

FREEDOMINDEX.US

LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION



View the Freedom Toolbox

Scan to learn more about the Freedom Index, view legislative alerts, and deepen your understanding of the U.S. Constitution and America's founding principles. Visit <https://freedomindex.us/tools/>



James R. Buck

Indiana Senator, SD-021 (R)

Website: indianasenatepublicans.com/buck

freedomindex.us/4789/



2026 IN Legislative Scorecard: 50%

✓ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional — Did not Vote **Vote**

1. Ranked-choice-voting Ban: SB12 Ranked-choice-voting Ban (Passed 38 to 9 on 1/20/2026). Prohibits ranked-choice voting (RCV) in Indiana elections.

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes**



2. Con-Con Compact: SB210 Con-Con Compact (Passed 34 to 11 on 1/22/2026). Would have entered Indiana into an interstate compact establishing rules for an Article V constitutional convention.

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes**



3. Economic-development Tax Credit: SB264 Economic-development Tax Credit (Passed 41 to 3 on 1/26/2026). Would have expanded the state's Economic Development for a Growing Economy tax credit.

Estimated Cost per household: **-\$118.00/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes**



4. Defining Biological Sex: SB182 Defining Biological Sex (Passed 37 to 8 on 1/27/2026). Would have defined "male," "female," and "sex" in state law according to biological sex.

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes**



5. Carbon-storage Regulations: HB1368 Carbon-storage Regulations (Passed 29 to 19 on 2/24/2026). Establishes state regulations for underground carbon-dioxide storage and allows forced participation by property owners.

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes**



6. Food Freedom: HB1424 Food Freedom (Passed 38 to 10 on 2/24/2026). Allows homestead food vendors and small farms to sell specified meat, produce, baked goods, and other foods directly from their property or at farmers markets.

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes**



Why do these votes matter?

1. Ranked-choice-voting Ban

SB12 prohibits ranked-choice voting (RCV) in Indiana elections and candidate-nomination processes. Under ranked-choice voting, voters rank candidates in order of preference rather than selecting only one candidate.

The Indiana State Senate passed SB12 on January 20, 2026 by a vote of 38 to 9. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because RCV undermines election integrity and the electorate's ability to choose the best candidate. By design, RCV favors moderate-to-leftist candidates who often fail to uphold the Constitution. This complex, multi-round system can result in winners who lack true plurality support, and imposes ballot-marking requirements that may pressure voters to act against their conscience. States should firmly reject all attempts to implement this unconstitutional voting method.

2. Con-Con Compact

SB210 would have entered Indiana into an interstate compact establishing rules for an Article V constitutional convention. The compact requires each state to receive one vote, and limits the convention to subjects listed in matching applications approved by at least two-thirds of the states.

The Indiana State Senate passed SB210 on January 22, 2026 by a vote of 34 to 11. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill gives a false sense of security that an Article V convention can be controlled by a compact of states, even though delegates from other states would not be truly bound by Indiana's rules and could propose sweeping changes-including a new constitution, as happened in 1787. Convention of States simulations in 2016 and 2023 produced amendments massively expanding federal power, spending, and control-the very abuses advocates claim they want to stop. A convention today would be a "Trojan horse" for globalists and leftists seeking to dismantle constitutional limits on government. Rather than risking a runaway convention that could permanently alter or destroy the Constitution, legislators must honor their oath, nullify unconstitutional federal actions, and use Article VI to enforce the Constitution.

3. Economic-development Tax Credit

SB264 would have expanded the state's Economic Development for a Growing Economy tax credit by allowing larger subsidies for companies that pay to relocate workers to Indiana or retain employees by increasing their hourly wages by at least 25 percent. It also would have clarified requirements for certifying qualified Indiana investment funds.

The Indiana State Senate passed SB264 on January 26, 2026 by a vote of 41 to 3. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation expands a preferential tax credit that allows government to favor certain businesses over others. Such targeted credits distort the free market, shift a greater share of the tax burden onto those who do not qualify, and empower government to pick economic winners and losers. Instead, the General Assembly should reduce and eliminate taxes broadly and uniformly for all individuals and businesses.

4. Defining Biological Sex

SB182 would have defined "male," "female," and "sex" in state law according to biological sex. It also would have required prisons to house offenders based on sex, limited changes to sex designations on birth certificates, and required public schools and colleges to designate restrooms, changing areas, and student sleeping accommodations by sex.

The Indiana State Senate passed SB182 on January 27, 2026 by a vote of 37 to 8. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill codifies biological truth into state law. By clearly defining sex as male or female based on reproductive biology and removing "gender identity" from legal consideration, SB182 pushes back against the radical Marxist and leftist agenda infiltrating public institutions and society. The bill affirms Indiana's duty to defend reality and common sense. Scientifically and biblically, there are only two sexes.

5. Carbon-storage Regulations

HB1368 establishes a state permitting and regulatory system for underground carbon-dioxide storage projects, including safety, monitoring, financial-responsibility, and well-closure requirements. It also allows the Department of Natural Resources to require unwilling property owners to participate in a project if the operator has secured rights to at least 70 percent of the affected underground storage area and provides equitable compensation.

The Indiana State Senate passed HB1368 on February 24, 2026 by a vote of 29 to 19. We assigned pluses to the nays because the dangerous expansion of carbon-capture storage systems in the United States is closely connected to the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which seeks to codify extreme "environmental justice" measures into state law. This push for a "green" or "decarbonized" economy on behalf of "vulnerable populations" is nothing other than a fanatical attempt by globalist elites to increase their taxing power and authority. The abuse of eminent domain and forced participation for these carbon-capture pipelines encroaches upon the constitutionally protected property rights of Hoosiers. If America is to truly remain the "land of the free," then the states and the people must reject the hoax of "climate change" and put an end to the global war on farmers and ranchers.

6. Food Freedom

HB1424 allows homestead food vendors and small farms to sell specified meat, produce, baked goods, and other foods directly from their property or at farmers markets. It exempts these vendors from many state and local licensing and food-establishment regulations not required by federal law, while retaining labeling, food-handling, refrigeration, and complaint-investigation requirements.

The Indiana State Senate passed HB1424 on February 24, 2026 by a vote of 38 to 10. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because government has no legitimate authority to interfere in private commerce, and this bill is a step in the right direction. Licensing and inspection requirements unnecessarily burden entrepreneurs and private businesses, infringing on the liberty and property rights that government exists to protect.