



Joseph Tate
Michigan
Representative, HD-009 (D)
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2025 MI Legislative Scorecard

Based on the Principles of 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.

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
			NO
1. HB4241 Banning Local Economic Incentive for Foreign Adversaries (Passed 66 to 44 on 5/6/2025). Prohibits Michigan state and local governments from granting economic-development incentives or subsidies to foreign entities from designated "countries of concern."			✗
			YES
2. HB4287 Broadband-grants Tax Deduction (Passed 97 to 8 on 5/21/2025). Allows individuals and businesses to deduct certain government grants used for broadband expansion from their taxable income. <i>Estimated cost per household: -\$2.06/year.</i>			✗
			NO
3. HN4707 Ranked-choice-voting Ban (Passed 57 to 44 on 8/20/2025). Prohibits the use of ranked-choice voting (RCV) in Michigan elections.			✗
			YES
4. SB166 Education Funding (Passed 104 to 5 on 10/3/2025). Sets the 2025-2026 school-aid budget, appropriating about \$22.3 billion for K-12 public education. <i>Estimated cost per household: -\$5,222.00/year.</i>			✗
			YES
5. HB4917 Food Freedom (Passed 69 to 29 on 12/10/2025). Eliminates the state licensing requirement for butter graders.			★
			NO
6. HB4486 Prohibit Natural-gas Bans (Passed 61 to 42 on 12/17/2025). Prohibits cities, counties, townships, and villages in Michigan from banning the use of natural gas.			✗

Scorecard Votes: 17%



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\$291,061

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of June 4, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. Banning Local Economic Incentive for Foreign Adversaries

HB4241 prohibits Michigan state and local governments from granting economic-development incentives or subsidies to foreign entities from designated "countries of concern." The bill amends Michigan's economic-development law to prevent public funds or tax incentives from being used to support businesses tied to those foreign governments or entities.

The Michigan State House of Representatives passed HB4241 on May 6, 2025 by a vote of 66 to 44. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill takes a step toward preserving state sovereignty by preventing taxpayer resources from subsidizing foreign entities tied to hostile governments, such as Communist China. Allowing such entities to benefit from public incentives risks compromising national security, undermining sovereignty, and infringing on the rights of American citizens.

2. Broadband-grant Tax Deduction

HB4287 allows individuals and businesses to deduct certain government grants used for broadband expansion from their taxable income. The deduction applies to funds received through several state and federal broadband programs intended to improve or expand high-speed internet infrastructure. The goal is to ensure that broadband development grants are not treated as taxable income, making it easier and more affordable for companies to invest in expanding internet access, particularly in underserved areas.

The Michigan State House of Representatives passed HB4287 on May 21, 2025 by a vote of 97 to 8. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill reinforces government-subsidized broadband by granting special tax treatment to recipients of these programs. Such subsidies and targeted tax deductions allow government to pick winners and losers in the marketplace, benefiting select businesses and industries at the expense of others. These policies expand government interference in the market and create a system of economic favoritism. Additionally, the federal government has no constitutional authority to engage in broadband policy, and Michigan should not legitimize this unconstitutional usurpation.

3. Ranked-choice-voting Ban

HB4707 prohibits the use of ranked-choice voting (RCV) in Michigan elections. The bill bars the state, cities, and townships from conducting elections using a system where voters rank candidates and votes are counted in multiple rounds until a candidate receives a majority.

The Michigan State House of Representatives passed HB4707 on August 20, 2025 by a vote of 57 to 44. 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.

4. Education Funding

SB166 sets the 2025-2026 school-aid budget, appropriating roughly \$22.3 billion for K-12 public education, including increases to the per-pupil funding amount and additional funding for programs such as at-risk student support, school safety, and mental-health services.

The Michigan State House of Representatives passed SB166 on October 3, 2025 by a vote of 104 to 5. We have assigned pluses to the nays because education is not the role of government—it is the responsibility of a child's parents. Schools can and should be privatized, without any need for public funding that steals from taxpayers (e.g., property taxes) and drains the treasury. If not dismantled, the government's monopoly on preK-12 education will continue to displace traditional private schools and homeschooling in favor of universal state-sponsored schooling. The best "school choice," by far, is for parents to choose not to place their child's education in the hands of the state. Educational and economic freedom cannot be achieved by forcing other citizens to give up their hard-earned tax dollars for all that now entails a compulsory, failing, and government-run school system.

5. Food Freedom

HB4917 eliminates the state licensing requirement for butter graders. Previously, butter used for sale had to be graded by someone approved by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. The bill removes this requirement, reducing regulatory oversight on butter grading and allowing producers more flexibility in how butter quality is evaluated.

The Michigan State House of Representatives passed HB4917 on December 10, 2025 by a vote of 69 to 29. 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 requirements unnecessarily burden entrepreneurs and private businesses, infringing on the liberty and property rights that government exists to protect.

6. Prohibit Natural-gas Bans

HB4486 prohibits cities, counties, townships, and villages in Michigan from banning the use of natural gas or the installation of natural-gas infrastructure in buildings. Any local ordinance or policy that attempts to block natural-gas use or infrastructure would be void and unenforceable under state law. The bill creates a statewide rule to ensure residents and businesses can continue using natural gas as an energy source.

The Michigan State House of Representatives passed HB4486 on December 17, 2025 by a vote of 61 to 42. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this legislation supports individual choice—free from government interference—in the vehicle market for both producers and consumers. States have a responsibility to protect their citizens from government overreach and the globalist "climate" agenda.