



Mel Ponder

Florida Representative, HD-004 (R)
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vote history



2019-2020 FL Legislative Scorecard: 67%

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

✓ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	— Did not Vote	Vote
1. Ending Sanctuary Cities: Ends "sanctuary city" protections and directs Florida law enforcement to work with federal authorities in cases related to illegal migration.			✓
Constitutional: Yes · Cast: Yes · SB168 · Passed 68–44 · 05/02/2019			
2. Expanding Use of E-Verify: Mandates employers use the E-Verify system to affirm the legal status of new hires.			✓
Constitutional: Yes · Cast: Yes · SB664 · Passed 73–44 · 03/11/2020			
3. Nanny State Nicotine Prohibitions: SB810 prohibits individuals between the ages of 18-21 from purchasing tobacco or vaping products, while additionally banning the sale of most flavored nicotine products.			✗
Constitutional: No · Cast: Yes · SB810 · Passed 98–15 · 03/11/2020			
4. Expanding Right-to-Work Protections: Expands right-to-work protections by requiring unions to release a member upon that member's request, in addition to other worker protections.			✓
Constitutional: Yes · Cast: Yes · HB001 · Passed 63–50 · 03/14/2020			
5. Taxpayer Financed Ad Campaign: Extends funding for the Visit Florida Marketing Corporation, an expensive advertising project funded at extensive taxpayer expense.			✗
Constitutional: No · Cast: Yes · SB362 · Passed 113–2 · 04/09/2020			
6. Limiting Abortion Access for Minors: Prohibits physicians from performing abortions on minors without first obtaining the consent of a parent or legal guardian.			✓
Constitutional: Yes · Cast: Yes · SB404 · Passed 75–42 · 07/01/2020			



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\$297,522

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of September 3,
2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. Ending Sanctuary Cities

SB168 ends "sanctuary city" protections and directs Florida law enforcement to work with federal authorities in cases related to illegal migration.

The Florida State House of Representatives passed SB168 on May 2, 2019 by a vote of 68 to 45. We assigned pluses to the yeas because illegal immigration flaunts the rule of law, is harmful to American workers, and is unconstitutional. The U.S. Constitution states in Article 1, Section 8; and Article 2, Section 3 that the federal government shall have the power to establish uniform immigration law and ensure that such law be faithfully executed. The 10th Amendment allows for the states to address the crisis of illegal migration and provide for their own public safety.

2. Expanding Use of E-Verify

SB664 mandates employers use the E-Verify system to affirm the legal status of new hires.

The Florida State House of Representatives passed SB664 on March 11, 2020 by a vote of 73 to 45. We have assigned pluses to the yeas because E-Verify is an effective and free-to-use system, used by employers to determine the legal eligibility of their employees. Unscrupulous employers who hire illegal migrants create a shadow economy that is harmful to legal job applicants. Mandating use of E-Verify prevents employers from breaking the law.

3. Nanny State Nicotine Prohibitions

SB810 prohibits individuals between the ages of 18-21 from purchasing tobacco or vaping products, while additionally banning the sale of most flavored nicotine products.

The Florida State House of Representatives passed SB810 on March 11, 2020 by a vote of 99 to 17, though SB810 was later vetoed by the Governor. We have assigned pluses to the yeas because a truly free people are offended when the state interferes unduly in their affairs. Vape products are popular, in part, because they appear to be less hazardous than conventional smoking, and evidence that flavored nicotine products are more hazardous than non-flavored products is scant. The advent of independent "vape shops" have had a positive effect on local economies. They represent a unique opportunity for many individuals seeking to become a first-time business owner, in pursuit of the American dream.

4. Expanding Right-to-Work Protections

HB001 expands right-to-work protections by requiring unions to release a member upon that member's request, in addition to other worker protections.

The Florida State House of Representatives passed HB001 on March 4, 2020 by a vote of 63 to 52, though the bill later failed before being enshrined into law. Right-to-work policies protect workers by banning the practice of requiring union membership before being hired into certain industries. This bill extended those protections by requiring unions to revoke an employee's membership upon the employee's written request. Freedom of contract is protected by the 5th and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

5. Taxpayer Financed Ad Campaign

SB362 extends funding for the Visit Florida Marketing Corporation, an expensive advertising project funded at extensive taxpayer expense.

The Florida State House of Representatives passed SB362 on April 9, 2020 by a vote of 114 to 2. We have assigned pluses to the yeas because this bill uses taxpayer dollars to fund an expensive and unnecessary ad campaign that is of dubious value to average Floridians. This project has used public money to promote for-profit businesses and subsidized the creation of music videos on behalf of the entertainment industry. Budgeted at \$50 million annually, this project is wasteful and outside of the purview of reasonable public spending.

6. Limiting Abortion Access for Minors

SB404 prohibits physicians from performing abortions on minors without first obtaining the consent of a parent or legal guardian.

The Florida State House of Representatives passed SB404 on July 1, 2020 by a vote of 75 to 43. We have assigned pluses to the yeas because though this bill does not fully protect the life of the unborn, it is a step in the right direction by disallowing minors from unilaterally electing to abort a pregnancy without the consent of a parent. The right to life is fundamental, God-given, and protected by the 5th and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.