

The North County Times - Californian

## How your lawmakers voted

Roll call votes for the week ending March 4, 2011

**Voterama in Congress | Posted: Sunday, March 6, 2011 12:00 am**

Members of the House took the following actions:

**Transportation Funds:** Members approved, 421-4, billions of dollars for highway and mass transit projects from March 5 through Sept. 30. The outlays will come not from general appropriations but from the Highway Trust Fund, which is funded by gasoline taxes. A yes vote was to pass HR 662.

Rep. Brian Bilbray voted yes

Rep. Darrell Issa voted yes

Rep. Duncan Hunter voted yes

Rep. Susan Davis voted yes

Rep. Bob Filner voted yes

Rep. Mary Bono Mack voted yes

**"Bridge to Nowhere":** Members defeated, 181-246, a bid by Democrats to strip HR 662 (above) of funds for a bridge linking tiny Ketchikan, Alaska, to Gravina Island. This is the oft-criticized "bridge to nowhere." A yes vote was to finally end federal funding of a notorious congressional earmark.

Rep. Brian Bilbray voted no

Rep. Darrell Issa voted no

Rep. Duncan Hunter voted no

Rep. Susan Davis voted yes

Rep. Bob Filner voted yes

Rep. Mary Bono Mack voted no

**Health Law:** Members voted, 314-112, to end the health law's requirement that businesses issue an IRS Form 1099 to vendors to whom they pay at least \$600. To pay for itself, this GOP bill curbs tax credits used to buy health insurance. Democrats called this a tax hike. A yes vote backed HR 4.

Rep. Brian Bilbray voted yes

Rep. Darrell Issa voted yes

Rep. Duncan Hunter voted yes

Rep. Susan Davis voted yes

Rep. Bob Filner voted no

Rep. Mary Bono Mack voted yes

**Stopgap 2011 Budget:** Members passed, 335-91, a bill to keep the government running between March 5-April 18 while cutting spending by \$4 billion over that time. Congress will use the two weeks to negotiate a budget for the rest of fiscal 2011. A yes vote was to pass HJ Res 44.

Rep. Brian Bilbray voted yes

Rep. Darrell Issa voted yes

Rep. Duncan Hunter voted yes

Rep. Susan Davis voted yes

Rep. Bob Filner voted no

Rep. Mary Bono Mack voted yes

**Oil-Industry Tax Breaks:** Voting 176-249, the House defeated an attempt by Democrats to suspend the oil-depletion allowance and other tax breaks for large energy companies at a time when domestic spending is being cut. A yes vote backed the motion to HJ Res 44 (above).

Rep. Brian Bilbray voted no

Rep. Darrell Issa voted no

Rep. Duncan Hunter voted no

Rep. Susan Davis voted yes

Rep. Bob Filner voted yes

Rep. Mary Bono Mack voted no

Members of the Senate took the following actions:

**Patent-Law Dispute:** Senators retained, 87-13, the "first to invent" standard for ranking competing patent applications. This stripped a patent-reform bill of language to switch U.S. law to the "first-inventor-to-file" rule used by most other industrialized countries. The bill (S 23) remained in debate.

Sen. Barbara Boxer voted no

Sen. Dianne Feinstein voted no

**Stopgap 2011 Budget:** Voting 91-9, the Senate joined the House (above) in passing a temporary 2011 spending bill (HJ Res 44) to avert a government shutdown on March 5. President Obama then signed into law what is the fifth stopgap 2011 budget passed by Congress since last fall.

Sen. Barbara Boxer voted yes

Sen. Dianne Feinstein voted yes

#### KEY VOTES AHEAD

In the week of March 7, the House will take up bills addressing the U.S. housing crisis, while the Senate will resume debate on reforming U.S. procedures for awarding patents.