



Sam Watson

Georgia

Senator, SD-011 (R)

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2026 GA Legislative Scorecard

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. **SB476 Income-tax Reduction** (Passed 32 to 18 on 2/12/2026). Would reduce Georgia's personal income tax by exempting the first \$50,000 of income for single filers and the first \$100,000 for married couples filing jointly.

YES



2. **SB410 Repealing Tax Exemption for Data Centers** (Passed 32 to 21 on 3/6/2026). Would repeal Georgia's sales-and-use-tax exemption for data-center equipment.

YES



3. **SB572 Self-defense** (Passed 30 to 23 on 3/6/2026). Would expand Georgia's self-defense laws by adding another justification for using force in defense of oneself or others, and broadens civil-liability immunity.

YES



4. **SB499 Repealing Prohibition on Silencers** (Passed 30 to 20 on 3/6/2026). Would repeal Georgia's state-level prohibition on possessing firearm suppressors, also called silencers.

NONE



5. **HB1123 Government After-school Pre-kindergarten** (Passed 46 to 0 on 3/19/2026). Requires certain Georgia public schools that offer after-school programs to make those programs available to pre-kindergarten students.

YES



6. **HB1272 Regulating Stablecoins** (Passed 50 to 1 on 4/2/2026). Establishes a state licensing-and-regulatory system for payment-stablecoin issuers.

YES



Scorecard Votes: 60%



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\$290,880

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of May 29, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. Income-tax Reduction

SB476 would reduce Georgia's personal income tax by exempting the first \$50,000 of income for single filers and the first \$100,000 for married couples filing jointly. Income above those amounts would be taxed at 4.99 percent. The bill also reduces or eliminates a series of tax credits, including various corporate and industry-specific tax breaks.

The Georgia State Senate passed SB476 on February 12, 2026 by a vote of 32 to 18. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because cutting the income tax is a crucial first step toward restoring economic liberty and limiting government overreach. The income tax is an immoral, anti-constitutional form of government-imposed theft that seizes wages rightfully earned by individuals. This manifestly socialist wealth-redistribution scheme funds "nanny-state" policies that only breed more debt, dependency, and poverty. Georgians must continue to reject tyrannical big government by upholding the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment, which declare that no state shall deprive any person of "liberty, or property" and guarantee "equal protection of the laws."

2. Repealing Tax Exemption for Data Centers

SB410 would repeal Georgia's sales-and-use-tax exemption for data-center equipment.

The Georgia State Senate passed SB410 on March 6, 2026 by a vote of 32 to 21. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because Big Tech and Big Government are colluding to erect a centralized, artificial intelligence (AI) surveillance infrastructure over the American population. The rapid construction of massive data centers in Georgia and throughout the United States is a growing danger to Americans' personal privacy and property. It grants federal, state, and local authorities an unprecedented and unconstitutional amount of power to collect our phone calls, text messages, and internet communications. This dark, techno-oligarchic attempt to hear everything, see everything, and be everywhere at all times serves no lawful purpose but to conduct warrantless "unreasonable searches." Further, the abuse of eminent domain, as well as taxation, for these data centers encroaches upon constitutionally protected property rights. State lawmakers are duty-bound by oath to uphold the Fourth, Fifth, and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

3. Self-defense

SB572 would expand Georgia's self-defense laws by adding another justification for using force in defense of oneself or others. It would broaden civil-liability immunity in justified-use-of-force cases, extending protection against lawsuits brought by the legal representatives of the person against whom force was used.

The Georgia State Senate passed SB572 on March 6, 2026 by a vote of 30 to 23. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill upholds and embraces the fundamental right to defend oneself and one's property, as protected under the Fourth, Ninth, and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. It reinforces these constitutional protections by ensuring that individuals can effectively safeguard their property against unlawful intrusion and defend their personal safety.

4. Repealing Prohibition on Silencers

SB499 would repeal Georgia's state-level prohibition on possessing firearm suppressors. It would remove suppressors from Georgia's list of "dangerous weapons" and eliminate state penalties for simple possession.

The Georgia State Senate passed SB499 on March 6, 2026 by a vote of 30 to 20. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees that the God-given right of the American people "to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Although unconstitutional federal restrictions on suppressors remain in place, eliminating restrictions at the state level is a step in the right direction. In the meantime, Georgia should nullify all unconstitutional federal rules, laws, and court rulings, and the people of Georgia should politely and professionally encourage their legislators to do so. By repealing the state prohibition, SB499 helps protect gun rights and resist unconstitutional infringements.

5. Government After-school Pre-kindergarten

HB1123 requires certain Georgia public schools that offer after-school programs to make those programs available to pre-k students on the same basis as other students. If a qualifying school already has an after-school program and also has a Georgia Pre-K program, it must allow pre-K students to participate, too.

The Georgia State Senate passed HB1123 on March 19, 2026 by a vote of 46 to 0. We have assigned pluses to the nays because education and childcare are not the role of government. This bill further entrenches government control over education and upbringing, stripping parents of their rightful authority and forcing taxpayers to underwrite a compulsory, government-run system that has already proven ineffective. Children's education and care are a God-given responsibility of parents protected under the Ninth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, not the duty of the state. We urge parents to exit the government-school system altogether and seek truly independent alternatives such as homeschooling or private institutions, including *FreedomProject Academy*, that reject government funding and oversight, and embrace parental rights.

6. Regulating Stablecoins

HB1272 establishes a state licensing-and-regulatory system for payment-stablecoin issuers. The bill requires issuers to be licensed, follow restrictions on advertising and business terminology, submit to examinations or investigations, pay related fees and costs, and comply with enforcement actions such as cease-and-desist orders, license suspension or revocation, and removal of certain officers or members.

The Georgia State Senate passed HB1272 on April 2, 2026 by a vote of 50 to 1. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill expands government regulation, surveillance, and control over private financial activity under the guise of regulating stablecoins. By creating a state licensing scheme, imposing compliance requirements, and subjecting issuers to investigations, fees, and enforcement actions, HB1272 moves digital assets further under government control and helps

normalize the infrastructure for programmable, surveillable money. This threatens financial privacy and free-market innovation while raising serious constitutional concerns under the Fourth Amendment's protections against unreasonable searches and unwarranted government surveillance.