



## The Nevada Policy Research Institute

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### **Lawmakers earn low marks for 2009 session**

During the 2009 Legislative Session, only 11 of Nevada's 63 lawmakers compiled voting records that were generally friendly to Silver State taxpayers, a new report finds.

Geoffrey Lawrence, a fiscal policy analyst with the Nevada Policy Research Institute and the report's author, based his analysis on the ranking system that the National Taxpayers Union uses to rate members of Congress. His report, titled *The 2009 Nevada Legislative Session: Review and Report Card*, also includes a detailed review of the session, documenting the events that culminated in the largest single-session tax increase in state history.

The rankings were based on a scale of zero through 100, with the high end of the scale indicating a greater commitment to keeping taxes low and limiting the growth of government. Assemblyman Ed Goedhart, a Republican, earned the distinction of "taxpayer's best friend" with a score of 95.54 percent, while Sen. Bob Coffin, a Democrat, posted the lowest score at 16.43 percent. Fifty-two of the 63 legislators from both legislative houses accumulated scores below 50 percent.

"Sadly, few legislators during the 2009 session compiled voting records that can be described as 'taxpayer-friendly,'" said Lawrence. "This is particularly unfortunate given that the economic challenges the state was facing and continues to face made it all the more crucial that lawmakers govern in a fiscally responsible way. The record-setting tax hikes are certain to cause even greater hardship for Nevada's businesses, individuals and families at a time when they are already struggling.

"Those 11 legislators who did earn high scores in this analysis ought to be applauded for their commitment to sound fiscal and economic policies," added Lawrence. "The legislature as a whole would serve Nevadans well by following the lead of these 11 individuals when it reconvenes in 2011."

The full report is available at [http://www.npri.org/docLib/20090924\\_2009LedgeReportCard-Web.pdf](http://www.npri.org/docLib/20090924_2009LedgeReportCard-Web.pdf). Underlying documentation for the rankings of lawmakers is available at [http://www.npri.org/docLib/20090924\\_Fiscal\\_report\\_card\\_spreadsheets.xls](http://www.npri.org/docLib/20090924_Fiscal_report_card_spreadsheets.xls).

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