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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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Brian Best

Iowa

Representative, HD-011 (R)

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Lifetime
Freedom
Score

IA Legislative Scorecard 2024

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
1. HF2664 Eminent Domain Protection From Pipelines (Passed 86 to 7 on 3/28/2024). Allows property owners in eminent domain cases to seek a court review of legal rights before the Iowa Utilities Board's final decision.			YES ★
2. HF2662 Film Tax Credits (Passed 87 to 8 on 3/26/2024). Creates the Iowa Film Production Incentive Program, offering up to 30% rebates for film, TV, and documentary production expenses in Iowa, with a \$10 million total rebate limit.			YES ✗
3. HF2626 Real Money (Passed 64 to 30 on 3/19/2024). Amends Iowa's tax code to exclude capital gains from the sale of bullion, coins, or currency from an individual's taxable income.			YES ★
4. SF2340 Illegal Immigration (Passed 64 to 30 on 3/19/2024). Criminalizes illegal reentry, with penalties based on prior offenses; allows deportation orders; and grants immunity to officials enforcing the law, except for misconduct. It also bans deferred or suspended sentences for these convictions.			YES ★
5. HF2575 Protecting the Unborn (Passed 58 to 36 on 3/7/2024). Replaces "human pregnancy" with "unborn person" in Iowa law and increases penalties for harming or killing an unborn person during crimes, with life sentences for killing unborn deaths.			YES ★
6. SF2096 Ending Wokeness (Passed 62 to 33 on 2/26/2024). Repeals a 1987 law mandating gender balance, political diversity, and racial representation in appointments to state boards and commissions, rolling back these "woke" requirements.			YES ★

Scorecard Votes: 83%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Eminent Domain Protection From Pipelines

HF2664 allows property owners facing eminent domain proceedings related to an application before the Iowa Utilities Board to petition their state district court for a declaratory review before the Board makes a final decision. The court can declare the parties' rights and other legal matters related to the constitutional and statutory aspects of eminent domain.

The Iowa State House of Representatives passed HF2664 on March 28, 2024 by a vote of 86 to 7. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because eminent domain for private corporations violates the U.S. Constitution, specifically the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. The Fifth Amendment explicitly states, "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." Furthermore, the Fourteenth Amendment declares, "nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."

2. Film Tax Credits

HF2662 creates the Iowa Film Production Incentive Program, offering up to 30% rebates for film, TV, and documentary production expenses in Iowa, with a \$10 million total rebate limit. Productions must have a \$1 million budget.

The Iowa State House of Representatives passed HF2662 on March 26, 2024 by a vote of 87 to 8. We have assigned pluses to the nays because government should not intervene in the marketplace by selectively granting tax incentives to specific industries. Furthermore, the film industry generally supports woke, Marxist ideology. Taxpayers should not be financially responsible for supporting movie productions that are associated with leftists.

3. Real Money

HF2626 amends Iowa's tax code to exclude capital gains from the sale of bullion, coins, or currency from an individual's taxable income, while including any capital losses from such sales. Bullion is defined as gold, silver, platinum, or palladium bars or medallions valued based on their metal content. Coins or currency refer to those made of metal or paper used as legal tender.

The Iowa State House of Representatives passed HF2626 on March 19, 2024 by a vote of 64 to 30. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill is an important step toward restoring constitutional money and returning to the gold standard in compliance with Article I, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution.

4. Illegal Immigration

SF2340 criminalizes illegal reentry, with penalties based on prior offenses; allows deportation orders; and grants immunity to officials enforcing the law, except for misconduct. It also bans deferred or suspended sentences for these convictions.

The Iowa State House of Representatives passed SF2340 on March 19, 2024 by a vote of 64 to 30. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill takes a strong stance against illegal reentry, reinforcing immigration laws that protect American sovereignty. By imposing penalties and curbing unlawful migration, SF2340 helps counter policies that facilitate mass migration and undermine our Republic's constitutional foundations. It also safeguards the rule of law by ensuring that immigration-law violations are met with consequences, rather than leniency, which would further erode border security and national integrity.

5. Protecting the Unborn

HF2575 replaces "human pregnancy" with "unborn person" in Iowa law and increases penalties for harming or killing an unborn person during crimes, with life sentences for killing unborn deaths.

The Iowa State House of Representatives passed HF2575 on March 7, 2024 by a vote of 58 to 36. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the right to life is the most fundamental, God-given, and unalienable right asserted in the Declaration of Independence and guaranteed by the 5th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. People, whether born or not, fall under those same God-given protections.

6. Ending Wokeness

SF2096 repeals a 1987 law mandating gender balance, political diversity, and racial representation in appointments to state boards and commissions, rolling back these "woke" requirements.

The Iowa State House of Representatives passed SF2096 on February 26, 2024 by a vote of 62 to 33. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because repealing this law promotes true equality by treating all individuals the same, regardless of gender, race, or political affiliation. As stated in the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." This bill helps ensure that everyone is treated equally under the law.