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## Press Release

**For Immediate Release:  
October 1, 2014**

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### **Governor Signs Measures in Assemblymember Garcia's Ethics Reform Package**

*AB 1673 Bans Lobbyists from Hosting Political Fundraisers in their Homes*

**(Sacramento)** – Governor Jerry Brown has signed into law measures authored by Assemblymember Cristina Garcia (D-Bell Gardens) as part of her political reform package entitled the *“Political Conduct, Ethics & Public Trust Acts of 2014”*. Garcia a lifetime reformer, voted into office on an anti-corruption platform, introduced her legislation against a backdrop of local corruption and high visibility accusations against State Senators Ron Calderon and Leland Yee.

Assemblymember Garcia was the first Legislator to respond to a \$133,500 fine handed down by the FPPC against a Sacramento lobbying firm for violating the expenditure limit at several home events that included, expensive alcohol, fine cigars and ornate floral arrangements.

Her bill, AB 1673 bans lobbyists from staging home fundraisers and eliminates the dual standard that allows lobbyists to host at their homes and offices, non-reportable private affair fundraisers for lawmakers, valued under \$500, while at the same time limiting direct gifts to lawmakers to only \$10 per month.

“This bill and my other measures are just the beginning of my efforts to remove the dark cloud hovering over our political landscape,” Garcia said. “As Legislators we must be bold to speak out and take the necessary steps to eliminate corruption and unethical conduct in government. This is a good first step to restoring people’s trust in their government.”

The following measures form the *“Political Conduct, Ethics & Public Trust Acts of 2014.”* received the Governor’s signature:

**AB 1673 - Eliminating Influence Peddling:** prevent lobbyists from hosting political fundraisers at their homes and offices.

**AB 1666 - Penalties & Bribes:** would double the existing restitution fines amounts and prohibit the use of campaign funds to pay a restitution fine under this section.

**AB 1692 - Personal Use of Campaign Funds:** to prevent campaign funds from being used to pay for fines that are the result of abuse of personal use of campaign funds laws.

**AB 1596 - Vote by Mail:** require all vote-by-mail applications, when completed, to be mailed directly to the county registrar's office and not to middlemen or political campaign organizations.

**AB 2040 - Detailed Disclosure of Government Compensation:** requires salary details to be publically disclosed on the local government websites.

Assemblymember Garcia also expressed disappointment that Governor Brown vetoed two reform measures, dealing with local government:

**AB 1716 - Permanent Ban on Switching Sides:** amends existing law to also ban local administrative officials from switching sides where their former agency was a party to the proceeding in which the official was involved.

**AB 1728 - Conflicts Stemming from Contributions:** help curtail pay for play by preventing an elected or appointed water board member from voting on items that affect their donors.

"While I am very disappointed that these measures were vetoed, in particular the contribution limits to elected water board members, my resolve to fight for this and other reform measure has not wavered," Garcia said. "If anything, it is clear to me that in the upcoming year I need to do a better job of educating the Governor and his staff on the need for this and other reforms. I'm up for the challenge and I think we will get there during my tenure in the assembly" she concluded.

All measures signed by the Governor become effective on January 1, 2015.

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**The 58<sup>th</sup> Assembly District includes the cities of Montebello, Pico Rivera, Commerce, Bell Gardens, Downey, Norwalk, Bellflower, Cerritos and Artesia.**