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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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Eric S. Bassler

Indiana
Senator, SD-039 (R)

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35
Lifetime
Freedom
Score

IN Legislative Scorecard 2025

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
			YES ✗
1. HB1461 Tolls on Interstate Highways (passed 38 to 10 on 4/15/2025). Allows the Indiana Department of Transportation to request a waiver from the Federal Highway Administration to implement toll lanes on any interstate highway within its borders. Estimated cost per household: -\$627.00/year.			
			YES ★
2. SB10 Secure Voter ID Requirements (passed 39 to 9 on 4/7/2025). Specifies that student documents may not be used as "proof of identification" for voting purposes, and that county voter-registration offices must remove disenfranchised criminals and non-citizens from their voter lists within 48 hours.			
			YES ✗
3. SB306 Tax Credits for Hollywood (passed 48 to 0 on 4/7/2025). Amends Indiana's film and media production tax credit by making it transferable and extending the expiration date of eligible expenses to July 1, 2031.			
			NONE ?
4. HB1393 Reporting Illegal-alien Suspects to ICE (passed 37 to 10 on 3/24/2025). Requires state and local law enforcement to notify federal immigration officials upon making a criminal arrest if there is probable cause that the suspect is an illegal alien.			
			YES ✗
5. SB457 Carbon-capture Pipelines (passed 27 to 21 on 2/11/2025). Establishes certain guidelines for companies to receive a state-issued carbon sequestration project permit or CO2 pipeline certificate of authority.			
			YES ✗
6. SJR21 Article V Convention: Term Limits (passed 31 to 18 on 1/27/2025). Applies to "call a convention" under Article V of the U.S. Constitution for the purpose of proposing an amendment to set term limits on members of Congress.			

Scorecard Votes: 20%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Tolls on Interstate Highways

HB1461 allows the Indiana Department of Transportation to implement toll lanes on any interstate highway within its borders.

Tolling interstate highways exposes Americans to an egregious form of multiple taxation. Interstate highways should be either toll-funded or tax-funded, not both. While federal funding, largely derived from individual income taxes, typically covers up to 90 percent of the costs of the interstate highway system, Indiana also imposes a state income tax on its residents, on top of personal property taxes. Hence, there is no justification for charging tolls on public-access roads already built or maintained by taxpayers when lawmakers could cut millions—even billions—of dollars that are recklessly spent annually on unnecessary and unconstitutional programs which exist entirely outside the limited role and scope of government (e.g., Medicaid).

2. Secure Voter ID Requirements

SB10 specifies “proof of identification” and voter-list maintenance requirements.

This bill improves Indiana’s voter ID requirements by closing a significant loophole that risks electoral fraud and disenfranchisement of qualified U.S. citizen voters. It is the American people alone who retain the “right of Representation in the Legislature.” The General Assembly should perform its duty and exercise the full extent of its authority under Article 1, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution, as well as the 14th and 26th Amendments, to implement free, fair, and secure elections, thus ensuring “the right of citizens of the United States to vote.”

3. Tax Credits for Hollywood

SB306 includes new Indiana film and media production tax-credit provisions.

Government has absolutely no business subsidizing the entertainment industry. Multi-millionaire Hollywood producers and leftist film artists can pay their own taxes, and deserve no special carve-out from the immoral and anti-constitutional forms of taxation (e.g., corporate or personal income taxes) that steal from citizens the wages they have rightfully earned. Policies that involve the government picking economic “winners” and “losers” violates the basic principles of free-market enterprise. “Economic opportunity” is too often simply a cliché or code word used to finance these types of crony, elite-driven “pork-barrel” projects.

4. Reporting Illegal-alien Suspects to ICE

HB1393 requires law enforcement to notify immigration officials upon making a criminal arrest if there is probable cause that the suspect is an illegal alien.

Illegal aliens, with exception to those convicted of a capital or otherwise infamous crime, ought to be deported from the United States. Unlawful presence in the United States is, by definition, a civil violation, whereas illegal entry is, at the very least, a misdemeanor offense. Nevertheless, mass migration, which is nothing other than an “Invasion,” has become the most immediate and serious threat to our country. It’s an anti-American policy designed to destroy national unity, allegiance, and sovereignty, through a blatant undermining of the rule of law and an erosion of the value of citizenship. To save our Republic, “We the People” need to demand secure borders, the deportation of every illegal, and a moratorium on all immigration until this crisis ends.

5. Carbon-capture Pipelines

SB457 establishes certain guidelines for companies to receive a state-issued carbon sequestration project permit or CO2 pipeline certificate of authority.

The recent growth 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. Its push for a “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 for these carbon-capture pipelines encroaches upon constitutionally protected property rights. The States and the people need to reject the hoax of “climate change” and put an end to the global war on farmers.

6. Article V Convention: Term Limits

SJR21 applies for an Article V convention to set term limits on members of Congress.

Term limits conflict with the right of the American people to choose their representatives. Moreover, an Article V constitutional convention (Con-Con) must be resisted. It would have the ability to make major changes to the U.S. Constitution, or even completely rewrite it. Instead of risking a “runaway convention,” which could destroy the Constitution’s limitations on government power, lawmakers should simply uphold their oath of office. The problem is not the Constitution, but our failure to follow it. Article V was designed to correct potential errors or defects in the Constitution, not to “misconstrue or abuse its powers.” Whenever the federal government assumes undelegated powers, nullification is the proper remedy. We must use Article VI to enforce the Constitution, rather than use Article V to alter or abolish it.