

The Congressional 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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\$292,403

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of July 10, 2026



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63

**Lifetime
Freedom
Score**

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

Vote

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <p>1. Amendment to S1348 Amnesty for Illegal Immigrants (Rejected 29 to 66 on 5/24/2007, Roll Call 180). Would drastically alter the scope of the immigration bill by striking an amnesty provision from the bill that would establish the Z visa.</p> | YES
★ |
| <p>2. HJR43 Debt Limit Increase (Passed 53 to 42 on 9/27/2007, Roll Call 354). Would increase the national debt limit to an astronomical \$9.8 trillion, an \$850 billion increase.</p> | NO
★ |
| <p>3. HR3688 Peru Free Trade Agreement (Passed 77 to 18 on 12/4/2007, Roll Call 413). Transfers the power to regulate trade (and other powers as well) to regional arrangements.</p> | YES
✗ |
| <p>4. Amendment to S3036 Global Warming (Failed 48 to 36 on 6/6/2008, Roll Call 145). Would have created a cap-and-trade system for reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.</p> | NO
★ |
| <p>5. HR6124 Farm Bill (Veto Override) (Passed 80 to 14 on 6/18/2008, Roll Call 151). Would authorize the nation's farm programs for the next five years, including crop subsidies and nutrition programs.</p> <p>Estimated cost per household: -\$2,475.00/year.</p> | YES
✗ |
| <p>6. HR1424 Bailout Bill (Passed 74 to 25 on 10/01/2008, Roll Call 681). Authorizes the Treasury Department to use \$700 billion of taxpayer money to purchase troubled mortgage-related securities from banks and other financial-related institutions.</p> <p>Estimated cost per household: -\$5,994.00/year.</p> | NO
★ |

Scorecard Votes: 67%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Amnesty for Illegal Immigrants

David Vitter (R-La.) offered this amendment to Ted Kennedy's substitute amendment (S. Amdt. 1150) for the immigration reform bill of 2007 (S. 1348). The Vitter amendment would drastically alter the scope of the immigration bill by striking an amnesty provision from the bill that would establish the Z visa, which would be issued to millions of illegal immigrants, placing them on a path toward citizenship.

The Vitter amendment would prevent those who have entered the United States unlawfully from gaining legal status, also known as amnesty.

2. Debt Limit Increase

This bill (House Joint Resolution 43) would increase the national debt limit to an astronomical \$9.8 trillion, an \$850 billion increase. This increase would be the fifth time the national debt was raised since 2002, representing about a \$3 trillion increase in just the last five years.

Raising the public debt limit by \$850 billion facilitates continued, gross fiscal irresponsibility.

3. Peru Free Trade Agreement

The Peru Free Trade Agreement (H.R. 3688) is another in a series of free-trade agreements to transfer the power to regulate trade (and other powers as well) to regional arrangements. Other examples include the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

The Peru FTA and other so-called free-trade arrangements threaten our national independence and (as we've seen with NAFTA) harm our economy.

4. Global Warming

The substitute amendment offered by Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) to S. 3036 would have created a cap-and-trade system for reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The system would have forced utilities, factories, etc., to collectively reduce their greenhouse-gas emissions by 71 percent by 2050, though individual companies could emit more by purchasing allowances from companies that emit less. The cost to the economy would be in the trillions.

Mandates on greenhouse-gas emissions are not constitutionally authorized and would harm the economy.

5. Farm Bill (Veto Override)

H.R. 6124 would authorize the nation's farm programs for the next five years, including crop subsidies and nutrition programs. The final version of the legislation provides \$289 billion for these programs, including a \$10.4 billion boost in spending for nutrition programs such as food stamps.

Federal aid to farmers and federal food aid to individuals are not authorized by the Constitution.

6. Bailout Bill

The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (H.R. 1424) passed 74-25 (Roll Call 213) on October 1, 2008. This bill authorizes the Treasury Department to use \$700 billion of taxpayer money to purchase troubled mortgage-related securities from banks and other financial-related institutions, on terms set by the Treasury Secretary, who now has authority to manage and sell those assets. The bailout plan also expands FDIC protection from \$100,000 to \$250,000 per bank account.

The bill establishes an unconstitutional merger of government with banks and businesses — in other words, corporate fascism — and greatly increases the national debt and monetary inflation by forcing taxpayers to pay the price for the failures of private financial institutions.