

How They Voted

The Joint Government Affairs Committee of The Everett Area and South Snohomish County Chambers of Commerce

2003 Legislative Session Report Card

Purpose

The Everett Area and South Snohomish Chambers of Commerce serve their members as business advocates, representing the diverse business interests of their membership in the realm of government affairs by a Joint Government Affairs Committee (JGAC). This committee reviews governmental and legislative issues and issues recommendations to their respective Boards of Directors. The JGAC also researches and adopts a legislative agenda and presents it to legislators each year before and during the state legislative session. During the legislative sessions, the JGAC takes positions on specific bills introduced, communicates those positions to our elected officials and lobbies on behalf of chamber members. The purpose of this Report Card is to report how legislators voted on those issues.

Scope

Snohomish County contains seven legislative districts each electing two Representatives and one Senator. The follow report card outlines the voting records of all twenty one of Snohomish County's elected state Representatives and Senators on those bills in which the JGAC took an official position. While our elected officials voted on other bills that were central to our legislative agenda, this report does not endeavor to capture all of those bills. This report limits its focus to only those bills on which the JGAC took a formal position. This report identifies how each legislator voted on each of these bills, expresses the total number of votes in support for chamber issues and further expresses their votes as a percentage.

Summary Results ([Click here for specific results](#))

The reader will note that Senators had more opportunity than Representatives to vote on chamber issues. The reason for this is simple: more business / Chamber friendly legislation originated in the Republican controlled Senate, made it through the appropriate Senate committees and were brought to a vote on the Senate floor. When these bills were referred to the Democrat controlled House most bills died in committees, therefore, were never brought to the House floor for a vote.

Results by party affiliation

Senate

Democrats Voted for Chamber issues an average of 41.8%***

Republicans Voted for Chamber issues an average of 90.0%

***Of note:

Republican Senators Schmidt and Stevens voted on all issues.

Democrat Senators Fairley, Haugen, Reardon, and Shin excused themselves from votes on UI Reform and Workers Comp Reform. There is no way to know with certainty how each would have voted, however, had they voted the Labor Council and party line with their Democrat colleagues on these two issues the Democrat average on Chamber issues drops to 26%.

House of Representatives

Democrats Voted for Chamber issues an average of 47.5%

Republicans Voted for Chamber issues an average of 93.8%