Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges System Board of Supervisors to increase tuition and mandatory fee amounts at institutions under its supervision and management and permits the uniform imposition of tuition and mandatory fee amounts on a per credit hour basis.

**Position:** Support

**Status:** Signed by the Governor ACT 196

### **Acadiana Cultural District - SB 219**

Mills - Creates the Acadiana Cultural and Entertainment Special District. Authorizes certain parishes within the district to provide an exemption from their sales tax for purchases by a motion picture production company for a specific state-certified movie production by that company.

**Position:** Support

**Status:** Signed by the Governor ACT 154



# 2011 Chamber Voting Record

## House

### Representative Party District

Representative	Party	District	2011 Chamber Voting Record	2011 LABI Voting Record	2010 Chamber Combined Record	2010 Chamber Voting Record	2010-2011 Chamber Combined Record			
Barras	D	48	2	2	2	1	1	100%	100%	100%
Cortez	R	43	2	2	2	1	1	100%	93%	97%
Hardy	D	44	2	2	2	1	1	100%	91%	91%
Landry	R	31	2	2	2	1	1	100%	99%	99%
Montoucet	D	42	2	2	2	1	1	100%	77%	80%
Robideaux	I	45	2	2	2	1	1	100%	97%	92%
<b>With Chamber</b>			7	7	7	7	7			
<b>Against Chamber</b>			0	0	0	0	0			
<b>Absent</b>			0	0	0	0	1			

1, 2 = For Chamber  
 0 = Against Chamber  
 A+ = Absent, vote for needed  
 A- = Absent, vote against needed  
 AU = Absent for Unanimous Vote  
 - = Excused Absence

\* Chamber combined 2010 score is made up of 75% Chamber score and 25% LABI score.