

The 2009 Session Proved It All Over Again Elections Do Make a Really Big Difference

During the 2008 election, CAPE prioritized seven Oregon House races. These races were hotly contested. In each race there was a clear ally for working families running against someone who would refuse to stand up for workers. In all seven districts there was a real chance that our ally could win if they had the help they needed. SEIU members stepped up. Hundreds of members called and canvassed to help win in seven districts and it made a difference. On Election Day, SEIU members were a large part of winning five of the seven seats.

In a legislative session where every vote counted in passing a revenue package that saved the budget from cuts, we needed every one of the five votes from these districts.

By comparing the grades of the legislators we elected in 2009 to the legislators that held these seats in 2007, the difference an election makes is clear.

District #	2007 Legislator	Avg. Grade in 2007	2009 Legislator	Avg. Grade in 2009
49	Karen Minnis	F	Nick Kahl	A
50	John Lim	C-	Greg Matthews	A
51	Linda Flores	F	Brent Barton	A
52	Patti Smith	D	S. Van Orman	A
54	Chuck Burley	F	Judy Stiegler	A

In the two districts where we lost close races, we were left with legislators who refused to stand up for working families. It is clear that winning makes a difference.

District #	2007 Legislator	Avg. Grade in 2007	2009 Legislator	Avg. Grade in 2009
37	Scott Bruun	D	Scott Bruun	D
39	Wayne Scott	F	Bill Kennemer	D