

FREEDOMINDEX.US

LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION



Does Your Legislator Vote for Freedom?

Scan to view Howard Marklein's voting history.
freedomindex.us/12124/

View the Freedom Toolbox

Scan to learn more about the Freedom Index, view legislative alerts, and deepen your understanding of the U.S. Constitution and America's founding principles. Visit <https://freedomindex.us/tools/>



Howard Marklein

Wisconsin

State Senator, SD-017 (R)

freedomindex.us/12124/

57

Lifetime
Freedom
Score

2026 WI Legislative Scorecard

✓ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional — Did not Vote **Vote**

1. Would establish new funding for special education and pregnant-teen programs, as part of a \$532.5 million annual increase in "state aid" to K-12 public schools. ✗

Estimated cost per household: **-\$210.04/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · AB1 · Rejected 15–18 · 05/13/2026

2. Allows recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to obtain occupational licenses. ✗

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · AB759 · Passed 31–2 · 03/17/2026

3. Provides Medicaid coverage for certain healthcare services to "incarcerated individuals" for up to 90 days before their release. ✗

Estimated cost per household: **-\$3.43/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · AB604 · Passed 32–1 · 03/17/2026

4. Makes online sports betting legal in Wisconsin under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988. ✗

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · AB601 · Passed 21–12 · 03/17/2026

5. Would have banned "gender transition medical intervention" for individuals under 18 years of age. ✓

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · AB104 · Passed 18–15 · 02/11/2026

6. Would have prohibited a city, village, town, or county from enacting a "rights of nature ordinance." ✓

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · SB420 · Passed 19–14 · 02/11/2026

Scorecard Votes: 33%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Funding Government Schools

AB1 would, among other provisions, establish new funding for special education and pregnant-teen programs, increasing "state aid" to K-12 public schools by \$532.5 million in FY 2026-27.

Education is not the role of government—it is the responsibility of a child's parents or family. Schools can and should be privatized, without any need for "state aid" that steals from taxpayers (e.g., income or property taxes) and drains the treasury. If not dismantled, the government's monopoly on K-12 education will continue to displace traditional private schools and homeschooling in favor of universal state-sponsored schooling. The best "school choice," by far, is for parents to choose not to place their child's education in the hands of the state. Educational and economic freedom cannot be achieved by forcing other citizens to give up their hard-earned tax dollars for all that now entails a compulsory, failing, and government-run school system.

2. Occupational Licenses for Illegal Aliens

AB759 allows recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to obtain occupational licenses.

Illegal aliens ought to be deported from the United States. They should not be granted sanctuary or residency in Wisconsin. Unlawful presence in the United States is, at the very least, a civil violation, whereas illegal entry is a crime. Moreover, mass migration, which is no less an "Invasion," as per the U.S. Constitution, has become the most immediate and grave threat to our country. It is an anti-American policy that destroys national unity, allegiance, and sovereignty by undermining both the rule of law and the value of citizenship. To save our Republic, "We the People" need to demand secure borders, the deportation of every illegal, and a moratorium on all immigration until the crisis ends.

3. Covering Prisoners Under Medicaid

AB604 provides Medicaid coverage for certain healthcare services to "incarcerated individuals" for up to 90 days before their release.

Criminals should be punished for their crimes, not provided with taxpayer-funded healthcare. Justice, not charity, is the purpose of government. Persons convicted of less serious, non-capital offenses should not be "caged" in government-run prisons, but required to make restitution (e.g., penal labor) for the wrongs they have committed. There exists no right to healthcare apart from an individual working or otherwise contributing to pay for it themselves, unless they receive it privately and voluntarily from someone else. Taxation in the name of "social welfare" for criminals is neither just nor charitable. Further, Medicaid is a joint federal and state program that is not authorized according to Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. The Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment were intended to prevent such "nanny state" policies and the reckless use of taxpayer money. Real criminal-justice reform calls for laws of restitution, which preserves the constitutionally protected rights of convicts, while reducing prison populations and recidivism.

4. Legalizing Online Gambling

AB601 makes online sports betting legal in Wisconsin under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988.

This bill expands gambling in Wisconsin. Gambling, which was illegal in Wisconsin and most of the United States until the 1960s, is a form of property theft. It involves the fraudulent practice of taking money from someone else without providing any good or service in return. Gambling is not merely "wasteful gaming," but a dangerous vice that is rooted in covetousness and seeks dishonest gain. No person has a right to plunder his neighbor, or give his consent to surrender his property voluntarily if prompted by an illicit motive. A free-market economy is based on wealth that flows through just labor, skill, and stewardship. Contrary to God's moral law (i.e., Ten Commandments), gambling contributes nothing of value to society; rather, it leads only to a countless number of evils, including financial ruin, marital breakdown, corruption, crime, and suicide.

5. Protecting Children From Sex Mutilation

AB104 would have banned "gender transition medical intervention" for individuals under 18 years of age.

No person has a right to harm a child, using the pretext of LGBTQ+ ideology. Chemical and surgical sex mutilation is a grotesque practice that not only violates the "unalienable" right to life and limb, but absurdly attempts to erase natural biological functions with fictional "gender identity" constructs. According to the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights and 14th Amendment, every State has a duty to defend the basic humanity of its citizens—each of whom is born distinctly male or female, and, as the Declaration of Independence affirms, created equally in the image of God.

6. Prohibiting "Rights of Nature" Ordinances

SB420 would have prohibited a city, village, town, or county from enacting a "rights of nature ordinance."

This legislation preempts political subdivisions from declaring that plants and animals have constitutionally protected "rights." Treating plants and animals as equivalent to people, who are made in the image of God, is not simply silly—it is a blatant attack on both God and man. The "rights of nature" movement changes the "self-evident" truth of the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights" into a lie, and worships and serves the creation instead of the "Creator." The American Founders understood that "rights" come from God, not government; and that only people have "rights," not "nature." They acknowledged the "Laws of Nature and of Nature's God," but distinguished the law of nature and the law of God, who is over nature. Accepting God's creation mandate (Genesis 1:26-28), the Founders knew that man's duty to obey God and take dominion over the Earth is what gives rise to "rights" among men. Since God alone is sovereign, they recognized that "rights" pertain to the exercise of self-government under God. Wisconsin lawmakers must likewise assert our God-given rights and reject the false religion of the "rights of nature" enviro-extremists, whose power-hungry globalist priests are devoted to implementing the United Nations' Agenda 2030.