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CONGRESSIONAL SCORECARD

BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION



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\$297,530

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of August 28, 2026



Ken Salazar

U.S. Senator, Colorado (D)

Website: <http://salazar.senate.gov>

freedomindex.us/689/



Congressional Scorecard 110-1: 17%

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

1. Amnesty for Illegal Immigrants: Would drastically alter the scope of the immigration bill by striking an amnesty provision from the bill that would establish the Z visa.



Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **No** · S.Amdt. 1157 to S.Amdt. 1150 to S. 1348 · 05/24/2007

2. Debt Limit Increase: Would increase the national debt limit to an astronomical \$9.8 trillion, an \$850 billion increase.



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **No** · H.J.Res. 43 · 09/27/2007

3. Peru Free Trade Agreement: Transfers the power to regulate trade (and other powers as well) to regional arrangements.



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H.R. 3688 · 12/04/2007

4. Global Warming: Would have created a cap-and-trade system for reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · S.Amdt. 4825 to S. 3036 · 06/06/2008

5. Farm Bill (Veto Override): Would authorize the nation's farm programs for the next five years, including crop subsidies and nutrition programs.



Estimated Cost per household: **-\$2,475.00/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H.R. 6124 · 06/18/2008

6. Bailout 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.



Estimated Cost per household: **-\$5,994.00/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H.R. 1424 · 10/01/2008

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.