



Steve Padilla

California

Senator, SD-018 (D)

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CA Legislative Scorecard 2025

Based on the Principles of 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.

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
1. SB720 Red-light Cameras (Passed 33 to 3 on 9/13/2025). Lets any California city or county run red-light-camera programs.			YES ✗
2. SB518 Reparations for Descendants of Slaves (Passed 30 to 10 on 9/10/2025). Establishes the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery within California's Civil Rights Department to administer future reparations-related programs.			YES ✗
3. AB268 New State Holiday: Diwali (Passed 36 to 0 on 9/10/2025). Designates Diwali, the Hindu "festival of lights," as an official state holiday in California.			YES ✗
4. AB260 Abortion Protection (Passed 30 to 8 on 9/9/2025). Expands protections for access to medication abortion in California, and shields providers, pharmacists, and facilities from out-of-state interference.			YES ✗
5. SB771 Free-speech Violation (Passed 30 to 8 on 9/11/2025). Makes large social-media platforms legally liable if their algorithms or actions help facilitate violence, intimidation, or discrimination that violates California civil-rights laws.			YES ✗
6. SJR1 Con-Con Rescission (Passed 28 to 0 on 6/16/2025). Rescinds all previous applications made by the California Legislature requesting that Congress call an Article V convention for proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution.			NONE ?

Scorecard Votes: 0%



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\$293,188

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of July 16, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. Red-light Cameras

SB720 lets any California city or county run red-light-camera programs. Violations are civil only with strong "equity" protections (80% fine reductions for indigent drivers, 50% for low income, \$25/month payment plans, and community-service options).

The California State Senate passed SB720 on September 13, 2025 by a vote of 33 to 3. We have assigned pluses to the nays because red-light cameras undermine due process by removing human interaction and presuming guilt before innocence—principles protected by the fourth, Fifth, and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

2. Reparations for Descendants of Slaves

SB518 establishes the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery within California's Civil Rights Department to administer future reparations-related programs. The bureau would verify individuals' lineage to enslaved ancestors through a new Genealogy Division, with certified descendant status required to qualify for any state-authorized reparations benefits.

The California State Senate passed SB518 on September 10, 2025 by a vote of 30 to 10. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill violates the equal-protection guarantees of both the U.S. and California Constitutions by creating a state agency that grants benefits solely based on ancestry and race. Such racial classifications by government are inherently discriminatory and violate the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

3. New State Holiday: Diwali

AB268 designates Diwali, the Hindu "festival of lights," as an official state holiday in California. Legislative findings highlight Diwali's importance to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains.

The California State Senate passed AB268 on September 10, 2025 by a vote of 36 to 0. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill disregards America's Christian foundation, treating with disdain the life and character upon which its civil institutions were founded. By elevating a Hindu festival to the status of an official state holiday, lawmakers are not merely recognizing cultural diversity—they are granting government endorsement to a non-Christian religious observance. The Founders acknowledged Almighty God as the source of liberty and moral order, not a pantheon of deities.

4. Abortion Protection

AB260 expands protections for access to medication abortion in California, and shields providers, pharmacists, and facilities from out-of-state interference. It repeals abortion restrictions, updates rules for dispensing mifepristone and similar drugs, and allows pharmacists to dispense them without identifying information to protect privacy.

The California State Senate passed AB260 on September 9, 2025 by a vote of 30 to 8. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill further entrenches California as a sanctuary for the deliberate taking of innocent human life. By shielding abortionists and drug distributors from accountability, AB260 not only disregards moral law, but also violates the unalienable right to life. The right to life is God-given and affirmed in the Declaration of Independence and the Fifth, Ninth, and 14th Amendments.

5. Free-speech Violation

SB771 makes large social-media platforms legally liable if their algorithms or actions help facilitate violence, intimidation, or discrimination that violates California civil-rights laws. Platforms earning more than \$100 million annually can face civil penalties of up to \$1 million per intentional violation for aiding, abetting, or acting as joint tortfeasors in such misconduct.

The California State Senate passed SB771 on September 11, 2025 by a vote of 30 to 8. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation strikes at the heart of the First Amendment by granting government sweeping power to police online speech under the pretext of preventing "violence" or "discrimination." Such vague and subjective standards invite selective enforcement against disfavored viewpoints, particularly conservative or religious expression.

6. Con-Con Rescission

SJR1 rescinds all previous applications made by the California Legislature requesting that Congress call an Article V convention for proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

The California State Senate passed SJR1 on June 16, 2025 by a vote of 28 to 0. 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. Officials should pursue sound solutions to return power to the states and the people, such as clear-cut proposals in Congress to repeal bad amendments or state nullification of unconstitutional federal actions.