

FREEDOMINDEX.US

CONGRESSIONAL SCORECARD

BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION



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/>

\$297,333

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of August 27, 2026



Joaquin Castro

U.S. Representative, TX 20th (D)

Phone: 202-225-3236

Website: castro.house.gov

freedomindex.us/1494/



Congressional Scorecard 119-3: 17%

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

1. Appropriations: Would appropriate \$187 billion in total funding for select federal agencies in fiscal 2026.

Estimated Cost per household: **-\$1,373.00/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H.R. 6938 · Passed 397–28 · 01/08/2026



2. Democracy Grants: Would eliminate \$315 million in federal funding for the National Endowment for Democracy and \$2.2 billion for other democracy programs.

Estimated Cost per household: **-\$2.44/year.**

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **No** · H.R. 7006 · Rejected 127–289 · 01/14/2026



3. Ban Funding for “Kill-switch” Mandate: Would protect Americans from a requirement that new passenger motor vehicles be equipped with “advanced drunk and impaired driving prevention technology.”

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **No** · H.R. 7148 · Rejected 164–264 · 01/22/2026



4. War Powers: Would direct the U.S. president to end the war in Iran unless Congress explicitly declares war.

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · H. Con. Res. 38 · Rejected 212–219 · 03/05/2026



5. Haiti “Temporary Protected Status” Designation: Would require the secretary of homeland security to designate Haiti for temporary protected status (TPS) until April 2029.

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H.R. 1689 · Passed 224–203 · 04/16/2026



6. Ukraine Aid: Would authorize additional aid to Ukraine, including up to \$8 billion for military assistance via loans, and impose penalties for Russia.

Estimated Cost per household: **-\$64.41/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H.R. 2913 · Passed 225–194 · 06/04/2026



Why do these votes matter?

1. Appropriations

H.R. 6938 would appropriate \$187 billion in total funding for select federal agencies in fiscal 2026. Among other provisions, it would provide \$49.1 billion for the Department of Energy, \$37.1 billion for the Department of Justice, \$24.4 billion for NASA, \$14.5 billion for the Department of the Interior, \$11.1 billion for the Department of Commerce, \$8.8 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency, \$8.8 billion for the National Science Foundation, and \$5.5 billion for more than 3,000 earmarks.

Most of the spending would go to federal departments, agencies, and programs that have no authorization or basis in the Constitution. Furthermore, this reckless spending is yielding record increases in the national debt.

2. Democracy Grants

During consideration of the fiscal 2026 financial-services, general-government, national-security, and State Department appropriations bill (H.R. 7006), Representative Eli Crane (R-Ariz.) offered an amendment to eliminate \$315 million in federal funding for the National Endowment for Democracy, a government-funded, nongovernmental organization that provides grants to political groups and other organizations abroad, and \$2.2 billion for other democracy programs.

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution does not authorize the federal government to fund nongovernmental organizations or provide foreign aid. Furthermore, the United States is a constitutional republic, not a democracy. The Founders recognized that simple majorities threaten individual rights and produce a "tyranny of the majority," and the U.S. government should not impose "democracy" on other countries.

3. Ban Funding for "Kill-switch" Mandate

During consideration of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (H.R. 7148), Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) offered an amendment that would prohibit the use of federal funds to implement Section 24220 of the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which requires that all new passenger motor vehicles be equipped with "advanced drunk and impaired driving prevention technology."

This federal "kill-switch" mandate to forcibly "monitor the performance" of every driver and automatically "prevent or limit motor vehicle operation" violates the fundamental right of the American people to travel freely with a reasonable expectation of privacy. The Fourth and Fifth Amendments to the Constitution not only protect against "unreasonable searches and seizures" of persons and their possessions, but also provide that no person shall be deprived of "liberty, or property, without due process of law."

4. War Powers

H. Con. Res. 38 would direct "the President to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran or any part of its government or military, unless explicitly authorized by a declaration of war or specific authorization for use of military force against Iran."

The Constitution delegates the power to declare war to Congress, not the president. Five days earlier, President Donald Trump had transgressed this congressional power when he initiated a war against Iran without first asking Congress for authorization. Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.), who introduced this resolution, was one of only two Republicans who voted yea. Yet every member of Congress - regardless of his position on the war - should have voted for this resolution insisting that the president abide by the Constitution.

5. Haiti "Temporary Protected Status" Designation

H.R. 1689 would require the secretary of homeland security to designate Haiti for temporary protected status (TPS) until April 2029.

This legislation allows more than 350,000 Haitian nationals to live and work in the United States, regardless of whether they are unlawfully present or entered the country illegally. Moreover, there is nothing "temporary" about TPS; Haiti has been designated for TPS since 2010. Illegal aliens ought to be deported from the United States - not granted sanctuary indefinitely. Mass migration, which is an "Invasion" per the Constitution, has become the most immediate threat to America. It destroys national unity, allegiance, and sovereignty by undermining both the rule of law and the value of citizenship. "We the People" must demand secure borders, the deportation of every illegal, and a moratorium on all immigration until the crisis ends.

6. Ukraine Aid

The Ukraine Support Act (H.R. 2913) would authorize additional aid to Ukraine, including up to \$8 billion for military assistance via loans. It would also impose penalties for Russia. On June 4, 2026, *Congressional Quarterly* reported that Congress has already "provided \$188 billion to Ukraine for military, economic and humanitarian aid to date."

The United States should not be interjecting itself into the Russia-Ukraine war, and should instead follow a noninterventionist foreign policy that puts America first. Moreover, Congress has not declared war as required by the Constitution for military activity.