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## LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

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## Camille F. Vella-Wilkinson

Rhode Island Representative, HD-021 (D)

[freedomindex.us/10453/](https://freedomindex.us/10453/)



## RI Legislative Scorecard 2024: 25%

✓ Constitutional   ✗ Unconstitutional   — Did not Vote

Vote

**1. Election Media Restrictions:** Establishes regulations in Rhode Island to prohibit the distribution of deceptive synthetic media, such as manipulated images, audio, or videos, within 90 days of an election, to prevent "fraudulent" election communications.



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H7387 · 05/02/2024

**2. Suppressor Ban Exemption:** Amends Rhode Island's weapons laws to maintain the prohibition on manufacturing, selling, purchasing, or possessing firearm silencers, while creating an exemption for law enforcement officers.



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: None · S2828 · 06/13/2024

**3. Renewable Energy Subsidy Program:** Establishes the Renewable Ready Program to promote renewable energy development on contaminated or state-owned sites by creating a fund within the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank.



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H7616 · 06/12/2024

**4. Firearm Storage Requirement:** Amends Rhode Island's weapons laws to mandate safe storage of firearms, requiring they be secured in locked containers or equipped with safety devices when not in use.



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **No** · H7373 · 05/28/2024

**5. Expanding Attorney General's Authority:** Allows the state Attorney General to investigate and bring an enforcement action against persistent fraud or illegality in the carrying on, conducting, or transaction of business or governmental activity.



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: None · H7830 · 06/13/2024

**6. Election Drop Boxes:** Amends Rhode Island's mail ballot laws to require that mail ballot drop boxes be accessible to the public starting 35 days prior to state and federal elections, and 20 days prior to special elections.



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · S2780 · 06/12/2024

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# Why do these votes matter?

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## 1. Election Media Restrictions

H7387 establishes regulations in Rhode Island to prohibit the distribution of deceptive synthetic media, such as manipulated images, audio, or videos, within 90 days of an election, to prevent “fraudulent” election communications.

The Rhode Island House passed H7387 on May 2, 2024 by a vote of 70 to 5. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation restricts free speech and expands government authority to police political expression. Taxpayer resources should not fund enforcement of vague regulations that could be abused to suppress legitimate discourse or satire.

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## 2. Suppressor Ban Exemption

S2828 amends Rhode Island's weapons laws to maintain the prohibition on manufacturing, selling, purchasing, or possessing firearm silencers, while creating an exemption for law enforcement officers.

The Rhode Island House passed S2828 on June 13, 2024 by a vote of 57 to 4. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this unconstitutional bill upholds restrictions on Second Amendment rights, limiting citizens' ability to access tools that enhance personal safety and property protection. This legislation perpetuates government overreach that disproportionately favors government agents over private individuals, creating an uneven application of constitutional protections. The Second Amendment-protected rights of law-abiding citizens are not subject to government-approved lists.

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## 3. Renewable Energy Subsidy Program

H7616 establishes the Renewable Ready Program to promote renewable energy development on contaminated or state-owned sites by creating a fund within the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank.

The Rhode Island House passed H7616 on June 12, 2024 by a vote of 70 to 1. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation expands government intervention in the energy sector, violating constitutional limits on state power and free-market principles. Taxpayer funds should not subsidize renewable energy projects that distort market competition. This legislation advances a UN 2030 Agenda-inspired “climate change” policy that infringes on property rights and economic liberties. Private enterprise should drive energy innovation without state mandates or government handouts that undermine individual freedom.

## 4. Firearm Storage Requirement

H7373 amends Rhode Island's weapons laws to mandate safe storage of firearms, requiring they be secured in locked containers or equipped with safety devices when not in use. The bill also requires licensed firearm dealers to provide trigger locks with all pistol, rifle, and shotgun sales and mandates informational signs and pamphlets about secure storage at sales sites and schools.

The Rhode Island House passed H7373 on May 28, 2024 by a vote of 46 to 24. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation infringes on the Second Amendment and expands government intrusion into private property and personal freedoms. Taxpayer resources should not be used to enforce regulations that burden law-abiding citizens while failing to address criminal misuse of firearms. The right to keep and bear arms should remain free from state-imposed restrictions that erode individual liberty under the guise of public safety.

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## 5. Expanding Attorney General's Authority

H7830 allows the state Attorney General to investigate and bring an enforcement action against persistent fraud or illegality in the carrying on, conducting, or transaction of business or governmental activity.

The Rhode Island House passed H7830 on June 13, 2024 by a vote of 49 to 19. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation expands the power of the Attorney General, rather than limiting the position to its proper constitutional role. Taxpayer resources should not fund broad investigative authority that could be abused to target businesses or individuals unfairly. This legislation creates excessive government interference in the free market, imposing burdensome regulations and penalties that deters lawful commerce. Businesses and citizens should operate without the threat of overreaching state intervention under vague definitions of “persistent illegality.”

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## 6. Election Drop Boxes

S2780 amends Rhode Island's mail ballot laws to require that mail ballot drop boxes be accessible to the public starting 35 days prior to state and federal elections, and 20 days prior to special elections. Additionally, this legislation mandates that drop boxes be placed in every town or city, with locations determined by local boards of canvassers, and establishes procedures for the collection, storage, and transportation of ballots deposited in these boxes.

The Rhode Island House passed S2780 on June 12, 2024 by a vote of 59 to 12. We have assigned pluses to the nays because the use of mail ballots and drop boxes compromises election integrity. This legislation increases the risk of electoral fraud and disenfranchisement. States should use paper ballots to ensure free, fair, and secure elections.