

# FREEDOM INDEX.US

## 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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## Damon Thayer

Kentucky  
Senator, SD-017 (R)

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Lifetime  
Freedom  
Score

## KY Legislative Scorecard 2024

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
1. <b>SB295 Prohibiting COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates</b> (passed 25 to 11 on 3/26/2024). Prohibits a requirement for any individual to receive a COVID-19 vaccine for the purposes of student enrollment, employment, or medical treatment.			YES ★
2. <b>HB2 Universal Education Funding Amendment</b> (passed 27 to 8 on 3/15/2024). Proposes to amend the Kentucky Constitution to authorize the financial support of students outside the public school system.			YES ✗
3. <b>HB357 Second Amendment Financial Privacy</b> (passed 32 to 6 on 3/13/2024). Forbids the use of a merchant category code that distinguishes a firearms retailer from other retailers and provides that no person or governmental entity may keep a list of privately owned firearms or firearms owners.			YES ★
4. <b>SB27 Federal Drug Pricing</b> (passed 32 to 5 on 3/8/2024). Ensures that pharmaceutical manufacturers comply with the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program.			NO ★
5. <b>HB18 Protecting the Rights of Tenants and Landlords</b> (passed 25 to 11 on 2/20/2024). Preempts local governments from adopting or enforcing ordinances that bar owners of housing accommodations from refusing to lease or rent to persons who receive federal housing assistance.			YES ★
6. <b>SB80 Secure Voter ID Requirements</b> (passed 27 to 7 on 1/30/2024). Removes college and university identification documents, along with credit and debit cards, from being used as "proof of identification" to confirm a voter's eligibility.			YES ★

Scorecard Votes: 83%

# Why do these votes matter?

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## 1. Prohibiting COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates

SB295 prohibits a requirement for any individual to receive a COVID-19 vaccine for the purposes of student enrollment, employment, or medical treatment.

Vaccine mandates should be opposed, as an individual's non-injurious personal health care decisions should be considered private matters not under federal, state, or local jurisdiction in the United States. Compelling every person to be vaccinated under the guise of "preventive medical treatment" violates the fundamental rights of the people protected by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment.

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## 2. Universal Education Funding Amendment

HB2 proposes to amend the Kentucky Constitution to authorize universal education funding.

This amendment would further expand the government's monopoly on K-12 education, which seeks to displace traditional private schools and homeschooling. Its exchange of public subsidies for curriculum and other regulatory controls effectively turns every participating student into a government-school student. Moreover, education is not the role of government; it is the responsibility of a child's family. The best "school choice" is for parents to choose not to place their child in the hands of the state. Educational freedom cannot be achieved by forcing other citizens to furnish their hard-earned tax dollars to fund all that now entails a compulsory, failing, and state-run K-12 school system.

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## 3. Second Amendment Financial Privacy

HB357 forbids using a merchant category code to distinguish a firearms retailer from other retailers.

This bill prevents the unlawful use of credit card payment information to track firearms purchases. A new merchant category code for "gun and ammunition shops" introduced by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)—a globalist collaborative linked to the United Nations—aids unconstitutional efforts by the federal government to conduct mass surveillance, create a national gun-owner database, and confiscate firearms from law-abiding citizens. States should nullify any such actions that frustrate or violate Americans' Second and Fourth Amendment rights.

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## 4. Federal Drug Pricing

SB27 ensures compliance with Section 340B of the Public Health Service Act, which requires pharmaceutical manufacturers participating in Medicaid to sell drugs at discounted prices.

Medicaid, not to mention the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is not authorized under Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution, as neither health care nor social welfare is the legitimate object of government. Government-subsidized health care or drug mandates are financed by immoral and anti-constitutional forms of taxation that violate the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment. The General Assembly should act instead to nullify all unconstitutional federal laws and end reckless economic incentives.

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## 5. Protecting the Rights of Tenants and Landlords

HB18 preempts local governments from adopting or enforcing ordinances that bar owners of housing accommodations from refusing to lease or rent to persons who receive federal housing assistance.

Local governments in Kentucky have absolutely no business passing "source-of-income antidiscrimination" ordinances, and nothing in the U.S. Constitution authorizes the federal government's Section 8 "housing choice voucher program." As dishonest and manipulative tactics of government efforts to control the housing market, they unconstitutionally deny the property rights of both tenants and landlords by violating freedom of association. They prevent individuals from entering into lease agreements privately and voluntarily, according to their own terms, hindering the most qualified renters from obtaining the best housing at the best prices. The Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment were intended to safeguard against such undue deprivations or disparagements of a person's "liberty, or property" and guarantee "equal protection of the laws" for all Americans.

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## 6. Secure Voter ID Requirements

SB80 removes college and university identification documents, along with credit and debit cards, from being used as "proof of identification" to confirm a voter's eligibility.

This bill would close a significant loophole that risks electoral fraud and disenfranchisement of qualified U.S. citizen, Kentucky-resident voters. Section 147 of the Kentucky Constitution grants the General Assembly power to provide by law for the "registration" of all persons "entitled to vote" in the state, with the requirement that it "shall pass all necessary laws" to enforce the provision that "only persons registered shall have the right to vote." Lawmakers in Kentucky should perform their duty and exercise the full extent of their 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.