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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD BASED ON THE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide, nonpartisan educational program of The John Birch Society intended to inform voters about legislators' voting records. It does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are chosen for their constitutional implications and taxpayer costs.



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Leonard Christian

Washington
Senator, SD-004 (R)

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83

Lifetime
Freedom
Score

WA Legislative Scorecard 2025

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	\$/Year	Vote
★			-\$81.00	NO
1. SB5794 Real-money Tax (Passed 26 to 22 on 4/24/2025). Eliminates 20 tax exemptions, such as those for in-state hauling and gold-bullion sales.				
★			-\$21.00	NO
2. HB1163 Permits for Firearms (Passed 29 to 19 on 4/14/2025). Requires anyone in Washington wanting to purchase a firearm to obtain a five-year state permit from the Washington State Patrol.				
★			-\$374.00	NO
3. HB1392 Medicaid Access Program (Passed 31 to 18 on 4/14/2025). Establishes the Medicaid Access Program, which aims to improve healthcare access for Medicaid patients by raising provider payment rates to at least Medicare levels.				
★				NO
4. SB5101 Hate-crime Leave (Passed 40 to 8 on 2/28/2025). Expands Washington's existing leave laws, including the Domestic Violence Leave Act, to cover workers affected by so-called hate crimes or bias incidents (including online harassment and threats).				
★				YES
5. SJM8008 Con-Con Rescission (Passed 47 to 1 on 2/19/2025). Rescinds prior applications for an Article V constitutional convention to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States.				
★				YES
	✗			YES
6. SB5068 Illegals in Law Enforcement (Passed 49 to 0 on 2/5/2025). Ensures that not just United States citizens, but also anyone legally authorized to work in the U.S., such as visa holders, can be hired as firefighters, prosecutors, and law-enforcement officers across state agencies.				

Scorecard Votes: 83%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Real-money Tax

SB5794 eliminates 20 tax exemptions, such as those for in-state hauling and gold-bullion sales.

The Washington State Senate passed SB5794 on April 24, 2025 by a vote of 26 to 22. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill effectively raises taxes on various goods and services, including those involving real money such as gold and silver. Taxing transactions involving precious metals not only penalizes the use of constitutionally recognized money under Article I, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution.

2. Permits for Firearms

HB1163 requires anyone in Washington wanting to purchase a firearm to obtain a five-year state permit from the Washington State Patrol. To qualify, applicants must complete a certified safety-training course within the past five years and pass background checks.

The Washington State Senate passed HB1163 passed April 14, 2025 by a vote of 29 to 19. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill imposes unconstitutional restrictions on the right to keep and bear arms by creating burdensome and warrantless obstacles to lawful firearm ownership. Such infringements directly violate the Second Amendment, as well as the fourth and fifth amendments.

3. Medicaid Access Program

HB1392 establishes the Medicaid Access Program, which aims to improve healthcare access for Medicaid patients by raising provider payment rates to at least Medicare levels. The revenues are deposited into a new dedicated Medicaid Access Program Account and used to increase Medicaid rates across various professional services.

The Washington State Senate passed HB1392 on April 14, 2025 by a vote of 31 to 18. We have assigned pluses to the nays because neither healthcare nor social welfare is the legitimate object of government. Medicaid, as with many other “entitlement programs,” discriminatorily and unjustly provides “eligible” low-income persons, who have little or no tax liability, with government funds at the expense of other hard-working citizens. Washington must reject the use of taxpayer dollars for this ever-expanding and unsustainable federal-state program that is not authorized under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

4. Hate-crime Leave

SB5101 expands Washington’s existing leave laws, including the Domestic Violence Leave Act, to cover workers affected by so-called hate crimes or bias incidents (including online harassment and threats).

The Washington State Senate passed SB5101 on February 28, 2025 by a vote of 40 to 8. We have assigned pluses to the nays because so-called “hate crime” laws create unequal protection under the law by elevating certain individuals or groups above others based on identity or perceived motive—contradicting the 14th Amendment’s guarantee that all people are equal under the law. Mandating that private employers provide leave, alter schedules, and implement workplace safety measures based on vague and subjective claims of bias interferes with their right to conduct business.

5. Con-Con Rescission

SJM8008 rescinds prior applications for an Article V constitutional convention to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

The Washington State Senate passed SJM8008 on February 19, 2025 by a vote of 47 to 1. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because rescinding applications for a constitutional convention protects the U.S. Constitution. A so-called “Convention of the States” would not be of “limited” purpose. Article V of the U.S. Constitution was designed to correct structural deficiencies in the federal government, not the behavior of its elected officials. Rescission resolutions are a great step toward preserving the constitution. We need more precise and immediate solutions to restore power back to the states and to the people, such as clear-cut proposals in Congress to repeal bad amendments or state nullification of unconstitutional federal actions.

6. Illegals in Law Enforcement

SB5068 expands eligibility for employment as firefighters, prosecutors, and law-enforcement officers across state agencies. It ensures that not just U.S. citizens, but anyone legally authorized to work in the United States, such as visa holders and DACA recipients, can be hired for these public-safety roles.

The Washington State Senate passed SB5068 on February 5, 2025 by a vote of 49 to 0. We have assigned pluses to the nays because persons who enter the United States illegally—which, by definition, is a crime—ought not to be permitted sanctuary or residency in Washington, let alone be considered eligible for appointment as local police officers and deputy sheriffs. Rather than pursue a blatantly unconstitutional and anti-American policy that erodes both the rule of law and the value of citizenship, Washington should use its sovereign powers, under the U.S. Constitution’s 10th Amendment, to end the crisis of illegal migration and provide for the public safety.