



Richard W. West

Missouri

Representative, HD-102 (R)

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Score

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MO Legislative Scorecard 2025

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 Vote	Constitutional	X Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
1. HJR3 "Protect Missouri Voters" Amendment (adopted 98 to 58 on 9/9/2025). Would require a majority of voters in each congressional district to approve initiative petitions to amend the Missouri Constitution.				YES Constitutional Vote
2. SB79 Year-round "Contraceptive" Coverage (passed 147 to 1 on 5/15/2025). Directs health benefit plans that offer coverage for FDA-approved "contraceptives" to cover no less than an initial three-month supply.				YES X
3. HB199 Tax-funded "Entertainment Districts" (passed 134 to 16 on 5/15/2025). Designates the downtown area of the City of Saint Louis as an "entertainment district." Estimated cost per household: -\$3.00/year.				NO Constitutional Vote
4. HB225 Interstate Policing (emergency clause defeated 88 to 34 on 5/8/2025). Permits any chief law-enforcement official to request assistance from a law-enforcement agency outside the State of Missouri.				NONE ?
5. HB927 Grandparent "Visitation Rights" (passed 135 to 11 on 4/10/2025). Allows a court to grant "visitation rights" to grandparents after 60 days.				NONE ?
6. HB1175 Second Amendment Preservation Act (passed 100 to 51 on 3/27/2025). Would reestablish the "Second Amendment Preservation Act," prohibiting any political subdivision or law-enforcement agency from depriving a Missouri citizen of their right to keep and bear arms.				YES Constitutional Vote

Scorecard Votes: 75%



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\$293,188

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of July 16, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. Protect Missouri Voters Amendment

HJR3 would require a majority of voters in each congressional district to approve initiative petitions to amend the Missouri Constitution.

Initiative and referendum powers ought to be repealed. These illegitimate populist loopholes relegate the lawmaking duties of the General Assembly to the will of the masses, causing chaos and instability. The Missouri Constitution should not be subject to change as a result of a simple majority vote, whether by both houses of the General Assembly and/or electors statewide. The current threshold of 50% + 1 is an insufficient safeguard for protecting Missourians from the “tyranny of the majority.” Instead, a “constitutional majority” of two-thirds, if not three-fourths, must be required. Article IV, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution guarantees “a Republican Form of Government,” which means government limited to the “rule of law,” not mere “majority rule.”

2. Year-round "Contraceptive" Coverage

SB79 directs health benefit plans that offer coverage for FDA-approved “contraceptives” to cover no less than an initial three-month supply.

This bill enables health insurers to provide year-round coverage for at-home abortions. Hormonal birth-control drugs function not only as “contraceptives,” but as abortifacients. Abortion is murder. Since the care of human life—not its destruction—is the greatest responsibility of government, Missouri should abolish abortion entirely. The right to life is the most fundamental, God-given, and “unalienable” right mentioned in the Declaration of Independence and secured by the Fifth and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

3. Tax-funded "Entertainment Districts"

HB199 classifies Downtown Saint Louis as an “entertainment district.”

This bill exempted the “entertainment district” in Downtown St. Louis from the statutory requirement to obtain signatures from more than 50% of resident real property owners. The General Assembly has no business spending state funds to promote “entertainment tourism.” It’s nothing other than a cliché used by corporatist cronies to steal proliferate amounts of taxpayer money and finance their corrupt “pork-barrel” projects. The U.S. Constitution’s Bill of Rights and 14th Amendment were written to secure “private property” rights and “promote the general Welfare,” not to pick economic “winners” and “losers.”

4. Interstate Policing

HB225 permits any chief law-enforcement official to request assistance from a law-enforcement agency outside the State of Missouri.

This bill gives out-of-state police unwarranted power to engage in law enforcement in Missouri. Interstate policing is blatantly unconstitutional—a dangerous violation of state sovereignty that is designed to lead to the creation of a national police force. Law-enforcement officers are commissioned “To Protect and to Serve” their own communities, not to intervene in other jurisdictions. Keeping police independent at the state, county, and municipal levels is crucial to preserving the separation of powers that exists “in every State” under our federal and “Republican Form of Government,” as guaranteed by Article IV, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution. It’s why The John Birch Society has consistently called for Missourians and all freedom-loving Americans to “Support Your Local Police.”

5. Grandparent "Visitation Rights"

HB927 allows a court to grant “visitation rights” to grandparents after 60 days, even if opposed by both of the child’s parents who are married and living together with the child.

Final decision-making authority over the upbringing and care of a child belongs to the child’s parents—not their grandparents or the government. No law-abiding custodial parent should ever be compelled to relinquish their child under threat of the judicial system. Opponents of traditional marriage and the family are working tirelessly to advocate for “equal shared parenting,” “grandparent visitation,” and other “best interests of the child” legislation that seeks to rewrite U.S. family law based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Missouri officials must resist this intrusion. Parental rights, as with all other natural rights, are retained via the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment, which “Judges in every State shall be bound thereby.”

6. Second Amendment Preservation Act

HB1175 would reestablish the “Second Amendment Preservation Act,” prohibiting any political subdivision or law-enforcement agency from knowingly depriving a Missouri citizen of their right to keep and bear arms.

The right of the people to keep and bear arms is an “unalienable” right enshrined in both the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article I, Section 23 of the Missouri Constitution. Thus, any attempt to impose unconstitutional firearms restrictions is “unauthoritative, void, and of no force.” Whenever the federal government or a state government assumes undelegated powers, nullification is the proper remedy.