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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD BASED ON THE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

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Jerry Paxton

Wyoming

Representative, HD-047 (R)

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83

Lifetime
Freedom
Score

WY Legislative Scorecard 2021-2022

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
1. HJ2 Article V - Con Con (Rejected 21 to 37 on 2/16/2022).	Requests that Congress call for a convention for proposing amendments to the United States Constitution.		NO ★
2. SF118 Federal COVID-19 Relief Funding (Passed 49 to 7 on 4/7/2021).	Allows the Governor to create new government programs to spend federal ARPA funds. Estimated cost per household: -\$86.00/year.		YES ✗
3. HB253 Abortion Education Funding (Passed 47 to 10 on 4/6/2021).	Prohibits the University of Wyoming and community colleges from expending funds on abortions or insurance coverage for abortions.		YES ★
4. HB236 Firearm Business Rights (Passed 44 to 13 on 4/6/2021).	Prohibits financial institutions from discriminating against firearm related businesses.		YES ★
5. SF34 Born Alive Abortion Care (Passed 48 to 11 on 4/2/2021).	Requires that any physician performing an abortion shall take steps to preserve the life and health of the baby if born alive.		YES ★
6. HB75 Voter ID (Passed 58 to 8 on 4/1/2021).	Requires that acceptable identification be presented before voting in person.		YES ★

Scorecard Votes: 83%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Article V - Con Con

HJ2 requests that Congress call for a convention for proposing amendments to the United States Constitution.

The Wyoming State House of Representatives shot down the introductory vote on February 16, 2022 by a vote of 21 to 37. We have assigned pluses to the nays because a so-called "Convention of the States" would not be of "limited" purpose. The vague and contradictory text contained in this joint resolution dangerously permits what Article V of the U.S. Constitution describes as a "Convention for proposing Amendments." Notably, Article V of the U.S. Constitution was designed to correct structural deficiencies in the federal government, not the behavior of its elected officials. HJ2 should be opposed in favor of less risky, more precise, and immediate solutions that would restore power back to the states and to the people.

2. Federal COVID-19 Relief Funding

SB118 allows the Governor to create new government programs to spend federal funds. This legislation appropriates federal ARPA funds to capital construction, K-12 education and higher education, and rental assistance programs.

The Wyoming State House of Representatives passed SB118 on April 7, 2021 by a vote of 49 to 7. We have assigned pluses to the nays because the spending of taxpayer money for purposes not authorized under Art. 1 Sec. 8 of the U.S. Constitution tightens the federal-state lockstep on redistribution of income. Additionally, distribution of federal taxpayer dollars comes with contingencies and requirements, forcing states into situations that violate the U.S. Constitution.

3. Abortion Education Funding

HB253 prohibits the University of Wyoming and community colleges from expending funds on abortions or insurance coverage for abortions.

The Wyoming State House of Representatives passed HB253 on April 6, 2021 by a vote of 47 to 10. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the right to life is the most fundamental, God-given, and unalienable right asserted in the Declaration of Independence and protected by the U.S. Constitution. Taxpayer money and state funded education systems should not be used to perform abortions and abortion procedure training.

4. Firearm Business Rights

HB236 prohibits financial institutions from discriminating against firearm related businesses. A financial institution shall not refuse business if they are engaged in lawful commerce of firearms, firearm accessories or ammunition products.

The Wyoming State House of Representatives passed HB236 on April 6, 2021 by a vote of 44 to 13. We have assigned the pluses to the ayes because the fundamental right of the American people to keep and bear arms is protected by the 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and there should be no infringement on those rights.

5. Born Alive Abortion Care

SF34 requires that any physician performing an abortion shall take steps to preserve the life and health of the baby if born alive.

The Wyoming State House of Representatives passed SF34 on April 2, 2021 by a vote of 48 to 11. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the right to life is the most fundamental, God-given, and unalienable right asserted in the Declaration of Independence and protected by the U.S. Constitution. Further, there is nothing in the U.S. Constitution that would prevent states from passing well-constructed statutes or adopting amendments to their state constitutions that provide even greater and more specific protections for the right to life than those provided by the 4th, 5th, and 14th Amendments.

6. Voter ID

HB75 requires that acceptable identification be presented before voting in person. Acceptable identification includes, but not limited to a Wyoming driver's license, tribal identification issued by the government, United States passport and Military card.

The Wyoming State House of Representatives passed HB75 on April 1, 2021 by a vote of 51 to 8. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because strengthening our voter ID laws are crucial in the preservation of our election process and election integrity. Article IV, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution provides that "citizens" of the United States "shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities," such as the "right of citizens of the United States" to vote as prescribed in the 26th Amendment. It would be an infringement on our rights to allow any ineligible elector to vote.