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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

BASED ON THE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

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Lauren Arthur

Missouri

Senator, SD-017 (D)

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Lifetime
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Score

MO Legislative Scorecard 2024

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
1. SB735 Constitutional Money Act (passed 21 to 10 on 4/29/2024). Creates the "Constitutional Money Act," declaring gold and silver coins as "legal tender" while exempting them from capital-gains taxes and preventing their seizure by government entities.			NO ✗
2. SB751 Enforcing Federal Drug Pricing Mandates (passed 28 to 3 on 4/29/2024). Ensures pharmaceutical manufacturers comply with the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program.			YES ✗
3. HB2634 Prohibiting Taxpayer-Funded Abortion (emergency clause passed 23 to 10 on 4/9/2024). Specifies that no public funds will be expended to any abortion facility, or affiliate thereof, including Medicaid providers.			NO ✗
4. SJR78 Free, Fair, and Secure Elections (passed 24 to 9 on 4/9/2024). Proposes to amend the Missouri Constitution to provide a U.S. citizenship voting requirement; specifies that all elections shall be by "paper ballot" or "mechanical methods prescribed by law;" and restricts ranked-choice voting (RCV) to only nonpartisan municipal elections in cities that had a previous ordinance in effect.			NO ✗
5. SB727 Expanding Government-Run Education (passed 19 to 10 on 3/14/2024). Raises the minimum salary for public school teachers by 60 percent, and increases the annual refundable tax credits allocated to Missouri's ESA program from \$50 million to \$75 million. Estimated cost per household: -\$185.00/year.			NO ★
6. SJR74 'Rule of Law' for the Missouri Constitution (passed 22 to 9 on 2/22/2024). Would, if approved by the voters, require that any amendments to the Missouri Constitution receive a majority of votes cast both statewide and in a majority of congressional districts.			NO ✗

Scorecard Votes: 17%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Constitutional Money Act

SB735 creates the “Constitutional Money Act,” declaring gold and silver coins as “legal tender” while exempting them from capital-gains taxes and preventing their seizure by government entities.

This bill is a necessary step toward restoring sound money and enforcing the U.S. Constitution's monetary provisions. According to Article 1, Section 10, of the Constitution, “No State shall...make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts.” The States can and must act now to protect Americans' financial freedom and privacy by both ending the Federal Reserve's unconstitutional monopoly on money and thwarting government plans to impose a Central Bank Digital Currency.

2. Enforcing Federal Drug Pricing Mandates

SB751 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, along with 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 14th Amendment. The General Assembly should act instead to nullify all unconstitutional federal laws and end reckless economic incentives.

3. Prohibiting Taxpayer-Funded Abortion

HB2634 specifies that no public funds will be expended to any abortion facility, or affiliate thereof, including Medicaid providers.

The care of human life—not its destruction—is the greatest responsibility of government. No person has a right to kill a preborn child using the pretext of “reproductive health services,” let alone tax their neighbor to pay for it. Missouri ought to not only forbid abortion entirely, upholding the sanctity of life for every person. The right to life is the most fundamental, God-given, and “unalienable” right protected by the Fifth and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

4. Free, Fair, and Secure Elections

SJR78 proposes to amend the Missouri Constitution to provide a U.S. citizenship voting requirement; specifies that all elections shall be by “paper ballot” or “mechanical methods;” and restricts ranked-choice voting (RCV).

The American people alone retain the “right of Representation in the Legislature.” In addition, the complicated multiple-round method of RCV weakens election integrity by allowing a candidate to potentially win without genuine support from a plurality of voters, causing voter disenfranchisement and potentially denying voters the ability to select the one and only candidate of their choice. Missouri should exercise its authority under the U.S. Constitution to implement free, fair, and secure elections, thereby ensuring equal protection of “the right of citizens of the United States to vote.”

5. Expanding Government-Run Education

SB727, among other provisions, increases the minimum salary for public school teachers from \$25,000 to \$40,000, and expands the maximum amount of annual refundable tax credits allocated to the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program from \$50 million to \$75 million.

Education is not the role of government. A child's education is the responsibility of his or her family. Moreover, not only does this bill provide a massive and unwarranted 'pay raise' for certain public-school teachers and allow homeschool families to be further entangled with government regulations, but Missouri's ESA program involves the parents of “qualified students,” such as those with “limited English proficiency” or who are eligible for “free or reduced-price lunch,” being given “priority” distribution of government funds to pay for their child's education. Educational and economic freedom cannot be achieved by forcing other citizens to furnish their hard-earned taxpayer dollars to fund all that now entails a compulsory, failing, and government-run K-12 school system.

6. 'Rule of Law' for the Missouri Constitution

SJR74 would, if approved by the voters, require that any amendments to the Missouri Constitution receive a majority of votes cast both statewide and in a majority of congressional districts.

Constitutional amendments in Missouri should not be proposed by popular initiatives subject to simple majority votes. The current threshold of only more than 50 percent of votes cast statewide is an insufficient safeguard for protecting the rights and liberties of Missourians—in every part of the state—from the “dangers of democracy” or a “tyranny of the majority.” Article IV, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution, expressly guarantees to “every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government,” which implies government limited to the ‘rule of law,’ as opposed to mere unchecked ‘majority rule.’