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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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Joshua Penner

Washington
Representative, HD-031B (R)

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100
Lifetime
Freedom
Score

WA Legislative Scorecard 2025

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	\$/Year	Vote
1. SB5794 Real-money Tax (Passed 53 to 45 on 4/23/2025).			-\$81.00	NO
Eliminates 20 tax exemptions, including those for in-state hauling and gold-bullion sales.				★
2. HB1163 Permits for Firearms (Passed 57 to 39 on 4/22/2025).			-\$21.00	NO
Requires anyone in Washington wanting to purchase a firearm to obtain a five-year state permit from the Washington State Patrol.				★
3. HB1462 Greenhouse-gas Emissions (Passed 58 to 39 on 4/22/2025).			-\$0.04	NO
Aims to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions from hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by phasing out high-global-warming-potential (GWP) HFCs in stationary-refrigeration and air-conditioning systems.				★
4. SB5192 Education Funding Increase (Passed 85 to 12 on 4/16/2025).			-\$82.00	NO
Increases per-student funding for school-district materials and operations, consolidates funding into a flexible lump sum, and adds annual inflation adjustments starting in 2026–27.				★
5. SJM8008 Con-Con Rescission (Passed 81 to 16 on 4/9/2025).				YES
Rescinds prior applications for an Article V constitutional convention to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States.				★
6. HB1423 Vehicle Noise Enforcement Cameras (Passed 57 to 40 on March 7, 2025).				NO
Authorizes a pilot program permitting the use of automated vehicle noise enforcement cameras in designated zones in cities with at least 2,000 residents.				★

Scorecard Votes: 100%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Real-money Tax

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

The Washington State House of Representatives passed SB5794 on April 23, 2025 by a vote of 53 to 45. 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 House of Representatives passed HB1163 on April 22, 2025 by a vote of 57 to 39. 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. Additionally, it penalizes law-abiding citizens by subjecting them to ongoing state scrutiny without probable cause. Such infringements directly violate the Second Amendment, as well as the fourth, fifth, and 14th Amendments.

3. Greenhouse-gas Emissions

HB1462 aims to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions from hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by phasing out high-global-warming-potential (GWP) HFCs in stationary-refrigeration and air-conditioning systems. Starting in 2030, the sale and use of virgin HFCs with a GWP above 1,500 CO₂-equivalent will be prohibited, with a further reduction to HFCs above 750 GWP by 2033.

The Washington State House of Representatives passed HB1462 on April 22, 2025 by a vote of 58 to 39. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation advances environmental controls that interfere with the free market and private industry under the guise of combating climate change. By restricting the sale and use of commonly used refrigerants and mandating compliance with arbitrary greenhouse-gas targets, HB1462 aligns with the radical environmental agenda outlined in the United Nations' Agenda 2030.

4. Education Funding Increase

SB5192 addresses funding for school-district materials, supplies, and operating costs (MSOC). It increases the per-student MSOC allocation to \$1,614, with an additional \$214.94 for high-school students, effective from the 2025–26 school year. It introduces an annual inflation adjustment based on the Implicit Price Deflator.

The Washington State House of Representatives passed SB5192 on April 16, 2025 by a vote of 85 to 12. We have assigned pluses to the nays because the U.S. public-education system suffers from poor academic performance and the promotion of harmful ideologies—creating a significant taxpayer burden that this legislation only exacerbates. This decline is intentional, aimed at undermining traditional American principles. We encourage all parents to get their children out of government schools and instead pursue sound alternatives such as homeschooling and patriotic private schools, including *FreedomProject Academy*.

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 House of Representatives passed SJM8008 on April 9, 2025 by a vote of 81 to 16. 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.

6. Vehicle Noise Enforcement Cameras

HB1423 authorizes a pilot program permitting the use of automated vehicle noise enforcement cameras in designated vehicle-noise camera enforcement zones in cities with at least 2,000 residents. A civil infraction may result in a fine of up to \$145, adjusted for inflation every five years beginning January 1, 2029.

The Washington State House of Representatives passed HB1423 on March 7, 2025 by a vote of 57 to 40. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill expands government surveillance by allowing automated noise-detection cameras that undermine due process and violate constitutional protections such as the Fourth, Fifth, and 14th Amendments. These systems presume guilt without a human witness, subject individuals to enforcement by machines, and pave the way for unequal treatment under the law.