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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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\$23,538.82

Estimated Montana State Debt Per Household



Shelley Vance

Montana
Senator, SD-034 (R)

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67

Lifetime
Freedom
Score

MT Legislative Scorecard 2025

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
★	✗		NO
1. SB44 Separation of Powers Doctrine (Failed 23 to 26 on 1/29/2025). Sought to codify the separation of powers doctrine by delineating the roles and authorities of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, as well as defining the powers of the Board of Regents of Higher Education and the Board of Public Education.			✗
★	✗		YES
2. HB15 K-12 Funding Increase (Passed 33 to 17 on 3/21/2025). Updates the state's K-12 school funding formula to include inflation adjustments. Estimated cost per household: -\$115.00/year.			✗
★	✗		NO
3. SJ4 Con-Con: Balanced Budget Amendment (Failed 23 to 27 on 3/27/2025). Sought to invoke Article V of the U.S. Constitution to apply for an Article V constitutional convention to propose constitutional amendments imposing fiscal restraints on the federal government.			★
★	✗		YES
4. HB504 Livestock Loss Assistance (Passed 44 to 4 on 4/8/2025). Expands the state's Livestock Loss Mitigation Program to include domestic bison. Estimated cost per household: -\$0.66/year.			✗
★	✗		YES
5. HB350 Prohibit Intergovernmental Entities (Passed 32 to 16 on 4/11/2025). Prohibits the state and its subdivisions from enforcing or funding mandates issued by the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations (UN), or World Economic Forum (WEF).			★
★	✗		YES
6. HB809 Red Flag Law Ban (Passed 29 to 19 on 4/14/2025). Prohibits local governments from enacting or enforcing extreme risk protection orders (ERPOs), commonly known as red flag laws, and bars local governments from receiving state or federal funds related to the enforcement of ERPOs.			★

Scorecard Votes: 50%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Separation of Powers Doctrine

SB44 sought to codify the separation of powers doctrine by delineating the roles and authorities of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, as well as defining the powers of the Board of Regents of Higher Education and the Board of Public Education.

The Montana State Senate rejected SB44 on January 29, 2025 by a vote of 23 to 26. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill would have strengthened the constitutional principle of separation of powers by clearly defining the roles and limits of each branch of government. SB44 also sought to ensure that unelected, “independent” agencies—such as the Board of Regents and the Board of Public Education—remain accountable to the laws enacted by the people’s representatives in the legislature. SB44 would have helped restore checks and balances and protect against administrative overreach.

2. K-12 Funding Increase

HB15 updates the state’s K-12 school funding formula to include inflation adjustments and increases base aid by over \$52 million over two years.

The Montana State Senate passed HB15 on March 21, 2025 by a vote of 33 to 17. We have assigned pluses to the nays because the U.S. public-education system suffers from poor academic performance and the indoctrination of harmful ideologies—creating a significant taxpayer burden that this legislation only exacerbates. This decline is intentional, aimed at undermining traditional American principles. Public education represents an unconstitutional expense that frequently fails to deliver positive outcomes—further perpetuating indoctrination and promoting woke policies.

3. Con-Con: Balanced Budget Amendment

SJ4 sought to invoke Article V of the U.S. Constitution to apply for an Article V constitutional convention to propose constitutional amendments imposing fiscal restraints on the federal government.

The Montana State Senate rejected SJ4 on March 27, 2025 by a vote of 23 to 27. We have assigned pluses to the nays because a so-called “Convention of the States” would not be limited in scope. The vague and inconsistent language in this resolution opens the door to what Article V of the U.S. Constitution describes as a “Convention for proposing Amendments”—effectively a second constitutional convention. Such a convention poses serious risks, as it could result in sweeping changes to the Constitution beyond the stated intent. Article V was intended to address structural issues within the federal government.

4. Livestock Loss Assistance

HB504 expands the state’s Livestock Loss Mitigation Program to include domestic bison. Previously, compensation for livestock losses due to predators like wolves, mountain lions, and grizzly bears was limited to traditional livestock such as cattle, swine, and horses.

The Montana State Senate passed HB504 on April 8, 2025 by a vote of 44 to 4. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill seeks to use taxpayer money to compensate for local hardships—in this case, predator-related losses to domestic bison. While such losses are unfortunate, it is not the proper role of government to provide relief for every misfortune. Solutions to these challenges should come from the private sector, voluntary associations, and insurance markets—not from expanding state subsidies that shift personal risk onto the public.

5. Prohibit Intergovernmental Entities

HB350 prohibits the state and its subdivisions from enforcing or funding mandates issued by the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations (UN), or World Economic Forum (WEF).

The Montana State Senate passed HB350 on April 11, 2025 by a vote of 32 to 16. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the Constitution, under Article VI, is the supreme law of the land, and international bodies such as the WHO, UN, or WEF have lawful authority over the American people. These globalist entities promote policies—such as Agenda 2030—that undermine U.S. and state sovereignty.

6. Red Flag Law Ban

HB809 prohibits local governments from enacting or enforcing extreme risk protection orders (ERPOs), commonly known as red flag laws, and bars local governments from receiving state or federal funds related to enforcement.

The Montana State Senate passed HB809 on April 14, 2025 by a vote of 29 to 19. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the fundamental right of the American people to keep and bear arms is protected by the U.S. Constitution, particularly in the 2nd, 9th, and 10th Amendments, and should not be infringed. Additionally, this bill utilizes Article VI of the U.S. Constitution to nullify unconstitutional federal acts related to guns.