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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD BASED ON THE 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.



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Paul Wieland

Missouri

Senator, SD-022 (R)

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50

Lifetime
Freedom
Score

MO Legislative Scorecard 2021-2022

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
1. HB1878 Election Security (passed 23 to 11 on 5/9/2022). Requires all registered voters in Missouri to provide a photo ID to vote and makes the paper ballot the official ballot, among several other provisions.			YES ★
2. HB3020 Appropriation of Federal COVID-19 Relief Funds (passed 26 to 5 on 5/5/2022). Appropriates, as passed by the General Assembly, approximately \$3.4 billion, including nearly \$2.9 billion in funds from the American Recovery Plan Act. Estimated cost per household: -\$1,398.00/year.			YES ✗
3. SCR25 Article V Convention: Term Limits (passed 20 to 10 on 4/14/2022). Applies to Congress for the "calling of an Article V convention of the states to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution regarding term limits for members of Congress."			YES ✗
4. HB85 Nullifying Federal Firearms Laws (passed 22 to 10 on 5/13/2021). Declares as invalid all federal laws that infringe on the right to bear arms under the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article 1, Section 23, of the Missouri Constitution.			YES ★
5. SCR4 Article V Convention: Constitutional Amendments (passed 23 to 11 on 4/29/2021). Applies to Congress for the "calling of an Article V convention of states to propose certain amendments to the United States Constitution which place limits on the federal government."			YES ✗
6. SB12 Oversight of Local Emergency Powers (failed 11 to 19 on 3/24/2021). Would provide protections for individual rights during a declared state of emergency relating to public health, and prohibit political subdivisions from issuing restrictive public health orders for longer than 15 calendar days in a 180-day period, unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of the respective governing body.			YES ★

Scorecard Votes: 50%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Election Security

HB1878 requires all registered voters in Missouri to provide a photo ID to vote and makes the paper ballot the official ballot. It also modifies several other provisions relating to elections, including prohibiting the use of mail-in ballots, ballot drop boxes for absentee ballots, and electronic vote counting machines.

States should exercise their authority, under Article 1, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution, to implement free, fair, and secure elections, guaranteeing equal protection of the right of citizens of the United States to vote.

2. Appropriation of Federal COVID-19 Relief Funds

HB3020, as passed by the General Assembly, appropriates approximately \$3.4 billion, including nearly \$2.9 billion in funds from the American Recovery Plan Act.

This bill allocates a substantial amount of unconstitutional federal COVID-19 relief funds, contributing to the state's record \$48.4 billion budget for FY 2023. States should oppose the use of federal taxpayer money for purposes not authorized under Article 1, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution.

3. Article V Convention: Term Limits

SCR25 applies to Congress for the “calling of an Article V convention of the states to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution regarding term limits for members of Congress.”

Term limits conflict with the right of the American people to choose their representatives. Moreover, states should act immediately to nullify all unconstitutional federal laws, rather than risk an Article V convention. Article V of the U.S. Constitution was designed to correct potential errors or defects in the Constitution, not the failure of elected officials to uphold their oath of office.

4. Nullifying Federal Firearms Laws

HB85 creates the “Second Amendment Preservation Act,” declaring as invalid all federal laws that infringe on the right to bear arms under the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article 1, Section 23, of the Missouri Constitution.

The fundamental right of the American people to keep and bear arms should not be infringed, as guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Whenever the federal government assumes unconstitutional firearms restrictions, state nullification of such acts is protected by the 10th Amendment.

5. Article V Convention: Constitutional Amendments

SCR4 applies to Congress for the “calling of an Article V convention of states to propose certain amendments to the United States Constitution which place limits on the federal government.”

States should act immediately to nullify all unconstitutional federal laws, rather than risk an Article V convention. Article V of the U.S. Constitution was designed to correct potential errors or defects in the Constitution, not the failure of elected officials to uphold their oath of office.

6. Oversight of State and Local Emergency Powers

SB12 would prohibit political subdivisions from issuing restrictive public health orders for longer than 15 calendar days in a 180-day period, unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of the respective governing body; with a simple majority vote being sufficient to terminate such an order. It also contains several provisions that would protect individual rights during a declared state of emergency relating to public health.

Oversight of state and local emergency powers is a proper function of the respective legislative bodies of government within a system of checks and balances. Each state, under Article IV, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution, is guaranteed a republican form of government, which requires a limitation and separation of powers.