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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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Lauren Book

Florida
Senator, SD-035 (D)

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Lifetime
Freedom
Score

2024 FL Legislative Scorecard

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
			NO ✗
1. SB1116 Repeal of Taxpayer-Funded Political Campaigns (passed 28 to 12 on 2/28/2024). Eliminates the public financing of candidates for statewide elected office, contingent upon voter approval of an amendment to repeal the requirement in Article VI, Section 7, of the Florida Constitution.			
			NONE ?
2. SB776 Temporary Cash Assistance for "Victim" Drug Felons (passed 35 to 0 on 2/29/2024). Allows an individual with a felony drug trafficking conviction to receive temporary cash and food assistance benefits if they are determined to be a "victim of human trafficking."			
			NO ✗
3. HB1451 Denying ID Cards Issued to Illegal Migrants (passed 28 to 9 on 3/6/2024). Prevents a county or municipality from accepting identification cards or documents issued by any person, entity, or organization to individuals not lawfully present in the United States.			
			NO ✗
4. HB1645 Ending the Hoax of "Climate Change" (passed 28 to 12 on 3/6/2024). Removes references to "climate change" in state law, bans wind farms, protects natural gas appliances, and encourages the use of nuclear power technologies.			
			NO ✗
5. HB49 Freeing Young Adults from "Child Labor Laws" (passed 27 to 11 on 3/8/2024). Removes certain employment restrictions for minors 17 years of age and younger.			
			YES ✗
6. HB5003 State Budget (passed 39 to 0 on 3/8/2024). Provides statutory authority to implement the \$117.5 billion General Appropriations Act passed by the Legislature for FY 2024-25. Estimated cost per household: -\$13,308.00/year.			

Scorecard Votes: 0%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Repeal of Taxpayer-Funded Political Campaigns

SB1116 eliminates the public financing of candidates for statewide elected office, contingent upon voter approval of an amendment to repeal the requirement in Article VI, Section 7, of the Florida Constitution.

Taxpayer dollars have no place in political campaigns. Public money should not be used to advance partisan agendas, and laws requiring or restricting campaign contributions amount to a regulation of political speech. Citizens should be able to voluntarily contribute to whichever candidates they wish, but government should never violate their freedom of speech by forcing them to subsidize candidates with whom they may disagree. In addition, campaign finance laws subject both candidates and their supporters to another sweeping layer of government surveillance, violating the personal privacy protections of the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

2. Temporary Cash Assistance for "Victim" Drug Felons

SB776 allows an individual with a felony drug trafficking conviction to receive temporary cash and food assistance benefits if they are determined to be a "victim of human trafficking."

Providing cash or food assistance, especially to convicted felons, is not the role of government. Justice, rather than charity, is the duty of government, and taxation in the name of "social welfare" is neither just nor charitable. So-called "public assistance" programs rely on the unconstitutional and discriminatory use of federal and state taxpayer money on behalf of some citizens (particularly those who have little or no tax liability) at the expense of others, resulting in more debt, dependency, and poverty. Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are not authorized under Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution.

3. Denying ID Cards Issued to Illegal Migrants

HB1451 prevents a county or municipality from accepting identification cards or documents issued to individuals not lawfully present in the United States.

Persons unlawfully present in the United States ought not to be permitted sanctuary or residency in Florida, let alone be considered eligible for a government-issued form of identification or license. Rather than pursue blatantly unconstitutional and anti-American policies that undermine the rule of law and erode the value of citizenship, each of the several States should use its powers reserved under the 10th Amendment to end the illegal-migrant invasion and provide for the public safety.

4. Ending the Hoax of "Climate Change"

HB1645 removes references to "climate change" in state law, bans wind farms, protects natural gas appliances, and encourages the use of nuclear power technologies.

This bill prioritizes Florida's energy independence and resilience, while rejecting the hoax of "climate change," which seeks to implement provisions of the United Nations' Agenda 2030 into state law. Globalist elites are fanatically attempting expand their taxing power and authority, encroaching on the property rights of Americans enshrined in the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment. Florida must end the unconstitutional war on fossil fuels that will further threaten free-market enterprise, reduce our standards of living, and compromise the integrity of our infrastructure.

5. Freeing Young Adults from "Child Labor Laws"

HB49 removes certain employment restrictions for minors 17 years of age and younger.

Young adults (e.g., 17 or 16-year-olds), who have reached an age of discretion, should not be subject to "child labor laws" or other unreasonable barriers to willful and gainful employment. Further, parents—not the government—ought to have the final authority and say as to whether their minor children can work. Florida must protect the fundamental rights of parents and freedom of association of the American people, which are retained under the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

6. FY 2024-25 State Budget

HB5003 provides statutory authority to implement the \$117.5 billion General Appropriations Act for FY 2024-25.

The 2024-25 budget bill contains profligate amounts of illegitimate taxation and spending. It exceeded the previous year's budget bill by more than \$430 million. Despite the Governor's line-item vetoes, it permits a massive and unnecessary \$28.4 billion in funding for the failing K-12 government school system. It also relies heavily on federal dollars, around 33% of the entire budget. This includes continued participation in the Florida Medicaid program, which has over 4 million recipients. It's possible only through immoral and anti-constitutional methods of taxation (e.g., income or property taxes) that take from citizens the wages they have rightfully earned. Floridians should rein in big government and reckless, out-of-control spending.